

# Latitude and Longitude of Places in Wisconsin

By I. A. Lapham, of Milwaukee

Until the last annual meeting of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the true positions of only a few points on the Western border of this State were known with any considerable degree of accuracy. These were taken by I. N. Nicollet. The observations made by Maj. Long's party, on their expedition to the St. Peter's (Minnesota) River, and also those of Capt. T. J. Cram, are to be rejected as entirely unreliable. The admirable chart of Lake Superior, by Lieut. Henry W. Bayfield, R. N., published at the Hydrographical office of the Admiralty, 1828, in three sheets, may, probably, be relied upon as correct; but if so, there must have been an error in surveying the line of the Fourth Principal Meridian, by which that line is bent towards the west no less than seven miles, as I shall shortly show. Whether this error is in Bayfield's chart, or in the survey of the Meridian, remains to be ascertained.

The positions of Milwaukee, Madison and Racine, as presented to this Society at the last annual meeting, were taken by Col. J. D. Graham, of the U. S. Topographical Engineers, with the greatest care, and may be deemed as accurate as can well be determined.

The places whose Latitude and Longitude have been determined accurately, by astronomical observations in this State, are as follows:

BY I. N. NICOLLET

	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	° ' "	° ' "
Prairie du Chien, (Am. Fur Co. House) . . . . .	43 03 06	91 09 19.5
Prairie la Crosse . . . . .	43 49	91 14
Mount Trempeleau . . . . .	44 01 07	91 24
Mouth of St. Croix River . . . . .	44 45 30	92 45
Falls of the St. Croix . . . . .	45 30 10	92 40
La Pointe (Trading House) . . . . .	46 47 10	90 53 30