

town," bringing rarely cultivated people to grace our church circle and help build up our society.<sup>1</sup> The military were always interested in all that concerned our town, socially as well as otherwise. We were very dependent on each other for our pleasures.

Many from the fort attended church when the services were held in a school house; but the attendance was larger and more regular when the church was opened. At one time, Capt. M. E. Merrill marched his entire company to church every Sunday.

It was our good fortune to have this very estimable man stationed at Fort Howard at several different times. I believe the first time was as early as 1833 or 1834. In 1836 he married Miss Louise Slaughter, sister of William Slaughter, first receiver of the land office at this place. Captain Merrill's three sons were born in old Fort Howard. Our townspeople felt bereaved when the news came that Captain Merrill was killed at Molino del Rey, Mexico.

In noting the different officers who at various times were stationed here, I may not mention them in regular order, but some I cannot omit. Ever since my childhood days I have been accustomed to military life; and when the troops left Fort Howard for the last time, in 1852, I felt as though many of my good friends had gone for ever. How those of other days come thronging to my mind as I write of the times which never will return!

The Whistler family, in particular! How well I remember each one of them, from the good, kind father and very warm-hearted and indulgent mother, to the children of the household. Many of them were born at this place. Gwendoline, now Mrs. Robert Kinzie, of Chicago, and Garland, now General Whistler, U. S. A., were born at Fort Howard. Miss Caroline Whistler (now Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood, of Milwaukee), was one of my very best friends, when we were young. Her son, Frank Bloodgood, of Milwaukee, was born at Fort Howard.

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<sup>1</sup>The parish was, however, organized in April, 1826. See proceedings of vestry, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xiv, pp. 451-455.—Ed.