

Early Times and Events in Wisconsin

By James H. Lockwood

At the request of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, through their Corresponding Secretary, I shall attempt to give some reminiscences of the early history of Wisconsin, and more especially of the western portion of it. I feel much distrust in my ability to do justice to the subject, as writing for the public eye has never been, thus far in life, any part of my employment or ambition; and yet, in my unpretending way, I feel willing to contribute my reminiscences of early times for the archives of a Society which I regard as having commenced, with commendable zeal, a noble and important work. Very likely I may appear egotistical in many instances, and too prolix in others; but the discriminating reader can make all due allowances, and the future historian can sift the wheat from the chaff.

I was born in the town of Peru, Clinton county, N. Y., Dec. 7th, 1793—and as the sequel will show, I have lived in the woods the most of my days. My father was a farmer, to which occupation I was raised until past the age of sixteen years. When I was between two and three years old, my father's house in Peru took fire, and almost everything he possessed of a moveable character, was consumed. He sold his farm, and about this period removed to the town of Jay, in the adjoining county of Essex, where he owned or obtained land. Here he made improvements, and had good buildings, an orchard, and every thing comfortable about