

horse stolen from him by Indians, as already mentioned, was near the site of Madison. What he sought he found, on the west side of Third, or the "upper" lake as he terms it—surviving to tell the story in 1885.

Within two years after the Green Bay men came hither prospecting, though not as miners, Abel Rasdall, a Kentuckian, coming from Galena in 1831, commenced his trading adventures around the Four Lakes. His cabin was on First Lake, on the eastern shore, about half a mile north¹ of its outlet. His wife was a squaw, who, some years afterward, when her tribe went west, decided to go with them. So she and her husband concluded an amicable separation in less time than is needed even when the proclamation is, "Twenty minutes for dinner and Chicago divorces." Rasdall and his partner cut a blanket in two, and each kept half of it. Thus were they put asunder. This blanket-cutting recalls the English custom at betrothals and hand-fasts, of breaking in two a bit of money, each party retaining a portion. So in Scott's *Bride of Lammermoor*, the troth-plight of the Master of Ravenswood and Lucy Ashton "ended in the emblematic ceremony of their breaking betwixt them a thin broad piece of gold."

Another Indian trader, Wallace Rowan, was established at the head of Fourth Lake, at the outbreak of the Black Hawk War in 1832. It is not impossible that he was trading there before the coming of either Rasdall, or even Armel. His wife was a white woman and the first one known to have pilgrimed into this new country. In 1835, Rowan entered fifty-two acres of land on the eastern shore of Monona—a fractional farm which included Squaw, or Strawberry Point.

As early as 1833, Rowan's trading-post, about three-fourths of a mile north of the village of Pheasant Branch, had passed into the hands of Michel St. Cyr, a Canadian half-breed. This frontiersman, as will be seen in the sequel, proved a link that could not well have been spared in the chain of events which drew Madison in its train.

¹ I write *north*, though Durrie, p. 24, says *south*. My informant was Simeon Mills, who had often visited the dwelling of Rasdall.