

point selected by him the year before, at the lake in Jefferson county; therefore, in the latter part of September, we were on the move again to reach what we had pictured to be the "promised land."

We left Milwaukee with two teams, one of which was a wagon drawn by oxen. We passed through Prairieville, now Waukesha, which town had only one log house,¹ and crossed Summit prairie and through Oconomoc, until we struck the woods, through which we traveled until we reached the present site of the city of Watertown. All the improvements we found at that place were the foundations for a saw-mill, and one log house. A little beyond Watertown was a log house occupied by a family named Johnson,² where we stayed over night.

¹ *Hist. Waukesha Co.* (West. Hist. Co., 1880), p. 634, says that at that time A. R. Cutler had a claim shanty, "erected in May, 1834, near where Blair's machine shop now is;" M. D. Cutler, soon afterward, had erected a log house "near where his present residence is;" while James Buckner had a log tavern, the Prairieville house, erected in 1837; David Jackson had also a log house, in which the postoffice was kept, and there was a log hut which Solomon Juneau had occasionally used as a trading post. There were a few other log houses out on the prairie, at Bethesda spring and down the river. But all of these buildings were widely separated in the thick underbrush and timber patches, and Buckner's tavern was probably the only one seen by the Keyes family.—Ed.

² Timothy Johnson, the first white settler in what is now the city of Watertown, was born at Middletown, Conn., June 28, 1792. After wandering through the east and south, he reached Racine, Wisconsin, then composed of but a few shanties, in the fall of 1835. In January, 1836, he was at Wisconsin City (now Janesville), where, on the 18th day of November, 1835, John Inman and his party had made the first white settlement in what is now Rock county. Going to Rockford, Illinois, for provisions, Johnson returned to Wisconsin City in February, the same month that Henry F. Janes made his claim there. Not satisfied there, however, Johnson proceeded up the Rock river to within about two miles below the present site of Jefferson, where he built a log house, cleared a garden patch and "made short excursions about the country."—*Hist. Jefferson Co.* (West. Hist. Co., 1879), p. 401. In one of these explorations he discovered what soon became known as Johnson's Rapids (now Watertown). He staked out a claim of one thousand acres there, the greater part of the city of Watertown now occupying it. In June, 1836, he allowed Philander Baldwin, Reeve Griswold and Charles Seaton to erect temporary cabins on his