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DISTINGUISHED HUDSON MEN AND WOMEN

by

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Historical Society

and

**THE HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
SYSTEM OF HUDSON**

by

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Star-Observer Print

Hudson, Wisconsin

June 1949

"DISTINGUISHED HUDSON MEN AND WOMEN" *

By WILLIS HARRY MILLER

The city of Hudson, in over a century of growth, has produced and fostered many prominent and distinguished personalities. Either by birth or their association, these men and women have greatly contributed to the fame, the welfare and development of Hudson.

For the sake of clarity and simplicity, the history of Hudson can be divided into three distinct eras: the first (from 1840 to 1871), the frontier period; the second (from 1871 to 1913), the growth of lumbering and industry, and the last period (from 1913 to the present), is designated as the Toll Bridge Era.

In each of these three periods, there is grouped together the men and women who have distinguished themselves in this community, making contributions of lasting and permanent significance. Because it has been necessary to limit this study, no contemporary personalities have been chosen. In making up the list of the distinguished citizens, a number of local people have been consulted who are well acquainted with Hudson and its long and proud history. These people have given invaluable assistance in choosing the imposing list of Hudson's greats.

Of course, this list is not complete and many citizens, who have made valued contributions, have been omitted because of the lack of space.

As a matter of background I should like to first briefly sketch the History of Hudson, which will act, more or less, as the setting for this panorama and parade of over thirty familiar names from yesterday.

Hudson was founded in the summer of 1840 by Louis Massey and Peter Bouchea. These men settled at the mouth of Willow River, now the vicinity of First and St. Croix streets. The period of the 1840's saw a few settlers making their appearances here like Capt. John Page, the Nobles brothers, Dr. Philip Aldrich, Ammah Andrews, Moses Perrin, Col. James Hughes, Daniel Anderson, and others.

The great influx of settlers came in the 1850's and 1860's and many of our Hudson citizens today are descendants of these early pioneers. The big attraction of this whole general vicinity was the great lumber industry, and as time went on, the entire St. Croix River Valley was dotted with saw mills of varying importance.

Packets, stern and side wheelers and all sorts of boats were plying the St. Croix in this period, but with the coming of the railroad to Hudson in 1871, which gave this region direct rail transportation to the East, the golden age of the river boat on the St. Croix was past.

The period of the 1870's, 80's and 90's saw the substantial growth of lumbering and industry here, and it was in this period that the fore-runner of the Hudson railroad shops took root. In each succeeding decade, Hudson grew in population, in material wealth and beauty. Thus we have the local setting, upon which these prominent native sons will appear, shine brilliantly for time, and then take their leave, into history.

I

In the very beginning there were the founders of Hudson, Louis Mas-

* This article was first presented as an address before the members of the Hudson Woman's Club, March 18, 1947, and subsequently appeared in print in the Wisconsin Centennial edition of the Hudson Star-Observer July 1, 1948. In this second printing a number of errors have been corrected and several minor additions have been placed in the original text.

sey (1793-1887) and his brother-in-law, Peter F. Bouchea (1815-1875), who headed their canoes into the mouth of the Willow River in the summer of 1840 and decided to locate. These two French Canadians are regarded as the founders of Hudson. Both Massey and Bouchea were men of strong and substantial character, and in the early days were large land holders in the village of Willow River.

The contributions in fact and legend of Captain John B. Page (1801-65) are many. Page, who was interested in the logging operations in this vicinity, came here in the early 1840's from the Mormon colony at Nauvoo, Ill., and eventually located in Hudson in 1846. His wife was noted as a Thompsonian doctor. Their daughter, Abigail Page Bailey, was the first white child born in Hudson. She was born on April 15, 1847, on the day the first steamboat landed in Hudson. Mrs. Bailey died in California in November 1945.

Another early comer, whose handiwork is still extremely visible in Hudson, was Ammah Andrews (1801-88), builder and contractor, who settled here in 1847. A great number of the beautiful old homes, many of which were built before the Civil War, were planned and constructed by Ammah Andrews. He was chairman at the first meeting of the county commissioners for St. Croix County in 1848. Later, in the early 50's, Ammah was joined by his twin brother, Amasa (1801-80), in the contracting business.

In this very early period, one of the most responsible and substantial men to settle here was Dr. Philip Aldrich (1792-1858), a man of good business judgment, education and background. Migrating from Ohio in the 1840's, he took up residence here as early as 1847; he served on the first county board; was the first postmaster and held the position of first probate judge of this district of the Territory of Wisconsin. Dr. Aldrich died in 1858, and is buried up in the old cemetery, where his broken marble marker can still be seen.

The men and women who were largely responsible for the early

progress of Hudson, were many. The majority of these pioneers were natives of the Atlantic seaboard states, or New England, who had trekked west-ward to the fertile and promising St. Croix Valley. In retrospection we can see the contributions of lasting quality made by a representative group of pioneers:

There was A. D. Gray, a Pennsylvanian, who set up law offices here before the Civil War in partnership with his father-in-law, Col. Benjamin Allen. Gray, who is credited for establishing a city government here, served as Hudson's first mayor in 1857. Another of the legal fraternity, who was regarded for his ability and knowledge of the law, was John Shaw Moffat (1814-1902), an early comer, who later became county judge.

The honor for naming the city of Hudson goes to Alfred Day (1817-80), who chose the name of "Hudson", as many Eastern travelers of that early day had noticed the resemblance of the St. Croix River to the Hudson River in New York State.

Three women who made considerable imprint on the character of this community in its early stage of development were Sarah Partridge Hendee (1821-1907), wife of Dr. Lorenzo Hendee, Sarah E. Andrews (1835-98) and Charlotte Mann, niece of the famed educator, Horace Mann. These three women were teachers in the rough frontier schools of this community and are greatly deserving of mention for their contributions.

In the field of business there were men of importance like John Comstock (1812-90), founder of the First National Bank and a promoter of the first railroad to Hudson; Lemuel and Phinas North, proprietors of a thriving grain business, warehouses and a mercantile establishment. Anita North, one of this community's wealthiest women, was a daughter of Lemuel North.

Two of the earliest doctors were: Lorenzo Hendee and Otis Hoyt (1812-85), who both arrived on the scene in the early 1850's. Aside from being a physician, Dr. Hoyt

dabbled in journalism, establishing the Hudson Star in 1854.

Thus the Frontier period came to a close. A new generation made its appearance on the scene, and the era of lumbering and industry was ushered in.

II

One of the most honored and beloved physicians in this community was Dr. Samuel C. Johnson, a general medical practitioner who made his residence here for nearly 40 years. Dr. Johnson, a native of Kingston, Georgia, was born in 1842, and at the age of twenty enlisted in Co. I of the 16th Wisconsin Infantry in the War of the Rebellion. He came to Hudson in 1865. Though his medical services were in constant demand, he was a civic leader. He served as school commissioner, mayor of the city of Hudson, twice Democratic nominee for Congress, president of the State Board of Health, and surgeon general of Wisconsin. At the time of his death in 1903 he was the owner of the Hudson Sanitorium.

