

cured from him the privilege of attempting the survey on condition that, in case of failure to complete it, I should make no charge for my time or expenses.

My arrangements for the journey were soon completed, and I started on horseback, with only a change of underwear in my saddle-bag, and compass on my arm, for the scene of my future labors. The only route open for travel was the military road to Fort Winnebago, passing around the east and south sides of Lake Winnebago, and following the general course of the Upper Fox River, to the fort; thence by the Mineral Point road south, to about the latitude of Fourth Lake; thence east across the country, to the site of the future capital. This journey—partly alone, on horseback, and from the Brothertown Reservation to Fort Winnebago, about eighty miles on foot, with two Indian boys to carry provisions, blankets, etc.—occupied a full week.

Excluding the improvements on the reservation, there were but two houses between DePere and Fort Winnebago—one at Wrightstown, another at Fond du Lac. A few miles east of the fort we passed a lone man plowing with a span of horses; his covered wagon, in which he slept, standing by the roadside. He had located on the north side of the road, in the open prairie, and was probably the first farmer to break ground west of Lake Winnebago.

On reaching the site of Madison, the first week was spent in locating and establishing the section lines that meet and cross in the center of the Capitol Park and follow the streets and avenues that diverge from its four corners. From these lines as a base, the sides of the square, and their exact location and length, were to be determined; upon their accuracy, all the work of the survey depended, and in the prosecution of this preliminary work I met with the same difficulty that had baffled the skill of the old county surveyors. After exhausting every expedient at my command, in fruitless efforts to run a straight line with the compass, I was forced to the conclusion that it could not be done; for repeated trials made with the utmost care, on a