

The majority of you, if not all have at some time made the drive from S.D.F. to Neenah along the East shore of Lake Winnebago. You have passed through small, sleepy old fashioned villages, through the finest farm land of the state and some of the most beautiful scenery of the state but I wonder if any of you have thought whether anything of importance had ever happened in these little villages or what their early history might have been. It is the story of one of these old fashioned villages, Port Huron, that I shall tell. Its record is unparalleled in the history of the United States.

A Century and a quarter ago a far different scene would have met your eyes, for all the land from the Bay to Calumetville was covered with a dense and almost forest. Few white men had ever visited this region except a few French traders. It wasn't even deemed fit for trapping. A faint Indian trail ran along the shores of the lake from Neenah to Paycheedah. The only village on the east shore was a Menominee village at Calumetville and the Winnebago at Paycheedah.

The first record of a white man using this trail was in 1817 when it was a Storrow Judge Adair of the U.S. Army travelled from Green Bay to Chicago

He wrote that the forest was so dense that they were compelled to cut the brush from the trail in order to get their horse through. It took him nearly three days to come from the Bay to Calumetville. He states that the Menominee village of Calumet lay at the edge of the forest and was well chosen for warmth and fertility and beauty. It had a population of about 150 people ^{both} but they were lazy and very dirty.