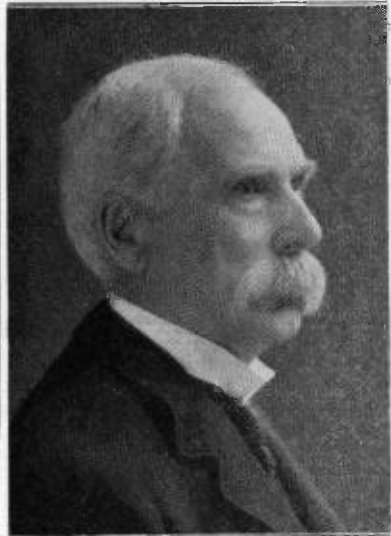
The first Hudson resident to become a United States Congressman was Herman L. Humphrey. Born in New York State in 1830, he came to Hudson in 1855, and opened his law office. During his long career he was mayor of the city, district attorney, county judge, circuit judge and in 1876 and again in 1880 was elected member of the congress of the United States from this district. Judge Humphrey died in Hudson on June 10, 1902.

Two brothers born in Hudson, who gained national and international reputations were Thomas Cleland Dawson and Allan Dawson, sons of attorney Allan Dawson, Sr., and his wife, Nancy Cleland, pioneer Hudsonians, who came to this locality in the early 1850's from Scotland and Ulster, respectively.

Allan Dawson, Jr., (1867-1922), was a newspaper man of great ability, who at the turn of the century became for twenty years editor of the New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser, then one of the largest daily papers in America. Later he was editor of

the New York Tribune, resigning from that post to go with the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in Germany. At the time of his death, he was editor of the "Independent", a weekly journal of opinion in New York.

His brother, Thomas C. Dawson (1865-1911), after his graduation from Hanover College in 1882, studied law at Harvard University and then at the Cincinnati Law School where he received his law degree in 1886. For a time he was city editor of the Iowa Daily Register at Des Moines, and in 1891 became assistant attorney general of the state of Iowa. He entered the diplomatic service in 1897 as secretary of the legation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This was followed by posts in as American minister to the Dominican Republic in 1904, Colombia in 1907, Chile in 1909 and Panama in 1910. He was also sent on special diplomatic missions to Nicaragua, Honduras and Venezuela and was the first chief of the division of Latin American Affairs in the Department of State. When he died, he was resident diplomatic officer of the Department of State, a position equivalent to that which now carries the title of counselor.



H. C. BAKER

Henry C. Baker (1831-1914), one of Hudson's most distinguished attorneys, was a New Yorker, where he was born and educated. He moved to Hudson in the late 1850's. For many years his law partner was the late Eugene W. Helms (1839-1916), judge of the circuit court, and prior to that he was in partnership with Col. John C. Spooner.

One of the most prominent names in the early history of the railroad and the lumber industry in this section is that of John A. Humbird, a millionaire lumberman, who made his home here for over twenty years as the 19th century drew to a close.

John Humbird (1836-1911) got his start in building railroads, when his father Jacob Humbird, was engaged in extensive railroad construction in Brazil (from 1850 to 1866), during which time the father and son worked together.

Returning to the States, the young Humbird moved to Hudson in the early 70's. He began his career as a lumberman in 1875, and later became associated with the well-known lumber baron Frederick N. Weyerhaeuser.

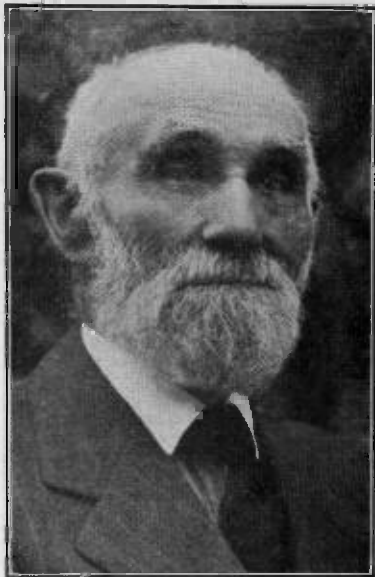
His lumber concerns flourished and expanded, finally taking in sections of the Pacific Northwest. At his passing in 1911, he was considered one of the most influential figures in the lumber industry.

Christian Burkhardt (1834-1931), the man who gave electricity to Hudson, is perhaps one of the most unique and interesting personalities to be found in the annals of this community's history.

Burkhardt, who was born in the Black Forest region of Germany, came to this country when he was 20, and in 1868 moved to Hudson, taking up 160 acres of land at what is now Burkhardt, Wis., and there built a flour mill to serve the needs of that locality.

His first mill burned in the late 1880's causing a loss of some \$40,000, but undaunted, he rebuilt the mill. Later he acquired an interest in the mill and power site at the mouth of the Willow River, and after becoming the sole owner of the property, he converted it into

an electric light and power plant. The overwhelming success and



CHRISTIAN BURKHARDT

prosperity of that mill and power dam is now a matter of history. He was the first man in Wisconsin, if not in the United States, to transmit power for milling or factory purposes, having received his idea while on a visit to Germany in 1890.

Following the First World War, Mr. Burkhardt felt the need for additional assistance in the management of his large holdings, and his son-in-law, the late Alfred R. Schultz (1876-1943), a geologist and scientist of national recognition, became associated in the business. Mr. Schultz, who held a Ph. D. degree from the University of Wisconsin and who was listed in Who's Who, became president of the company in 1922. The huge holdings of the Burkhardt Milling and Power Co. and Willow River Power Co. were sold by the heirs several years ago to the Northern States Power Co.

The saga of Burkhardt's life reads like a story book. Coming to America with little or no money,



ALFRED R. SCHULTZ

he worked at first for 75c a day and through thrift and foresight, he became one of the wealthiest men in this part of Wisconsin.

One of the most widely known and civic minded men to enhance Hudson's past, was William Henry Phipps (1846-1924), railroad official, lumberman, state senator and philanthropist.

Coming to America from England as a youngster, he received his education in Eastern Wisconsin. In his early youth he held a position in the state treasurer's office in Madison; later he was appointed land commissioner for the North Wisconsin railroad, and subsequently held the same position with the Northern Pacific railroad.

Mr. Phipps was intensely interested in politics and government, and during his career he served as supervisor on the county board, alderman, three times mayor of the city of Hudson and as state senator.

In assisting George DuMars Cline in establishing the Hudson Public Library, it was Mr. Phipps who

went to New York at the turn of the century to contact personally the representatives of Andrew Carnegie for financial aid in founding the library.

His generosity to the Presbyterian Church and other worthy projects is well known. In keeping with this idea and to perpetuate Mr. Phipps' philanthropies, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Phipps have jointly established the William H. Phipps Foundation for the promotion of charitable, benevolent, educational and religious aims in Wisconsin and St. Croix county. The first project of the Phipps Foundation will be the erection of the Frances Phipps Memorial Hospital on the southern crest of Prospect park.



WILLIAM H. PHIPPS

The name of "Bill" Nye (1850-96) is known far and wide as an American humorist. Though not classed as a native son, Edgar Wilson "Bill" Nye made his home here for a short period, living on Myrtle street, the house now occupied by the Booton family. It was during Nye's residence here that the famed Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley visited in Hudson.

