

## Early History of Green County

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By J. W. Stewart

In compliance with the wishes of the State Historical Society, I have endeavored to collect some of the incidents connected with the early history and settlement of Green county. In doing so, I have had to rely entirely on information obtained from a few of the earliest settlers.

The region of country embracing the county of Green, as it is now bounded, was not peopled by white men, and no tradition relating to it has come to my knowledge, prior to the year 1827. At that time we were attached to, or rather formed a part of, the county of Crawford, in the Territory of Michigan; the county seat being at Prairie du Chien. The first white settlement in our limits, was at Sugar River Diggings, near the present village of Exeter. Two men by the name of Boner and McNutt, erected shanties for the purpose of trading with the Indians, at or about the place where William Davies' furnace was afterwards erected—the same furnace which was afterwards held and used by Kemp & Collins, about one mile S. W. of Exeter. This was in 1828. Soon after, during the same year, J. R. Blackmore, William Wallace, and William Davies, came to Sugar River Diggings, and commenced operations in mining for lead ore.

The Indians had been engaged for many years, judging from the heaps of dirt, overgrown with grass, weeds and brush, in raising this valuable mineral; and their discoveries