

Northwestern railway westward from Mount Horeb station, for twenty miles or more, is now laid on the line of the Doty military road.

Traversing rough regions on military causeways, I have often said, as the Irishman did concerning the officer who made the Scotch highlands carriageable—

"If you had seen these roads before they were made,  
You would lift up both hands and bless General Wade."

The United States survey of the Four Lake country was not accomplished till the last days of the year 1834. The field-notes of the surveyors are still preserved in the vault of the land office in the capitol. In a little volume, No. 82, about six inches by four—a stoutly bound pocket-book—I have examined the field-notes regarding the then unsuspected site of State government—a plot of ground described as T. 7, R. 9 E., of 4 P. M.—that is, township seven north of south State line and range nine east, of the fourth principal meridian. When Madison has an illustrated history, the surveyor's plotting will be reproduced in facsimile.

Friday ought never to be counted a day of ill omen in Madison for on that day the work of surveying was begun there. That Friday was the fourth of December, 1834. The measurement of what is now the capitol square was, however, made on Sunday. The surveyor was Orson Lyon. On one of his pages, Third and Fourth lakes are plotted. Between Third and Wingra, called a pond, a line is drawn and inscribed ("Indian trail"). It runs northwest to Fourth Lake striking it in section eighteen.

Northwest of Fourth Lake, the military road appears with the legend "Mitchell's field, 14 chains; dwelling and trading house." The name "Mitchell" perplexed me not a little, till Dr. Draper suggested that it was the surveyor's name for St. Cyr, whose Christian name I found to be *Michel*, the French form of Michael.

The surveyor notes that he set a post on the north side of Third Lake, between sections twenty-three and twenty-four, with bearing-trees, a hickory eighteen inches in diameter, north thirty degrees, east fifty-two links, and a burr-oak of