Upon leaving Hudson, Nye went to the East where he became associated with several of the big metropolitan newspapers, where his journalistic works were eagerly sought, and he was considered one of the foremost humorists of his day. Along with his newspaper work, he authored several successful books in a light and humorist vein.

Newsmen

In the newspaper field, Hudson has been dominated by four strong and colorful personalities: Colone James Hughes, Horace A. Taylor, George DuMars Cline and Byron J. Price.

The pioneer editor of Hudson was Col. James Hughes (1805-73), a native of Ohio, who came to this locality in 1849, and founded the St. Croix Banner, which has the distinction of being the first newspaper in the St. Croix Valley. The first issue of that paper came out on January 20, 1850 and was printed at the Pioneer Press office in St. Paul.

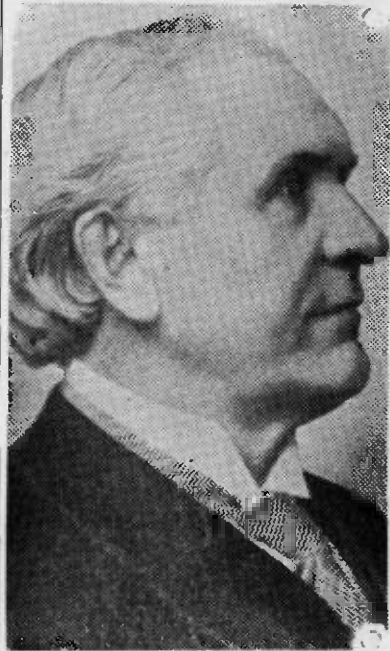
Doubtless, one of the most famed and capable men in the field was Horace A. Taylor (1837-1910), the brilliant and clever writer who came from River Falls in 1860 to purchase the "Hudson Times", later consolidating it with the Hudson Star, forming the Star and Times. In the 1890's he became associated with one of the Madison, Wis., newspapers.

In politics Taylor was a strong and widely-known personality. Twice—in 1876 and 1884—he was a delegate to the Republican National convention. Under President Harrison, Taylor was appointed United States Railroad Commissioner, and later, during the McKinley administration he was named First Assistant secretary of the Treasury in Washington.

Perhaps the crowning point of his achievements was his appointment as American Consul in Marseille, France, a post which he held for several years. Before returning from his foreign mission, Taylor traveled extensively in Europe and North Africa.

It was while he was traveling in

Africa, that he chanced to visit the lonely and forgotten grave of the American poet, John Howard Payne, author of "Home Sweet Home", who was buried in Algiers. Taylor, upon returning home, or-



HORACE A. TAYLOR

ganized a movement to have Payne's body exhumed and returned to the United States. After interesting several wealthy and influential men in the project, the great author's body was returned to the United States aboard a battleship and eventually re-interred in Washington, D. C.

Closely associated with Mr. Taylor in the publication of the Star and Times was Byron J. Price (1850-1923), a native of Menasha, Wis., and a graduate of Lawrence College. Coming to Hudson at 29 years of age, in 1879, he devoted his talent to producing a fine newspaper for this community. In recognition of his ability he was elected president of the Wisconsin Press Association and later he was singly honored by being chosen president of the National Editorial



BYRON J. PRICE

Association. After his health failed he accepted a post in the treasury department in Washington, where he died in 1923.

The Hudson True Republican was published and edited by George DuMars Cline. Mr. Cline, born in



GEORGE D. CLINE

Pennsylvania in 1849, came to Wisconsin with his parents as a small child, settling in Lafayette county. He later attended the University of Wisconsin, earning his master of arts degree at that institution. In 1876 he moved to Hudson, becoming associated from the first with the True Republican newspaper.

Cline was a prolific, versatile, and brilliant writer, attracting readers, not only in our community, but throughout the state and nation as well. He was a frequent contributor to the Outlook Magazine and other similar publications of national circulation. When he died in 1919, one of the editors of the Milwaukee Journal stated that Mr. Cline was considered the leading small town editorial writer in Wisconsin.

Aside from his editorial work, he was an enthusiastic member of the board of visitors of the University of Wisconsin.

He has been called the "father and founder" of the Hudson Public Library and served as president of the library board from its inception until his passing.

Acting as president of the Hudson School Board for many years, Mr. Cline was largely responsible for the development of the high standards that are still recognized in our school system.

One of the most famous and distinguished names ever to be associated with Hudson, was that of John Coit Spooner, (1843-1909), United States Senator from Wisconsin.

Spooner, though born in Indiana, came to Wisconsin in his childhood with his parents, settling in Madison, where he later attended the University, making an enviable scholastic record.

Following service in the Civil War, Spooner studied law, and then in 1870 he moved to Hudson to open a law practice with Henry C. Baker as his partner.

Endowed with a brilliant legal mind along with a vibrant personality, Spooner soon became one of the leading attorneys of the state besides being one of the most active



JOHN C. SPOONER

and influential politicians. Later he served in the state legislature.

His great and lasting fame rests on his service in the United States Senate, where he was considered by many, as one of the most capable and far thinking men in his political era. John Spooner was a man of action and dynamics and unquestionable integrity, which made him a leader in American statesmanship.

Following his term in Washington he took up residence in New York City, where he opened a profitable law practice on Wall Street, becoming the law counsel for one of the big eastern railroads. He died in 1919.

During their residence in Hudson, the Spooner family, lived in the large and beautiful home on Third street now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Lilley. The city of Spooner, in Washburn county, is named in his honor.

Men of God

The religious life in Hudson has been built and enriched by a large number of sincere, well trained and capable men who have ministered dauntlessly in this community preaching the word of God.

Though the list of clergymen, who have made deep and lasting impressions on the character of Hudson, is extremely imposing, only two have been chosen for mention in this article. Both of these men—the Rev. Monsignor John A. Barney and the Rev. Charles T. Burnley—through their long association with Hudson, have left their indelible stamp on this community.



FATHER J. A. BARNEY

The Right Rev. Monsignor John A. Barney (d. 1924), who was born and educated in Wisconsin, was the tireless pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic church for thirty-five years—from 1889 until his passing in 1924.

His faithfulness to his consecrated duties is the outstanding characteristic of his work among his people here, and through his abounding zeal and ability he was raised to the dignity of a domestic prelate by Pope Benedict XV in 1917, and a year later was invested with the robes of a Monsignor. At the time of his death he was the only irremovable priest of the Superior diocese.

Fr. Barney was a great traveler, and through his love for travel he not only saw the wonders of Ameri-

ca, but he visited Europe, in Rome, and the Holy Lands.



REV. CHAS. T. BURNLEY

Rev. Charles T. Burnley (1846-1911), who was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church here from 1888 to 1911, was a native of England, but came to America with his parents, while still an infant. During the Civil War he enlisted and served three years, after which he worked in a woolen mill in New York State.

Later he attended college, and was subsequently graduated from Hamilton College and the Auburn Theological Seminary. He held pastorates in Sennett, N. Y., and Willmar, Minn., before coming to Hudson in 1888.

