

not reach Madison until about 9 o'clock on the second morning after leaving Rock River. Here we found a Mr. Peck and family, Col. A. A. Bird and several other men, putting up the frame of a house for a hotel, and also some materials on the ground for the capitol building then in course of erection. From Col. Bird we obtained the proper directions by landmarks to reach Mr. Rowan's trading-post, on the military road, twelve miles from Fort Winnebago, and near the present village of Poynette. On the route from Madison, and ten or twelve miles out, we passed the body of a log house, afterwards completed and occupied by a Mr. Lawrence; but no other marks of improvement were noticed. We reached Rowan's late in the evening, tired, and glad to find a comfortable place for the night for ourselves and the pony.

Following the military road, we reached Fort Winnebago about noon the next day, and found a stopping place at the Indian agency house, owned by the government; but then kept as a tavern by an Italian named Ubaldine, who had an Irish woman for a wife; and during our stay there of a week or more, we found the wife "the better man," at least Ubaldine was willing to acknowledge such to be the fact whenever any little family difficulty occurred, which was not unfrequent.

Visited the fort next day. Met Captain Lowe, then in command, and also Mr. Henry Merrell, since of La Crosse, who kept a sutler's store near the fort. Procured a supply of provisions to last for six or eight days, and leaving the pony with Mr. Ubaldine, we proceeded. Passed the trading-post of Silas Walsworth, situated at the high point of land near the present railroad bridge over the canal; followed the Point Bausse trail about fifteen miles, to a cluster of bark wigwams, then deserted, situated on the land afterwards owned and occupied for several years by Jared Walsworth. Camped here over night. Snow about a foot deep, and weather extremely cold. Tried the experiment of camping in a wigwam, but found it a bad one on account of not being able to keep up a sufficient fire.

The next morning continued on the trail three or four miles, and then struck west across the head of Dell Prairie, and reached the Wisconsin River at the foot of the Big Dells the evening of the