

passing steamboats on the Mississippi. Among them was one Swiss family from Graubünden, which is the canton now most largely represented in Buffalo county. They settled at Fountain City (then Holmes's Landing), and were then the only white settlers in that locality. From 1848 to 1855, a few Germans came in each year, and all were engaged in chopping wood. In 1855 the real immigration began; some went by way of Galena, others crossed over from Sauk county, while the rest went directly from Milwaukee by means of ox-teams. The attractions to the Swiss were the excellent soil, the springs of fresh water, and the good pastures, all of which reminded them of their native land. They are located chiefly in townships along the Mississippi River.

In Fond du Lac county, in the town of Ashford, and adjoining it on the south in Washington county, is a group of Swiss who are from the canton of St. Gallen. The first came directly to Wisconsin in the spring of 1847; and between that year and 1856, the majority settled in that locality. They were, with few exceptions, of the peasant class, and here they own farms of from 40 to 160 acres each.

In Sauk county, the towns of Troy, Honey Creek, and Prairie du Sac contain a large Swiss element from the cantons of Graubünden, Zürich, and Bern. They belong to the German Methodist and German Reformed churches.

Among the South Germans in north-central Wisconsin, are also a number of Swiss.

#### SAXONY.<sup>1</sup>

Among the Wisconsin Germans, there are in almost every community a number of Saxons. In addition to these, Saxon groups have located in Ozaukee, Washington, Sheboygan, and Manitowoc counties. In August, 1839, three Saxon families, possessing considerable means,<sup>2</sup> took up govern-

<sup>1</sup>The diversity of conditions in Saxony makes any special account of German life impracticable.

<sup>2</sup>These families were those of Adolph Zimmerman, afterwards member of the State legislature (1870, 1873-74), and two Opitz brothers.