

chord of which shall be the shore of Lake St. Croix, and you have nearly the shape of the level plat on which the town is situated; and surely a more convenient and beautiful spot on which to build a city, could seldom be found. Raised so high as to be far above any high-water mark, yet so low and so gradual in its rise, as to make the water even at the lowest stages, easy of access—penetrated in its center by a clear and beautiful stream, which furnishes abundant water power—its circumference composed of “bluffs,” which seldom rise so abruptly, as not to be capable of being easily transformed into handsome and convenient situations for residences, and being cut through by numerous ravines, which furnish excellent routes for thoroughfares to and from the surrounding country—and having spread out before it, for a mile in width, the silvery sheet of Lake St. Croix, with its picturesque and commanding opposite shore, and on whose waters the largest river-boats may, at all times, float—beauty and convenience seem blended together here, to an extent which could scarcely be equalled.

This beautiful spot, marked by nature as the site of a future city, early attracted the attention of the pioneers of the St. Croix Valley, and in the fall of 1848, Ammah Andrews, Philip Aldrich, James Sanders and Joseph Abear, laid out a tract of about thirty acres, near the mouth of Willow river, under the name of Buena Vista. At that time, only three or four rude huts served to distinguish the town site, from the wild country, in which, for miles around, there was scarcely a habitation.

St. Croix county, the county seat of which was soon after fixed at “Willow River,” then included the greater portion of North-Western Wisconsin, and all that part of Minnesota, which lies between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, St. Paul being then one of the election precincts in that county. All this territory, according to a census taken by Dr. Aldrich in 1845, contained only 1419 inhabitants.