

Frank afterwards lived near Fort Winnebago, then at Provonsal's Eddy, in Columbia County, about four miles below Newport; but during the last ten or twelve years previous to his death, he lived with his family at Pete-en-Well,* at which place he owned and run the ferry across the Wisconsin River. Frank was probably about one-quarter Indian, a man of no education, possessing many of the imperfections of human nature incident to his early life and surroundings; but was a much better man and citizen than many who possessed superior advantages in these respects.

In the winter of 1835-36, Alva Culver, a man by the name of Bernard, and one or two other men from Helena, got out a raft of square timber at the Dells, and along near the mouth of the Lemonweir River, for government buildings at Fort Winnebago. Lumber operations had already commenced at the Whitney Rapids, higher up the river, in the present county of Wood.

In the year 1835, the steamboat "Frontier," Captain D. S. Harris, made a trip up the Wisconsin as high as the Dells, but did not attempt to pass through. Steamboats continued to make occasional trips as high as the Dells for some years afterwards. In 1850, the "Enterprise," Capt. Gilbert, reached the Dells, tied up in the eddy over night, and the next morning continued on through the Dells, and as high up the river as Point Bausse. The same boat afterwards made two or three trips to the same point.

For several years, before the railroad reached Kilbourn City, John B. Du Bay kept a keel-boat on the river a considerable portion of the time, carrying freight from Portage City to Point Bausse. Owing, however, to the swiftness of the current in the Dells in high water, and the numerous sand-bars in the river above and below that point, in low water, the navigation of the Wisconsin above Portage was always both uncertain and expensive, and the charges for freight, seventy-five cents per hundred, alone justified the expense of navigation.

The first permanent settlement in the county was made in the month of October or November in the year 1838. At the time

* Pete-en-Well is near Necedah, and not Neenah, as erroneously printed on page 365, vol. vii, of *Wis. Hist. Collections*.