During his long pastorate here he was the recipient of numerous church honors: He was chosen many times as moderator of the Synod of the Chippewa Presbytery, and four times he was a delegate to the General assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him by Macalester College in St. Paul in 1910 for his outstanding

work to the church and general education.

It is of more than passing interest to know that both Father Barney and Rev. Burnley had greatly endeared themselves to the entire community, and among all denominations. These two clergymen—though one a Catholic and one a protestant — were great personal friends, and at all times worked together in harmony and good fellowship.

Kate Ryan

One of the most beloved teachers in the history of our public school system was the late Kate Ryan, who left her imprint on three generations of Hudson students, in her fifty years of teaching.

Born in 1861, Miss Ryan took up teaching as a profession when she was but sixteen years old, and continued with her instructing until her retirement in 1930. She died in September 1931.

Kate Ryan, as she was affectionately known, started her teaching career in the rural schools of the county; later she became associated in the Hudson schools; she delighted in recalling that her first check in the Hudson schools was \$28.50 a month.

At the time of her retirement, she was the guest of honor at a golden jubilee celebration held at the school, when hundreds of her former students payed homage to their "favorite teacher."

Moses E. Clapp

Another statesman who spent his early youth and formative years in Hudson was Moses Edwin Clapp (1851-1929) who from an obscure lawyer rose to become a United States Senator. Born in Delphi, Ind., the son of Harvey S. and Abbie (Vandercock) Clapp, he came with his parents to Hudson in 1857; he attended the common school in Hudson, and later went to the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1873. He began his practice of law in Hudson in 1874, then moved to Fergus Falls, Minn. From 1887 to 1893 he was attorney general of Minnesota. In 1901 he was elected as a Republican to the United

States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Cushman K. Davis, and was re-elected in 1905 and 1911. Following his defeat in the Senate in 1916, he took up a practice of law in Washington. Clapp was married to Hattie Allen in 1874.



CARRIE M. GOSS

In recalling so many of these old familiar names one just cannot omit Caroline Martin Goss (1834-1936), who for over 70 years made her home in Hudson. Mrs. Goss, who was 102 years old when she died, was reputed to have been one of the oldest persons in Western Wisconsin at the time of her passing.

She was born in New York, and came to Hudson as a bride in 1861, where her husband, Alfred J. Goss (1833-1901) was in the banking business.

A woman of remarkable talent and friendliness, Mrs. Goss was loved and respected by all. It was her privilege to witness the development of this city, from a raw and blustery frontier settlement to the modern twentieth century city of today.

Mrs. Goss, along with Mrs. Amos Jefferson, was one of the founders of the Ladies Library Association—the forerunner of the present Hudson Public Library.

III

The third epic of Hudson's history is vaguely the time from the first World War to the successful termination of the Second World War. During this time,—within the remembrance of many of us—there has been any number of worthy and capable citizens who are deserving of mention. However, six which are highly representative, have been chosen.



JAMES A. FREAR

James A. Frear (1861-1939), the first native born Hudsonian to sit in the House of Representatives in Washington, was a statesman who had the distinction of never having been defeated for a political office.

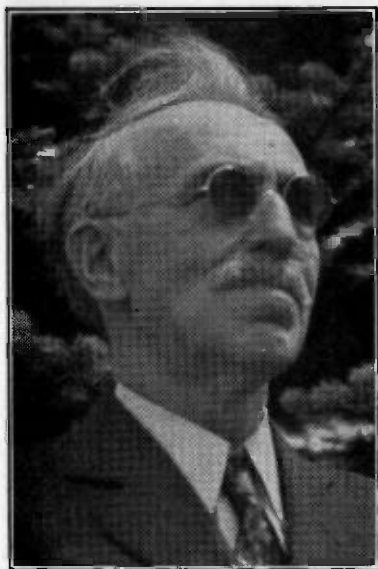
Mr. Frear was born in Hudson in 1861 at the Northeast corner of Second and St. Croix streets, where the Myron Anderson home is now located.

After attending Lawrence College and the National Law College

in Washington, D. C., he returned to Hudson in 1884 where he entered the law offices of Col. John C. Spooner.

His political career was a rapid succession of triumphs. In 1896 he was appointed district attorney for St. Croix county, after which he was elected to the assembly, State Senate, Secretary of State, and finally in 1912 became a member of the United States congress, being chosen for the House of Representatives from the 9th district. He retired from politics in 1935, and died in Washington in 1939 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In Mr. Frear's long record as a congressman, one of his most courageous stands was taken in 1917, when he joined 49 other members of the House of Representatives and voted against declaration of war with Germany. His efforts in behalf of adequate Indian relief legislation and the removal of corruption and inefficiency from the Indian bureau were given nationwide recognition during his stay in congress.



C. J. BIRKMOSE

Known as the "father" of the Hudson Park system, Christian J. Birkmose (1857-1935), was one of

this city's most public spirited men.

Coming to Hudson from his native Denmark in 1880 as a young man of 23, Birkmose was gifted with a keen business sense, and soon became one of the leading merchants of this locality.

Though his business activities are widely known, he is best remembered for leadership in the establishing of the beautiful Hudson Park system. Mr. Birkmose, was first appointed chairman of the Park Board when it was organized in the early '80's. His first efforts were devoted to acquiring Liberty Hill and laying out Prospect Park.

Before his death, which occurred in 1935, he gave to the city an outright deed to the tract of land overlooking the St. Croix River at the south limits of the city containing the prehistoric Indian Mounds. This tract was later designated as Birkmose Park in his honor. He was also instrumental in transforming the ugly eye-sore along the city's lakefront, into the scenic and beautiful Lake Front Park of today.

Because of his intense interest in the betterment of this community and his devotion to civic matters, he was highly honored by his fellow citizens in 1932, when he was selected as the first member of Hudson's Hall of Fame.

Arnquist and Haven

Since the early pioneer days, Hudson has been fortunate in attracting the high calibre of men in the legal profession. Perhaps two, who represent the kind who associated themselves with Hudson in the later period, are found in the persons of Judge Otto W. Arnquist and Spencer Haven.

Judge Arnquist (1858-1935), was a Swedish immigrant, coming to this section of Wisconsin with his parents when he was ten years old. The family settled on a small homestead near Star Prairie, where he grew up as a farm lad.

Later he borrowed money at 20 per cent interest in order to attend two and a half terms at the River Falls Normal.

Stimulated by the fact that he came from a country where public office was not a universal privilege,

his loyalty to public service was one of his strongest traditions. His public record began in 1882, when he became a justice of the peace, and later he studied law in the office of Judge Humphrey. For a time he was clerk of the circuit court, and then in 1898 he was named county judge, a position he held for 37 years until his passing in 1935.

He helped organize the society



OTTO W. ARNQUIST

which later built the Zion Lutheran church. His musical ability was known to many, as both he and his wife directed choirs at the Baptist and the Lutheran Church.

In the case of Spencer Haven (1868-1938) it was an Iowa farm boy who rose to become the attorney general of Wisconsin.

