

About ten years after the claim at Prescott, and when it was fully settled that no opportunity would be offered for several years to commence settling at Prescott, a few log cabins were erected where stands the city of St. Paul, for the purpose of selling whiskey to the soldiers, and whiskey and beads to the Indians. Continual efforts were made to settle Prescott, but were a failure until 1851, when Mr. Prescott obtained a title to about two hundred acres from Government and by purchase otherwise. In that year, a few lots were laid off for the commencement of the future village; and the same year, Dr. O. T. Maxson came into the place and erected a store, the first improvement of the kind in the place. The following year, he succeeded in negotiating a purchase of the town site, and in the fall of 1853, Wm. J. Copp, from the State of Mississippi, came to the place, and purchased one-half of the town site, Copp and Maxson still holding the property. In that year, C. D. Stevens & Co., erected a large steam saw-mill. Two public houses and four stores, two ware-houses, mechanic shops and residences, comprised the improvements of the season.

We will here avail ourselves of the reminiscences of our worthy pioneer friend, J. M. Bailey, Esq.:

"In the year 1849, I first came into this country; that which now comprises the county of Pierce, was called the town of Elizabeth, in the county of St. Croix. The winter of 1849-50, found only eleven families in the town of Elizabeth, and but three families in what is now the village of Prescott.

"In the month of September, in the year 1849, Mr. Prescott made pre-emption to the present village plat, but in consequence of some informality, the papers were returned from Washington. Then followed the attempt of sundry individuals to wrest the claim from Mr. Prescott, but they all failed; Mr. Prescott, by another attempt, obtained his papers the following winter. In the month of November, 1850, Mr.