

Early History and Condition of Wisconsin

Annual Address delivered before the State Historical Society, in the Senate Hall, by Hon. Henry S. Baird, of Green Bay, on the 30th January, 1856, the seventh anniversary of the Society:

MR. PRESIDENT:—The eventful changes and vicissitudes constantly occurring in the history of nations and individuals, admonish us to note carefully every thing of moment connected with our own generation; to look forward to that period when the present shall have passed into futurity—when the forms of government, and existing institutions, both civil and political, shall have changed—and when those who are now the busy actors in the grand drama of life, shall have given place to those who are destined to succeed them. Then nothing will remain to commemorate the events of our time but the page of History, or the imperfect recollections of our descendants.

It is the design of History faithfully and truly to record events worthy of notice, in the rise, progress and decline of nations; also to transmit to posterity the virtues and noble deeds of individuals, and the perfections in the several forms of government, as examples worthy of imitation; and, on the other hand, to point out the vices, errors or imperfections to be avoided. To rely solely on tradition for a knowledge of preceding generations, would inevitably involve the past in uncertainty and obscurity. As it is the province and design of History to preserve and perpetuate