

The next day was to finish our journey, and we reached the ford at Milford just as the sun was declining in the west, and were ferried across in a boat constructed of two Indian canoes, with split basswood planks upon which the wagon rested, the horses and cattle fording the stream. We were aided in this effort by two old bachelors named respectively Drake and Bartlett,¹ who had a cabin there near the bank of the river. After crossing the river we struck across the opening, with no road, not even an Indian trail, seeing no human being, nor even a shanty, until after dark, when we struck the present site of Lake Mills, where, near the lake, we found a floorless shanty shingled with a hay stack. In this we made ourselves as comfortable as we could. It was necessary to have a better habitation than this to live in during the winter, and my father proceeded at once to construct a log house, which was built and ready for occupancy before very cold weather came.² In this house we lived for several years. My father had selected this site upon the stream near the lake, with the intention of constructing a

land at Johnson's Rapids. In the fall, he went to Milwaukee, where his family had recently arrived from Ohio, and proceeded with them to the Rapids,—arriving there Dec. 10, 1836, after suffering many hardships from cold and a total lack of highways. The *Hist. of Waukesha Co.*, before cited, gives, pp. 336, 401, some thrilling pictures of Johnson's experiences, in this and other expeditions. He is said to have been the first white man to discover the prehistoric earthworks at Aztalan.

The "foundations for a saw-mill," which Colonel Keyes alludes to, were, at the time he passed through Watertown, being put in by Luther A. Cole, who was "working on the saw-mill and dam for Charles F. H. Goodhue & Son,"—claimed to be the first improvement of the water-power on Rock river, either in Wisconsin or Illinois. The "one log house" seen by Colonel Keyes was probably that, on the west side, built by Capt. James Rogan,—the "Co." of the saw-mill firm,—in January, 1837. Rogan's shanty was the headquarters for all new arrivals, and was known for a long time as "the leading hotel" at Johnson's Rapids." There was another shanty at Watertown, however, at the time of Colonel Keyes's visit. It was that of Cole, who kept bachelors' hall with his brother, John W., and their companion pioneer, Amasa Hyland.—ED.

¹ L. P. Drake and M. L. Bartlett, the first settlers in the town of Milford.—ED.

² Capt. Joseph Keyes was the first white settler in what is now the village of Lake Mills.—ED.