

summer of 1837 we sold out to Solomon Juneau, who, I think, brought the goods back to Milwaukee and disposed of them. Thus I am entitled to the credit of helping establish the first store in that section.<sup>1</sup>

In the fall of 1837, I returned to Milwaukee and spent the winter in helping to collect the county taxes.<sup>2</sup> The next spring I went into the lumber business and served as auctioneer. In the fall, I moved to Port Washington<sup>3</sup> with a small stock of Indian goods and was appointed postmaster. A little settlement had been established here by Wooster Harrison and other Michigan City speculators, but the place had been starved out and practically abandoned. When I reached there, there were perhaps a dozen empty houses and stores, and a small deserted saw-mill. A post-office having been established, somebody had to hold the office of postmaster, so I took it for the winter. The only mail that ever arrived there during my term was for either my family or the family of Asa Case, up at Saukville. There were no other white people in that region.<sup>4</sup>

In the spring of 1839, I closed up my post, bought a lot of sugar from the Indians, loaded a boat with the sugar and furs that I had collected and went up to Milwaukee, where

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<sup>1</sup> Western Hist. Co.'s *Hist. Waukesha Co.* (1880), p. 628, says: "The first store was erected by Solomon Juneau, not far from the present location of St. Joseph's Catholic church, in Waukesha. Juneau hired a clerk to run it, who dealt mostly in Indian goods and 'wolf tobacco.' This tobacco was also for the Indians, and was so named because it was said to be strong enough to kill a wolf. The store was opened in the winter of 1836-37. Mr. Juneau sold goods here before that, however."—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> From documents in the Vieau collection, it appears that the narrator was commissioned early in December, 1837, both as tax collector for the town of Milwaukee and as collector of county taxes; as town collector, he was given five per cent. on all of his collections and levies.—Ed.

<sup>3</sup> Then simply Washington. George C. Daniels named it Port Washington, in 1844. The financial crash of 1837 killed the place, which had been established by Harrison's party, on the "boom" basis, Sept. 7, 1835.—Ed.

<sup>4</sup> West. Hist. Co.'s *Hist. Washington and Ozaukee Cos.* (1881), p. 508, says that Case had a trading hut at Port Washington, at that time; and that Aurora Adams kept a tavern there, as a half-way house on the trail between Sheboygan and Milwaukee. No mention is made of Vieau.—Ed.