

of building the first Methodist Episcopal church, was talked over and resolved on. At that same meeting a committee of three: Mr. Dandly, H. Brace and Sam. Gilbert, were appointed to secure a suitable piece of ground on which to build—to make out plans—estimate the cost, and to obtain subscriptions in money, materials and labor, for the erection of the church. The committee selected Lot No. 15, of H. L. Dousman's Addition to St. Friole, part of farm lot No. 32, as the most suitable piece of ground for the purpose. This lot was donated to the church by Col. H. L. Dousman. Subscriptions to the amount \$1,034.93, in cash and materials were soon raised; and on the 6th of April, 1843, the building committee: Rev. A. Brunson, Sam. Gilbert and H. Brace, entered into a contract with H. H. Baily and G. W. Blunt, for the erection of the church. The building was to be fifty feet long by thirty-six feet wide, with stone foundation—to have on the front-end a tower fourteen feet square at the base, and thirty feet high from the main plate, with spires at each corner; to have a gallery on the front-end eight feet wide. Blunt and Baily agreed to have this building finished by September 1, 1843, in consideration of \$1,010; but the church was not finished at the time. This I believe to be a true account of the project to build the *first* Methodist Episcopal church at Prairie Du Chien.

Taking an interest in church matters, about this time, I am able to narrate the particulars of the Methodist Sunday School organization, and the establishing of the Sunday School Library. The latter was formed by subscription and donations, and comprised many volumes—some very valuable works. I was superintendent of the Sabbath School at one time, and took great pleasure in it.

Robert D. Lester was Sheriff in 1844, and sustained the character of being a prompt and faithful officer; he came to his death in a bloody manner, while returning home after the execution of some official business. He had been up to St. Peters or St. Paul, and in the absence of steam-boats had obtained a canoe, and was returning to the Prairie. He wore a