Mr. Haven was born on a farm in Floyd county, Iowa, and later received his education at Iowa State College at Ames and at the University of Wisconsin.

In 1896 he launched his legal career in Hudson, as an associate of H. C. Baker, then recognized as one of the state's leading attorneys.

His standing in his profession was

attested in 1918, when Governor Emanuel L. Phillip appointed him attorney general of the state of



SPENCER HAVEN

Wisconsin. During his term of office he served with distinction. In the early 30's he was appointed counsel for the State Bar Commissioners, and at the time of his death, in 1938, he was counsel for the Soo Line and the Northwestern Railroads and the Interstate Light and Power.

Mr. Haven was the author of a book, "Wisconsin and the Nation", published in 1897, which received state-wide popularity.

Mrs. M. Murphy

Another of Hudson's great teachers was Mrs. Mayme Moore Murphy.

She was born in Hudson shortly after the Civil War and went through grade and high school here, and when she was 19, started out on her teaching career. She first taught in the schools of Somerset and Farmington.

She was an accomplished musician and for a number of years directed the choir at St. Patrick's Church. As a girl of 16 she was the Church's organist.

To Mrs. Murphy the Hudson Schools were more than a means of serving youth. There an integral part of her life both as a pupil and a teacher.

Charles Jensch

As an official for the Northwestern Railroad, for many years, Charles Jensch of Hudson, gained great prominence throughout the entire midwest in railroad circles through his executive ability.

Mr. Jensch was brought to Hudson by his parents in 1874, when he was a year old. He attended the

local schools, and in 1889 he began his spectacular and brilliant railroad career, when he accepted his first position as a clerk with the Omaha Railway. From that unpretentious beginning he rose to comptroller of the North Western Railway system, the position he held at his passing in 1936.

Despite his wide sphere of interest in the business and railroad world, Mr. Jensch found time to take a prominent part in the civic activities of Hudson. He served on the Hudson school board with great honor for over ten years.

The First National Bank Building, Erected in 1870



"THE HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OF HUDSON" *

By EDWARD P. ROCK

The first settlement in St. Croix County was made on the present site of Hudson in 1840 by Peter Bouchea and Louis Massey. They were followed soon by William Steets and Joseph Sauperson, known as Joe LeGrue. In 1846, Capt. John B. Page with his family arrived. Next came James Per-rington, who with Mr. Page, built a saw mill at the mouth of the Willow River in 1847.

The town was organized in the Spring of 1849 by an act of the Board of County Commissioners. The name of Buena Vista was suggested by Joel Foster and was adopted. "He had just come to the settlement from the battle of Buena Vista. The excitement over the victory made it a popular name." In the winter of 1851 the legislature changed the name from Buena Vista to Willow River. The citizens were not satisfied with the name however. On November 9, 1852 the name was changed to Hudson after the citizens had petitioned for a change. The name was suggested by Alfred Day a citizen at that time.

"The early settlers, not forgetting the advantages which they enjoyed in their far-off homes in the East, began to think of their children and to make arrangements for the improvement of their minds. The subject of schools was discussed, and a district called Number One was formed September 22, 1849. A meeting was called at the home of M. V. Nobles. The district organized by the election of the first board of officers as follows: Moses S. Gibson, director; F. P. Catlin, treasurer; Pascal D. Aldrich, clerk."

The town system of superintendency was then in force, and the

Town of Hudson comprised in 1849 what is now the county of St. Croix, and School District No. 1 coincided with it.

The First Schools

The honor of being the first to begin the education of the youth of the new settlement belongs to Miss Sarah E. Partridge.

Miss Partridge entered into a contract with the Board of Education on September 15, 1849 to teach a three months school for the sum of four dollars per week. The original of the certificate and contract may be seen at the high school library where they are on display.

It seems that the first school was taught in a room of a building occupying the site of the present Standard Oil Station on Walnut Street. The building faced Front Street. A Miss Phillips succeeded Miss Partridge in 1851. A Mr. Richardson continued the school in 1852. In the winter of 1853-54 Mr. S. C. Simonds taught the school.

"By this time the surrounding country had begun to be peopled and the young men who had little to do in the winter but go to school came in from the outlying portions of the district and in a few days the school which heretofore was not beyond the capacity of one teacher numbered one hundred and twenty pupils. The board was compelled to employ a teacher to assist Simonds. They employed his sister, Miss Mary Simonds. The school was divided, Miss Simonds taking primary classes and conducting her school in a building below Buckeye Street. This is the beginning of two departments in the public schools of Hudson. That winter is memorable for a kind of

* This history of the Hudson school system is, in part, the thesis written by Superintendent Edward P. Rock for the completion of his studies for the Master of Education degree from the University of Minnesota in 1938. This is a reprint from the Hudson Star-Observer's Centennial Edition, July 1, 1948.

social and intellectual activity such as comes to the surface in debating clubs, singing schools and dances."

In the summer of 1854 Miss Sarah E. Andrews taught in a building located on Fifth Street south of Locust. This building was later occupied by Sam Cockburn as a residence.

"In the winter of 1854-55 Marcus A. Fulton taught school in a building standing on the southwest corner of Fourth and Elm Streets, which was then the Baptist Church."

The first school house was constructed in 1855 on the site of the second ward school. This was on Sixth Street, west side, between Vine and Locust Streets. This was a two story frame building which formed the nucleus for later additions.

City School System

Hudson was incorporated as a city of the fourth class in 1857. The first municipal election was held in April of that year. Under the Charter the schools were under control of the city government. Two school commissioners were to be elected from each ward. There being three wards, six commissioners comprised the Board of Education.

A city superintendent was to be elected by the Board of School Commissioners. This superintendent was in some cases a prominent citizen of the city. The superintendent did not teach or have a teacher's license but had the power to examine and license teachers who taught in the city schools. The salary of the superintendent ranged from one hundred dollars per year to two hundred dollars per year in 1870. The superintendent also was clerk of the Board of School Commissioners. For a period of about three years the superintendent also acted as janitor at additional salary.

At a meeting of the school commissioners on November 7, 1874 it was "Resolved, that it is expedient to connect the office of superintendent and clerk with the office of principal." Mr. H. W. Slack was the first to be elected to this position. At the meeting of the board

on May 8, 1876 it was decided to again separate the superintendency from the principalship. Mr. S. C. Simonds was elected superintendent and clerk. Mr. Slack was given an increase in salary and asked to remain as principal, but he offered his resignation.

Until 1868 the teacher who taught the grammar department, known as department 4, was considered the main teacher or principal, but had no control of any other department. On March 19, 1868 the Board passed a resolution to employ a male principal for department four to have control of lower departments. Enos Munger was engaged for this position at \$77.00 per month.

Throughout the years we see spasmodic conflicts between the Board of School Commissioners and the City Council. The Board was absolutely dependent upon the council financially and unless the relations were friendly and the needs of the schools were understood by the Council conflict resulted. In the Fall of 1869 the Board was confronted with the problem of expanding the schools to meet the need of the time. The Council was asked to levy a tax of eight and one-half mills for school purposes. The Council refused to levy more than six mills and as a result the school fund had been exhausted by January 31, 1870. After some consideration the Board was advised to petition the Legislature to pass an act enabling the Board to issue orders on the City Treasurer for school purposes not to exceed \$1400.00 before the close of March 1870. This legislation was secured and the schools were able to reopen until the end of the term.

