

Recollections of the Early History of Northern Wisconsin*

By Hon. Henry S. Baird, of Green Bay

To take a retrospect of the past, to record the events connected with the early history of the country, to note the characteristics of its early inhabitants, to delineate the privations and hardships experienced by its pioneers, in its early settlement, and compare them with the present condition of things, is a useful and laudable undertaking. It will serve to keep entire the chain that connects the past with the present generation, and it will soon be the only record left of a class of people fast fading from the view of those who now occupy the stage of public life.

Influenced by such considerations, and at the request of the committee who honored me with an invitation to address you, I have undertaken what, I fear, I shall but imperfectly perform, that is, to give some "Recollections of the Early History of Northern Wisconsin." In confining my remarks to Northern Wisconsin, it does not follow that they may not, to a certain extent, apply to the entire State; for at the period where I commence, there was but *one settlement* in any other part of the State—that one at Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi.† I propose to speak of events and transactions with which I am familiar, that transpired in the portion of the State known thirty-five years ago as "Brown County," when it comprised about one half of the present State.

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†At La Point was a small settlement, but its business and commercial relations were entirely with Mackinaw and Detroit.—L. C. D.