

Early Times in Sheboygan County

By Horace Rublee, of Madison

In collecting sketches of the first settlement and early history of the several localities of the State, the object of the State Historical Society, as I understand it, is to obtain the materials out of which the future historian may construct a life-like picture, not merely of the leading events, but of the character, circumstances, expectations, and social condition of the pioneer settlers.

History has come down from her stilts in these latter days, and delights as much in depicting the every day life of the people, as in tracing the intrigues of politicians or the manœuvres and exploits of military chieftains. In the complex web of events, the most trivial circumstance may come to possess an unexpected importance by its connection with subsequent occurrences; an anecdote may throw light upon the habits and social life of a people; the obscurest name may suddenly become invested with a profound interest to the genealogical inquirer.

In complying with the request to furnish a sketch of the early history of Sheboygan County, I have obtained such facts and dates as I could from the earliest settlers, and have supplied the remainder concerning a period a little later, but still belonging to the pioneer times, from personal recollection. Much of the present paper may be of no importance, but so far as it goes I have endeavored to make it a correct and faithful outline of the period to which it relates.

The name of the first white settler of Sheboygan County, was William Paine. He went there from Chicago, in the autumn of 1834, with the purpose of building a saw-mill on the