Under the stress of increased financial difficulties due to the increase of costs and the need for new and up-to-date school buildings the Board in January 1916 advised the taking of proper legal steps to make the school district a separate unit for taxation. This did not come about, however, until the burning of the Sixth Street School house, on February 18, 1917, called for immediate action concerning a building program. Under existing

conditions of the city finances it was impossible to raise sufficient money by a bond issue to erect a new high school building. On February 28, 1917 the Board authorized the circulation of a petition calling on the Council to present the question at general election concerning the advisability of organizing a district independent from the city government. The Referendum carried in favor of the new organization and on July 2, 1917 such organization was affected.

The school district is now known as Joint School District No. 1 of the Town and City of Hudson.

Development of the High School

Until 1874 the most advanced grades which had been maintained were known as the grammar grades or department four. This department offered work of ninth grade caliber, Latin, algebra, physical geography, astronomy, botany, physiology, and English grammar.

Miss Franc Hoyt (Mrs. C. F. King) had attended school in Boston and on April 22, 1872 was elected to teach department four. Miss Hoyt brought with her many of the newer ideas in education. She proceeded to regrade the schools and advocated the introduction of new and advanced courses leading to the establishment of a full high school course. In December 1874 these additional steps were taken and departments five and six were added to the schools. It was at this time that Mr. H. W. Slack was engaged as teacher of these newly added grades and to act as principal and superintendent of the schools.

The schools had been conducted on a three term basis. The first term was known as the Fall term, the second term was known as the Winter term, and the third term, known as the Spring term. The school year in the upper grades consisted of three terms of forty weeks in 1864 and was gradually shortened to thirty-six weeks in 1874. It had been the custom to promote pupils from one grade to another at the end of the Fall term. In 1874 the time of promotions was changed to the end of the second term, which usually ended the first week in April. In

1880 the school year was so changed as to end at the end of the third term in June.

In June 1880 R. B. Dudgeon was elected as principal and it is at this time that the final year of high school work was added. In June 1881 the first class graduated from the high school. The high school had not, however, been organized according to the state laws. In April 1883 a referendum was held to determine whether a free high school should be organized according to the state laws. The referendum carried by a vote of 203 for to 80 against.

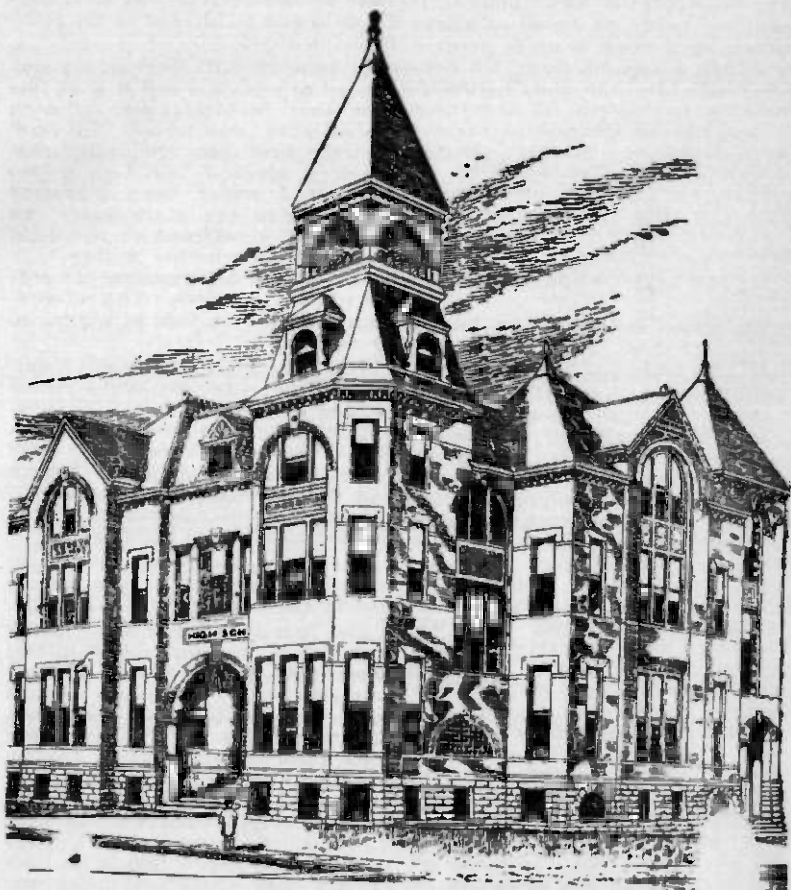
This first high school was conducted in the Second Ward school located on Sixth Street. In January 1888 the high school was moved to the newly constructed high school building located at Fourth and Oak streets. In January 1919 the high school was moved to the present high school building.

The high school had progressed so well by 1890 that it was accredited by the University of Wisconsin.

The first special education in the high school was introduced in October 1888 when W. W. Warner was engaged to give music lessons to the students twice a week at two dollars per lesson. In September 1909 a commercial course was introduced. In September 1919 manual arts and home economics courses were introduced. In 1920 a teacher of physical education was engaged. In 1925 a high school orchestra was organized under the direction of the music supervisor. A special band and orchestra director was engaged in 1928 and a special class in music appreciation was instituted. The high school at present has well organized courses in home economics, manual arts, commercial training, music and physical education in addition to the academic courses.

Building Operations of the City Schools

The records of the need, construction, and seemingly poor judgment of our early school commissioners, in the matter of construction of school buildings, is interesting. Until 1918 the schools had never been housed in thoroughly sanitary and safe buildings. Build-



THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL

ings were constructed only to be declared unsafe or unsanitary within a short period after construction. We must, however, take into consideration that there were practically no standards of construction and that at times it required a great effort to raise sufficient money to construct any kind of a building.

As has been said earlier the first school to be constructed in Hudson was a two story frame building on Sixth street known as the Second Ward School. In April 1865 the Third Ward petitioned for a school house. The task of raising money was a difficult one and

no action was obtained until January 1867 when lots 4 and 5 Richardson and Snyder addition were purchased for school purposes at \$225.00. The First Ward was also in need of school facilities by this time and in September 1867 the S. S. N. Fuller property, located where the present tourist camp is situated, was purchased for school purposes. Later in this same month Duncan McGregor received the contract to build one room schools in the first and third wards of brick and stone at \$1900.00 each. These buildings were completed in 1868. In the summer of 1869 the schools were again filled to overflowing. It

was decided to build an additional room in the Third Ward. A separate one room building was built on the same site occupied by the original Third Ward school. This building was built by Miles H. Van Meter at a cost of \$2386.00.

