

were the inspectors. At this time the first white child was born in Monroe County, a daughter of Franklin Pettit, in the spring of 1853. Lyman Andrews erected the first frame house in the county, known as the Sparta House. The same spring the county of Monroe was organized into a town by the name of Leon; our election was held the 5th of April, and sixty-seven votes were polled. The election was held at the house of D. M. West, in the present town of Leon. A fair specimen of the spirit of Young America was manifested at this election. The Little La Crosse Valley, in which is now situated the thriving village of Leon, possessed at that time about an equal number of inhabitants with Sparta. A spirit of rivalry existed between them. In the caucus for nominating town officers, they could not agree; the consequence was that each locality made an entire different nomination. On election day, Sparta organized the board by choosing her own inspectors. The Leon party had three majority, but on four of their tickets there were four names for constable; and as the law allowed but three, the inspectors threw away those four tickets entirely, instead of erasing the names for constable—thereby changing the entire election; proclaiming an entire set of new officers elected contrary to the fairly expressed will of the people. By their decision, one of their own number was made Supervisor, one a Justice, the other Town Treasurer. Both sets of officers qualified, and commenced the discharge of their duties, laying out roads and organizing school and road districts. James Rathbun headed the Sparta ticket as chairman; my name was on the Leon ticket. The case was brought up by a writ of *quo warranto* before Judge Knowlton, who decided that the voice of the people must rule, and declared the Leon candidates duly elected, and commanding the others to cease from any further official action. To this, however, they paid no attention, but continued to act until the sitting of the County Board in the fall, when I was admitted to a seat, and Rathbun rejected. Thus ended this strange procedure.