

years of hardship, full of hope and courage. What they desired the most, they said to me, were schools and school-teachers, churches and priests, and the full enjoyment of their political rights, which up to this time they had not exercised. Under those circumstances, they were very anxious to have a man among them to lead them out of their chaotic condition. Many came and offered all the inducements at their command, to have me settle among them. They came in scores, and once on a Sunday afternoon there came over a hundred, heads of families, so anxious were they to have me remain in the settlement; and my father and mother joined with them. It took considerable time before I could make up my mind to accept their propositions, but finally they urged me so persistently that I concluded to remain, and for five years did I work among them, teaching school in English, necessarily using French as a basis. During those five years I worked incessantly not only as school-teacher, but in discharging the duties of the several offices to which I had been elected or appointed; until, in the fall of 1862, I was elected register of deeds for Brown County, so that I was compelled to leave the Belgian settlement and move with my family to Green Bay.

The First Belgian Settlement ("Aux Premier Belges"), was located in the town of Green Bay, county of Brown, which town at that time covered 94 square miles, and comprised what are now the towns of Green Bay, Scott, Preble, Eaton, and Humboldt, and a part of what is now the city of Green Bay. It was in this First Settlement that I labored for five years, although I was often called into other settlements in Kewaunee and Door counties, to instruct in their duties the newly-elected officers of the several towns and school districts which were being formed.

Up to this time the Belgians had been ignored by their neighbors of other nationalities. Their poverty and distress, and the ordeal through which they had passed during their first three years of pioneer life, had not attracted that sympathy and help which is generally accorded to new