

# Wisconsin in 1818

By Edward Tanner\*

Mr. Edward Tanner, brother to John Tanner, respecting whom we published a communication last week, was, by the Hon. A. B. Woodward, introduced to the Lyceum of this city at its sitting of November 12, 1818. Mr. E. Tanner had traveled from St. Louis, by way of Prairie du Chien and Green Bay, to this place; and Messrs. Woodward, Rowland, and Shattuck were appointed a committee to wait on him, and obtain such information relative to the soil, climate, and statistics of the country through which he passed, as he was prepared to give. The following is extracted from the report of the committee:

Mr. Tanner left St. Louis on the 15th of August last, in company with the agent of the Sauk Indians, and arrived at the village of Prairie du Chien, about 560 miles nearly north from St. Louis, on the 10th of September. On the 13th, he left Prairie du Chien and descended the Mississippi River four miles, to the mouth of the Wisconsin, and ascended that river to its portage, about 200 miles; course generally northeasterly. He arrived on the 29th of September, and drew his canoe across the portage, a mile and a quarter, to the Fox River; on the 22d, he descended the Fox River to Green Bay, where he arrived on the 29th of September. He sailed from that place, on board the "Widow's Son," and arrived at Mackinac on the 31st. The 4th of November he sailed from Mackinac, and on the 10th arrived at Detroit.

From St. Louis to Prairie du Chien the Mississippi is generally bordered by low banks, with bottoms from a half mile to four miles wide, subject to inundation. These bottoms are composed in part of prairies, covered with high grass or marshes, and in part with land heavily timbered with walnut, black and white sugar tree, mulberry, ash, and oak of all kinds. These possess a soil of the most luxuriant kind. The land approximating the bottom is generally hilly, and sometimes abounds with high cliffs of rocks.

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