

try, so that the following spring was a new era for our county. The first, as also every other steamboat that season, came crowded—deck and cabin—to the utmost capacity. Prescott at this time, had three large three-story public houses, which were filled from first floor to garret, and with these, but a small portion could be thus accommodated. Citizens threw open their doors to the families, thereby protecting them until shelter could be provided. The ware-houses were converted into sleeping apartments, and the levee as well as the prairie back of town, into a kitchen; thus were hundreds provided for during the season. The village of Prescott this year, took its position among the business points of the State. Public houses, ware-houses, stores, mechanic shops and dwellings, were seen springing up as if touched by some magic wand for their existence. Three steam saw-mills were commenced, one by Messrs. Pewett & Loehner, one by D. W. Strickland, and one by Copp & Maxson, all of which were pushed forward to completion the following year, and which are now furnishing lumber to the place and the surrounding country.

But the season of 1855 presented quite a new order of business for town and country. Previously a very large majority of the farmers of the country, purchased all their provisions, and grain, either from the old settlers, or merchants in town. This year, their farms were sufficiently cultivated to furnish a large surplus; daily the different roads leading to Prescott, might be seen lined with loaded teams, conveying the productions of the land to market—Prescott, being the principal shipping point on the Mississippi, for North-Western Wisconsin. This enabled the farmers to commence improvements in the way of farm building, as also adding to the amount of their cultivated lands, while its effect in the country, is scattered over the whole. It gave to the market-town a new impetus—such an one as the market-towns upon Lake Michigan received, when the adjacent country began to pour in its surplus for market. Our merchants were enabled