

journey was to ascertain whether he could not export lead, as well as procure the flour and other things he needed, to better advantage in Portage than in Galena. His route thither, that is to Fort Winnebago, ran to the north-west of Fourth Lake, and he obtained from the army sutler a modicum of bread, pork and powder. His return course was more southerly, so as to strike the Indian trail which ran between Third and Fourth lakes, crossing both Capitol and the University hills. Mr. Brigham's visit to Portage must have been late in 1828, for the fort there was not established till the 7th of October in that year. Possibly, however, his discovery of the Madisonian site did not occur till the year following, 1829. His account-books show that his mining began on June 23rd, 1828.

He made the following statement as early as 1845, to H. A. Tenney, who has furnished it to me in writing: "He reached the hill on which Madison is mainly located, on the afternoon of the day he left the Fort and set up his tent of blankets within the limits of the present Capitol park, near, as he pointed out to me, the eastern gate-way, as nearly as he could recall the spot. The site was at the time an open prairie, on which grew a few dwarf oaks, while thickets covered the lower grounds. Struck with the strange beauty of the place, he predicted that a village or a city would in time grow up there, and it might be the capital of a State. This, he informed me, was in May, eight years before Wisconsin became a Territory in 1836."

It is easy to see why the Four Lake country was not earlier visited by whites, although the Wisconsin River downward from the voyage of Marquette had been a thoroughfare. The truth is, that, at first, canoes were the only conveyances known. It was some generations after Marquette's mission, before the Indians of the North-West obtained ponies of the Spaniards. Wisconsin wayfarers, who had no canoes, afterward walked near the old water-route; and there, too, the first military road from the Fort at Portage to Prairie du Chien was laid out.

Mr. Brigham died in Madison, and lies buried in its Forest