In the minutes of the Board we find a resolution dated March 13, 1873, "that it is expedient to proceed immediately to erect on the schoolhouse site now owned by the city, in the second ward, a substantial and commodious brick building, for the use of the public schools which shall contain not less than six school rooms, and that the building on said site be sold to the highest bidder, to be removed as soon as the new building is completed." The difficulty of raising sufficient money was too great, however, and it was decided to repair and veneer with brick the old building and to build an addition 28 x 55. Kircher and Beard were given the contract to erect the addition to the Second Ward School at \$4280.00. This addition was also a two story brick veneer building.

In the meantime the original buildings in the first and third wards were unsafe and had to be repaired by connecting the outside walls with iron rods so that they might not collapse. This was in the summer of 1873. In September 1874 the First Ward School was discontinued and the children trans-

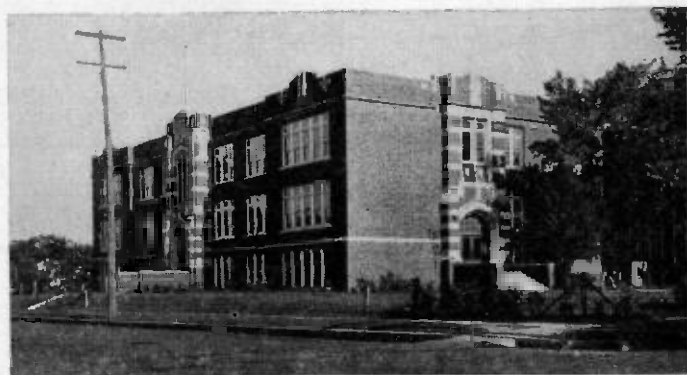
ferred to the new completed Second Ward School.

By 1875 the schools were again overcrowded. In 1885 a petition was presented to the Board for the erection of a high school building. At the same time the first and third wards petitioned for additional grade buildings. In September 1883 lots 7 and 8 Block J Willow River Addition, first ward, were purchased for \$550.00 and Andy Kees was given the contract to erect a one room school at \$1900. Lots 1, 2, and 3 Block A Cavanaugh addition in third ward were purchased for \$700.00 and it was decided to erect a two story frame building on these lots. In October 1883 the contract was given to John Gamble to erect this building at \$3435.00. This school was later known as the Second Street School.

High School Building

In December 1886 a committee of the Board was appointed to investigate costs of purchasing a site and erection of a high school building. T. D. Allen of St. Paul was employed to draw some tentative plans for such a building. Four lots were purchased on the northeast corner of Fourth and Oak Streets for a high school site. The Council voted to issue \$25,000.00 in bonds for a high school building.

On April 23, 1887 bids were opened for the high school building. Thomas Russell was low at \$18,-



HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL

The Hudson high school building, at the Southeast corner of Fourth and St. Croix Streets, was completed in January 1919.

THE OLD FIRST WARD SCHOOL



The first ward red brick school house was located on the present site of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin E. Trolen, Sr. It was torn down in the Fall of 1947, to make way for the Trolen home. The original building was completed in 1868, was used for the first ward school until 1874, when the pupils were transferred to the 2nd Ward school. In recent years the property was used for the Hudson Tourist Camp.

250.00. This was two thousand dollars lower than the next low bid. Mr. Russell evidently realized that he had made a mistake because he withdrew his bid. After some consultation it was decided to make various changes in specifications, the principal one being the selection of a cheaper brick. After these changes were made Mr. Russell decided that he would build the structure at his original figures with the cheaper specifications.

The pride in the new structure was of short duration. The people soon began to realize that they had been given a poorly constructed building. On August 12, 1889 excessive on the building. In April 1892 an architect was procured to inspect the building and he reported that it was not safe for use. Repairs costing \$1600.00 were necessary to install iron beams and iron pillars to keep the floors from collapsing.

In October 1889 city water was installed in the high school building. In December 1898 electric repairs were reported negligible were put in. In November 1900 a telephone was installed and

in August, 1903 the building was connected with the sewer.

After January 1919 this building was used as a grade school until June 1924 when it was razed to make room for the present modern grade school building.

Modern equipment was gradually added to the Sixth Street and Second Street Schools. During the summer of 1900 a furnace was installed in the Sixth Street School. In the Fall of 1906 the Second Street School was connected with sewer, but toilets were not installed until 1912. A furnace was put in at the same time. Toilets were installed in the Sixth Street school in the Fall of 1909. Fire partially destroyed the Second Street School building in the spring of 1914, but it was repaired and used until 1919.

New High School

In March 1915 the Board discussed the advisability of erecting a new high school building. The school houses in the first and third wards, had been abandoned, and the sites were sold to the high bidders. On February 18, 1917 matters developed very rapidly when the

Sixth Street School burned to the ground.

Parkinson and Dockendorff of La Crosse were engaged to plan a new building. In the Spring of 1918 this building was started and completed for occupancy by January 1919. The total cost of this building, including landscaping the site was \$160,366.57.

The old high school building was a fire trap and an eye sore. At the annual meeting held in July 1923 it was decided to raze the old building and to erect a new grade school building on the same site. The bonded indebtedness was such that only \$45,000.00 could be raised so only eight rooms of a proposed twelve room building were completed. This unit cost \$60,644.13. The extra money needed was taken from a cash balance that the Board had accumulated from previous years. During the years of 1927-28 and 1928-29 the district raised by taxation \$15,000.00 per year so that this building might be completed. The additional unit was completed in February 1929 at a total cost of \$32,967.38.

Interesting Personnel

Miss Charlotte M. Mann was elected teacher of department four and principal in April 1865. She served in this capacity until April 1868. Miss Mann was a niece of the famous Horace Mann.

Teaching school in the early days was by no means an easy task. Many students seemed to have very little appreciation of education and consequently had little regard for the teacher or school property. The teacher too often found that his or her success depended largely upon the success achieved as a disciplinarian. Miss Mann seemed well able to cope with the situation, but even she was the victim of circumstances. On June 8, 1867 Miss Mann was arrested on complaint of John Bartlett for assault and battery committed on his daughter Laura. Miss Mann was convicted and fined. The Board passed a resolution exonerating her of all blame and appropriated \$25.00 for her defense.

R. B. Dudgeon served as principal for a period of eight years, 1879 to

1887. It was under his leadership that the first four year high school course was inaugurated. He signed the first high school diplomas. Mr. Dudgeon was largely instrumental in securing the erection of the high school building in 1887. He was elected superintendent of the Menomonie, Wisconsin schools in the Spring of 1887 so did not have the opportunity to fully enjoy the object of his ambitions.

S. B. Tobey, formerly Superintendent of schools at Wausau, Wisconsin, is one of the pioneers in education in this state. He served as principal of the Hudson schools for a period of four years, 1895 to 1899. Under his supervision the schools progressed rapidly and to him must be given credit for the foundation laid for future years. Mr. Tobey too found that disciplinary measures of the strong arm type were exceedingly necessary.

Helen Parkhurst taught in the grades for two years 1907 to 1909. Miss Parkhurst is now director of the Children's University School, New York City. She has at present a world wide reputation as an advocate and sponsor of the Dalton Plan of instruction.

