

# Pioneer Settlement of Sheboygan County

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By John E. Thomas

Those who have traveled the road from Sheboygan Falls to Sheboygan, will remember the old mill-site at the foot of the hill before reaching the covered bridge, at the first rapids of Sheboygan River, about three miles from its mouth. The mill erected there was completed in 1834 or '35, and was built for Payne and Crocker. William Payne died a few years since, in Chicago; and Col. Oliver C. Crocker, long a resident of Binghamton, N. Y., revisited Sheboygan in the summer of 1879.

Crocker helped to score the timber for the mill; and, when erected, considerable lumber was cut there, and sold at the mill, and in Chicago. During the erection of the building, a laborer named Rudsill, a Vermonter, broke one of his legs; and as there was no surgeon nearer than Milwaukee or Chicago, Crocker set the limb, and the man recovered the use of it. This was probably the first surgery performed in the county.

Col. Crocker related an amusing instance of the manner in which justice was administered in an early day. He had sold lumber to a Chicago man on sixty days' time, and the debtor was very dilatory; and, in fact, neglected to pay as he had repeatedly agreed to. Col. Crocker finally got into an altercation with the delinquent, and in self-defense gave him a good thrashing. As soon as the job was done, the Colonel, fearing that he might suffer at the hands of some court away from home, upon the complaint of his adversary, at once repaired to the nearest Justice, whose name was Casey, and entered a complaint against himself. That judicial functionary asked Crocker to state the facts, and to say whether he had "licked" the other fellow, C. H. Chapman, thoroughly. Crocker replied that he had tried to do a good job, and rather thought he had succeeded. "Well," said Justice Casey, "I thought that I would fine you; but if you 'licked' him good,