

rival, and accepted an invitation given me by the surgeon of the post, to accompany him on a trip down the Fox River by boat.

Two Mackinac boats, laden with furs for the American Fur Co., were hourly expected from the Upper Wisconsin River, and similar boats were lying in Fox River, opposite the fort, waiting to receive their cargoes; these had to be transferred on the backs of Indians and half-breeds, over a land portage about a mile and a quarter in length. Several days were consumed in this work; but after a week's sojourn at the fort as the guest of Lieutenant Root, I went on board one of the boats, with the surgeon, and two soldiers detailed to serve him on his journey, and we were soon floating lazily down the river.

From Portage to Lake Winnebago the river wound its tortuous way through broad rice marshes, which in many places extended as far as the eye could reach on either side; but occasionally the channel ran close to high points of land that jutted into the marshy waste. No habitations were seen at any place on its banks, but myriads of black-birds fed on the wild rice, and numberless ducks and geese covered the open waters.

Passing from the river into Lake Winnebago, at the site of the future city of Oshkosh,—then covered with a heavy growth of timber and uninhabited,¹—we made a pleasant run down the lake, and entered the Lower Fox River, where our progress was impeded by frequent rapids and falls, at each of which it was necessary to unload the boats and carry the cargoes overland to deep water below. This trip consumed about a week's time. We reached Green Bay September 29, where I found my men anxiously awaiting my arrival. After promptly reporting to Governor Doty the

¹ Webster Stanley set up a ferry at Coon's Point, Oshkosh, in July, 1836, thus becoming the founder of that city. The following month, he was joined by the Gallup brothers (Henry and Amos). In 1837, George Wright and his son William, David Evans, Chester Ford, and Joseph Jackson arrived and became permanent settlers. All these were in Oshkosh (then called "Athens") at the time of our author's visit.—ED.