

If there were any irregularities in the administration of justice, after the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, there were many more under the Michigan Territorial Government. I remember that soon after I came to Prairie Du Chien, Joseph Rolette was Chief Justice, I forget who his associates were, and it was rich to watch the proceedings and decisions of the court. Joseph M. Street, H. L. Dousman, and M. Brisbois were afterwards appointed to the offices of Chief Justice and Associate Judges, and a decided improvement was introduced in the manner of conducting the court. Severally, the Associates had the powers of a Justice of the Peace; they could marry persons, issue warrants for arrest, &c., but it was only collectively that they had original jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters.

From 1840 until the commencement of the war with Mexico, nothing to excite interest occurred; unless we remark that the country was rapidly filling up with new comers. In 1846 orders were received to raise a volunteer company of one hundred men.

When I left Bloody Run to go up to Lockwood's mill on the Monomonee, in 1836 or '37, great speculative excitement existed. *Land Companies* Nos. 1 and 2 were formed, and great improvements and projects were commenced. At Prairie Du Chien and Cassville, towns were laid out, hotels built, and real estate was held at enormous prices. It was designed to make Cassville the Capital of the Michigan Territory; but mens' practice always falls short of their theory. The hard times came on, and the much talked of project was abandoned; land depreciated, and a general stagnation of business ensued. Among the organizations of the times was a wild-cat banking institution, entitled the "Prairie Du Chien Ferry Company." This Company issued its shin-plasters at Prairie Du Chien; some of which I have, and they bear the signatures of G. Washington Pine, President; and H. W. Savage, Cashier. This pioneer bank, however, had to succumb to the pressure, and adopted the "suspend payment" system, which suspension has lasted to the present day.