

from the Bavarian forests, northwest of Munich.¹ They were peasants, woodcutters, mill-laborers, and handicraftsmen of various sorts—said to be strong, hardy folk, better adapted than the Swiss to life in the forests, and especially better for that life than the so-called *fabrikarbeiter* from the cities. It is roughly estimated that about 5,000 Germans settled in the State, especially along the Wisconsin Central railway, in Clark, Taylor, Price, and Ashland counties, and that nine-tenths were from Bavaria.

The causes of this Bavarian emigration, according to Ferstl, were three: (1) The low wages for laborers, especially in the forest regions of *Nieder Bayern*; (2) the unproductiveness (*Unrentabilität*) of agriculture; (3) the constant dread of war.² The low rates of travel at that time, were also a special inducement.³ Nearly all paid their own fare to Wisconsin; the majority brought means enough to buy land, while the rest were obliged to earn their farms. Nearly all were particular to settle near their own people; they came in groups of several families from the same locality. Once or twice a year, Kennan personally conducted parties of emigrants to the State.⁴ While the Bavarian element doubtless predominates among these people, there are also many Austrians and Swiss, and representatives of all parts of Germany.⁵

¹ Letters were written for *Der Ansiedler*, of Milwaukee, by men from villages near Teplitz, Bohemia; Schattau, Mähren, Austria, and Heidenreichstein, Lower Austria; and from Unter-Franken, Bavaria.

² Most of those who came to Wisconsin had performed military service.

³ A notice in *Der Ansiedler* of June 15, 1881, announces that tickets from Antwerp to Milwaukee, were for sale at their office for \$39.

⁴ For example, in the fall of 1881 a body of 150 persons accompanied him, and were soon followed by 75 others. Some went to Black Creek Falls and Butternut, but the majority remained in the immigrant house at Medford, waiting to buy land in that locality, or to find employment.

⁵ So far, I have been unable, except to a limited extent, to locate the miscellaneous German groups. Many settled in the western part of Marathon county, with those already mentioned. In 1881 and 1882, a sawmill was built by a Medford firm, at Bruckerville, a small town four miles east of Dorchester; about it, as in all those northern towns, a black-