

the merchants of other places, and the failure of two crops of wheat, in succession, rendered those to whom credits had been given, unable to meet their engagements, and a general crash among merchants was the necessary result. Time, however, wrought changes, and Kenosha soon again resumed her accustomed business and prosperity.

In 1850, Kenosha county was first organized as a separate county, and Kenosha itself was organized as a city. At the first election under the city charter, Hon. M. Frank was chosen Mayor, and after the occupation of the office for one term by D. C. Gaskill, Esq., Hon. C. C. Sholes was twice elected to the same office. It is no more than a just tribute to these men to say, that for integrity and other qualifications, they were well fitted as the executive officers of a young and growing city.

I should fail to do justice to the place, if I should neglect to remark, that Kenosha has been fortunate in having an influential class who take a deep interest in schools. It was not, however, until between 1846 and 1848 that her free school buildings were put up, and her plans for free schools were perfected.

In 1839, the first regular Academy was opened, under the charge of M. P. Kinney, an accomplished scholar and gentleman. The Academy was next kept, with the exception of some intervals, by L. P. Harvey, until some time in the year 1844. A separate school was kept by the Rev. William Alanson, in 1842, in the Episcopal church rooms. This was termed in the bills a "high select school."

After the completion of the first two free school buildings, Mr. J. G. McMyynn was employed, first in the second, and afterwards in the first ward school; and under his charge and that of Mr. Coe, the schools at Kenosha soon took rank among the first in the State.

While such men as Hon. M. Frank, Hon. R. H. Deming, Hon. C. Durkee, Hon. C. C. Sholes, and Jon B. Jilson exist,