

Prescott laid out a few lots. The following winter, by an act of the Legislature, the name of the town was changed to Prescott, to conform to that of the village plat.

"In the summer of 1851, there were two small houses built in the village, but none at all in the county back, and but few claims taken. The land was not in market until late in the season. The Government lands were offered for sale late in August—the State lands on the first of November, but little of either was bought up. At the commencement of the year 1852, there were but four small wooden buildings in the village of Prescott, and but fourteen in the present county of Pierce, so, properly speaking, that year should date the settlement of the county. There was considerable building done in the town and county, and a good deal of the lands were bought up, during the year 1852.

"In the winter of 1853, Pierce county was set off from St. Croix county, and the summer following increased three-fold the number of buildings, farms, and inhabitants in the county and village, and more land was taken up than had been previously purchased. In the fall of 1853, we elected our first county officers; and the third Monday of the May following, the first circuit court was held in the county, Judge Knowlton presiding. There were no cases tried, and the court adjourned with but one sitting. In 1852, the post office was opened, and Dr. O. T. Maxson appointed postmaster. However, several years previous, there had been a post office established at the mouth of Lake St. Croix, and opened on this side of the Lake, but afterwards moved to Point Douglas."

During the year 1853, where the prairie and wood lands had previously given no evidence of the presence of the hand of cultivation, the steady tread of the emigrant land-looker could be observed, where previously the only guide, any distance from town, was the surveyors' lines. Hard beaten roads were made for many miles into the country. Entering lands and making claims engrossed the busi-