

them back there from their field of labor, for forage, potatoes, salt and shelter. For these supplies they paid their entertainer thirteen dollars and a half. Yet their camping ground was usually among the ridges between Wingra and Third Lake. In about a week—that is on Feb. 26th, 1837, the task of meandering and lot-staking was done, so far as it was practicable on deep snow, and ground frozen still deeper.

The last night of this survey, Mr. Strong's party lodged near where the steamboat landing on Fourth Lake now is. They had no tent, but lay in blankets; and thanks to a tremendous snow-fall, were buried more than a foot deep. The storm still continuing in the morning, they gave up further work as fruitless, and drove off in their sleigh on the Lake. The air was thick with snow—nothing could be seen in any direction—the driver lost his head and his way. But at starting Mr. Strong had observed that the wind had struck his right cheek when the horses were headed as the compass showed they ought to go. Hence, taking the reins, he turned the horses till the wind struck his face as in the beginning. Thus with no other guide than the way the wind came, he at length brought his team and passengers to the half-breed hut, then the only refuge within possible reach.

Thus, the Four Lake country gave place to Madison, and here the task assigned me also finds its conclusion. You all know what has followed here in the fifty years save two which have since elapsed.

If I were to cross the Madisonian threshold, I should be led on so far, that you would compare my paper to the endless rope which an Irishman pulled and pulled till he was tired, and then broke out with an oath, swearing the other end of the pesky thing had been cut off.

It may be worth adding, that the foregoing sketch is based upon conversations with Gov. Doty, Gen. Mills, Hon. Moses M. Strong, Dr. L. C. Draper, and others; on the standard histories of Madison or Dane County by Durrie, Park, Western Historical Company, and Smith; on correspondence with D.