Katherine E. Ryan was elected to teach a first grade in 1887. She taught every grade from the first through the eighth at various times. She retired from service in June 1930, after having taught fifty years in the schools of St. Croix county and the City of Hudson. During her forty-three years in the Hudson schools she taught the children of three generations. Her strong personality, thorough scholarship, and general character won for her the admiration and respect of everyone. Perhaps no individual has had such a great influence on the young people of the community for so long a period. Miss Ryan's services were well honored when her former students presented her with a purse of \$600.00 upon her retirement so that she might enjoy a well earned vacation.

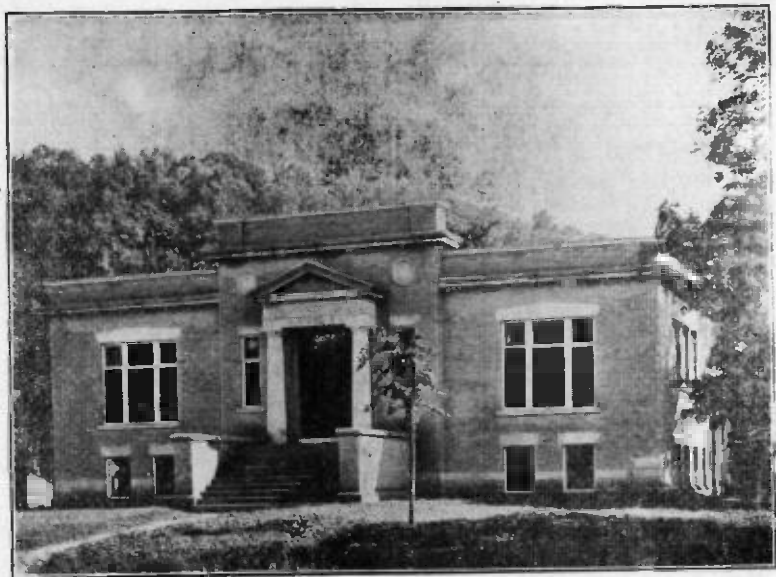
St. Croix County Court House 1857-1900



The old court house, which stood on the site of the present court house, was built by Ammah Andrews (1801-88) and John Comstock (1812-90), in 1857. It was an imposing classic stone structure, with broad steps leading to a facade embellished with imposing Ionic columns. According to James A. Andrews (1845-1930), the first family to reside in the new court house was that of Capt. Lewis Brown. When the congregational

society was organized in Hudson, they used the court room for their services. According to Mr. Andrews, "No busier times had the old court house seen than in campaign and war times. From its gallery I heard the stirring war speeches and saw the men and boys go forward and enlist in the Civil War." After the Great Fire in 1866, the city being deprived of a large hall, the court room was used for entertainment of all kinds. It was torn down in 1900.

Hudson Public Library



On April 14, 1902, the Hudson Board of Trade appointed a committee, consisting of George D. Cline, Wm. H. Phipps and James A. Andrews, to take steps toward establishing a public library in Hudson. This resolution was voted on at the city election in April 1903 and unanimously carried.

The library was established under the state law April 30, 1903 and the members of the first board were: Wm. H. Phipps, Rev. N. L. Blomholm, James A. Andrews, Mrs. Georgia Johnson, George D. Cline, F. J. Carr and M. N. McIver.

The library building, built in 1903, is of stone and cream pressed

brick and covers a space of 40x60. The building was erected at a cost of \$12,000, most of which was a donation from Andrew Carnegie, the steel king of New York. Today, the library has over 12,000 volumes.

In its forty-six years of existence, the Hudson public library has had but five librarians: Florence S. Wing, 1903-06; Dorothy Hurlburt, 1906-08; Pearl G. Shoemaker (Mrs. A. S. Hoyer), 1908-14; Lucille Menkey, 1914-47; Helen Hosford, 1947.

The public rest room and the St. Croix County Historical Society are housed in the basement of the library building.

Hudson Postoffice Was Founded in 1849; Philip Aldrich, 1st Postmaster

The United States Postoffice was established in what is now the city of Hudson, 100 years ago on November 21, 1849, under the name of Willow River. Dr. Philip Aldrich was the first postmaster, serving until November 17, 1851. His successor was Samuel L. Cox. On December 3, 1852, the name of the postoffice was changed to Hudson.

Earliest available record of numerical classification of the Hudson office shows that in 1874 it was a third class office until it was advanced to second class on July 1, 1906.

Postmasters (and acting postmasters) who have served Hudson are:

Philip Aldrich 1848--51
Samuel L. Cox 1851-53
J. M. Whaley 1853-57
Wm. B. Hatch 1857-61
Theo. S. Seymour 1861-66
Henry B. Jagger 1866-78
Frank D. Harding 1878-86
S. C. Simonds 1886-89
Henry F. Dinsmore 1889-93
George D. Cline 1893-97
Allen Beggs 1897-1914
Andrew P. Kealy 1914-17
Mary E. Kealy 1917-18
James H. Walker 1918-23
Thomas A. Walby 1923-34
Ernest G. Ross 1934-35
Lura Ross 1935-36
John J. Hanley 1936

The new Hudson postoffice was built in 1939-40, with dedication ceremonies taking place June 1, 1940.

Judges for St. Croix County 1844-1949

Roster of St. Croix County judges:

1. Dr. Philip Aldrich, appointed judge for probate court in 1844.
2. Alvah D. Heaton 1848-49
3. Hamlet H. Perkins 1849

(drowned winter of that year)

4. Joel Foster 1850-2
5. S. S. N. Fuller 1852-3
6. Daniel Wood 1854-57 (?)
7. Edward A. Clapp 1857-61
8. Herman L. Humphrey 1861
9. Cyrus L. Hall 1861-69
10. John S. Moffat 1869-77
11. S. C. Simonds 1877-85
12. Ray S. Reid 1885-93
13. John D. Goss 1893-97
14. Otto W. Arnquist 1897-1935
15. Thomas E. Garrity 1935-43
16. Robert G. Varnum 1943-

8th Judicial Circuit Judges 1854-1949

Roster of the judges of the 8th Judicial Circuit:

S. S. N. Fuller 1854-60
Henry D. Barron 1860
Lucian P. Weatherby 1860-66
Herman L. Humphrey 1866-77
Egbert B. Bundy 1877-96
Eugene W. Helms 1896-1914
George Thompson 1914-47
Kenneth S. White 1947-

How Lake Mallalieu Got Its Name is Revealed

The question has often been asked "how did Lake Mallalieu get its name?" The answer is found in the Hudson Star & Times of 1886, when the editors of that paper suggested the name of "Lake Irving" for the Willow River Pond in honor of Dr. Irving D. Wiltrout, mayor of Hudson in the early nineties. Wiltrout was the builder of the old Sanitorium, which was then called the Oliver Wendell Holmes hospital.

However, Wiltrout did not accept the honor of having the Willow River Pond named after him, and instead chose the name of Mallalieu. In a letter to the Star-Times of April 22, 1887, Wiltrout wrote, "I have named this lake (Willow River pond) in honor of Rev. William F. Mallalieu, D. D., L. L. D., Bishop of the Methodist Church and a resident of New Orleans".