

In October, 1829, the first public meeting in the history of Green Bay was held here. Louis Grignon was chairman, while I officiated as secretary. We petitioned congress to build a road from the Bay to Chicago, and also to improve the Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

About 1830, a Shot Tower company was organized, principally composed of gentlemen living here and in Detroit, with one from Oswego. The firm name was Daniel Whitney, Platte and Co. They built a tower on the face of a cliff at Old Helena or Pine Bend, on the south bank of the Wisconsin river, twenty miles northwest of Blue Mound.¹ Considerable shot was made here. Daniel Whitney was the superintendent and had a man named Greene working the concern for him. Greene was shot near the fort at Blue Mound, in the Black Hawk war, in 1832.²

While I was a member of the Michigan territorial legislature, in session at Detroit, this same company got me to obtain a charter for them, to build a canal between the Fox

neither extensive nor elegant. There were no regular court-houses or public buildings, the courts were held in log school-houses, where there were such, or in rooms provided for the special occasion, destitute of comfortable seats and other fixtures for use of court, bar or jurors. In May, 1826, when the term of the court was to be held at Prairie du Chien, on our arrival we found the old town entirely *under water*, the inundation being caused by the overflowing of both the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers. The troops had abandoned the fort, and the inhabitants had fled to the high grounds near the bluffs — but two or three houses were occupied, and only the upper stories in those. It will naturally be imagined that under such circumstances the court could not be held. But not so — a large barn, situated on dry ground, was selected and fitted up for the accommodation of the court, bar and suitors! The court occupied the extensive threshing-floor, about fourteen by thirty-five feet. The jurors occupied the hay and grain mows on either side of the court. When the jury retired to agree upon their verdict, they were conducted by an officer to another barn or stable. Such was the condition of affairs in the early years of Wisconsin history.”—ED.

¹ The remains of this tower can still be seen, near the south end of the new Spring Green wagon bridge, which was erected in 1887. See *Hist. Iowa Co.* (West. Hist. Co., 1881), pp. 472, 473, for detailed description of tower.—ED.

² June 20. *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, p. 351, and subsequent volumes.—ED.