

mind to settle at that point, he communicated with my mother, then resident with her children at Northfield, Vermont, and arranged that the family should start for the country that had just been erected into Wisconsin Territory.

In pursuance of this determination, on the 2d day of May, 1837, the family,—consisting of my mother, three sons and one daughter—started in wagons with their few household goods, for Burlington, upon Lake Champlain, thence by steamboat to White Hall, and from that point by canal. Near Utica, N. Y., my father met us, upon our way, and guided us to our new home. Embarking at Buffalo upon the steamboat Bunker Hill, we landed in Detroit. From Detroit we traveled in covered wagons along the swampy roads of Michigan and through northern Indiana to Chicago, and finally emerged in the afternoon of the 17th day of June, 1837, from the heavy timber upon the banks of the Milwaukee river, at what was then known as Walker's Point. We resided in Milwaukee until autumn, during which time I attended school in the old court-house of that place.

Milwaukee, though but a village of a few hundred inhabitants, was the largest and most important point, if I remember rightly, in all the vast expanse of country west of Lake Michigan. But my father was desirous of reaching the

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school district. Abel Keyes, the father of Joseph, died in 1843, his being, it is reported, the first white death in the village. Abel was born at Putney, Vt., Sept. 11, 1773, and was largely instrumental in the early advancement of Northfield and neighboring villages, being a builder and owner of grist and saw-mills, machine shops, hotels and dwelling-houses. In 1839, he removed from Vermont to Illinois, and a year later to the home of his son Joseph, at Lake Mills. A sketch of Abel Keyes's busy career will be found in John Gregory's *Hist. Northfield, Vt.* (Montpelier, 1878), p. 123. In 1850, Joseph Keyes removed to Menasha, and erected one of the first saw-mills there. He afterwards resided in Madison, until about 1859, when he returned to Menasha, where he was appointed register of the United States land office. The closing years of his life were spent in retirement. He died in Menasha, Sept. 17, 1874, aged 79 years, having been among the most honored and useful of the pioneers of Wisconsin. His kindly heart and manly bearing in all the walks of life will long be remembered by the old settlers of both Jefferson and Winnebago counties.—ED.