

Colwert the remainder of the night. In December following, Edward Pier again left Green Bay to visit his brother; there was no road, he succeeded in getting near to the head of the Lake upon the ice, when his horse broke through; it was very cold, horse and rider both wet, the horse soon perished, but Mr. Pier was so fortunate as to reach his brother's with only his hands frozen. He accomplished his business, and returned to Green Bay, made arrangements, and on the 11th of March, 1837, arrived at Fond du Lac with his wife and two children, the youngest only four weeks old." Such was the commencement of the settlement of Fond du Lac city and county. In all the primitive trials and hardships incident to the settlement of a new country, Mr. Pier bore his full share. When the county was organized, he was, in 1839, chosen one of the first board of county commissioners, and has several times served as chairman of the board of supervisors of his town. In November, 1855, he was elected from Fond du Lac county to the State Senate, and has just served out his term of two years. He proved himself a discreet, vigilant and useful legislator.

XII. Hon. Absalom A. Townsend, third son of Samuel and Sarah Townsend, was born in Sussex county, New Jersey. Dec. 7th, 1810; and when he was two years old, his father moved to Steuben county, N. Y., where he resided till 1826. His father, now a widower, having purchased some military land in Western Illinois, started on the 15th of Oct., 1826, with his eldest son, and Absalom, and arrived at Peoria, on the Illinois river, on the 1st of January following. On the 18th of May, 1827, they arrived in the Lead Mines, in the vicinity of Gratiot's Grove, and engaged in the business of mining. But they were soon interrupted by the Winnebago disturbances in July, when the people organized into companies, and erected forts. The elder brother volunteered in Wm. S. Hamilton's company, while Absalom A. Townsend and his father fortified at Gratiot's Grove. Capt. Hamilton's