

The long and short of the Black Hawk War was chasing that chief and his four hundred braves, who had crossed the Mississippi from Iowa, near the mouth of Rock River, up that water to Koshkonong, and thence by way of the Four Lakes and the Wisconsin River, back to Iowa. In this chase, the whites—mainly farmers' boys—each picked out for himself a good farm.<sup>1</sup>

As soon as soldiering was over, many a youth made haste to break up his land, bringing with him, or soon after, the girl he had left behind him when he marched to the frontier. Such, in a nutshell, is the Genesis and Exodus—the rise and progress—the whole history of Wisconsin.

Eastern men are said to come west with a view to grow up with the country. Some of them thus migrated in the hope of carving out States in quite another form than that now existing. About 1825, enterprising settlers had planted themselves in Green Bay, sanguine that a vast State, called Superior, was about to be born, with Green Bay as its natural capital. Such anticipations were a "hatching of vain empires." But they would have been reasonable, had not Congress, robbing Peter to pay Paul, transferred the grand Northern Peninsula to Michigan, and thus kept her from fighting with Ohio for the swamps around Toledo.

Roads were demanded to facilitate settlement. A military road from Prairie de Chien to Portage was laid out by Gov. Doty, as United States commissioner in 1830; and soldiers in the garrisons at both places were set at work for constructing that thoroughfare. Thus the road-raising army brought more civilization into Wisconsin by plowshares than by swords. In the day of small things, its highways were as invaluable as any railway has been since. The track of the

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<sup>1</sup> The discovery of excellent prairies and oak openings through all the breadth of Wisconsin was a surprise to the volunteers. It had long been reported by fur-traders, whose interests were adverse to agriculture, that Wisconsin was in the main a great Dismal Swamp, and so the myth concerning a great American Desert still found its local habitation on the east side of the Mississippi. It was long the purpose at Washington to reserve the region now Wisconsin for an Indian Territory. With this view various tribes were removed thither from New York.