

HISTORY PASSED

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The home of Syrenius Fowler, an Indian, with its 100 acres the show-place of the late 1870s.
Otto E. Heller collection photo.

East of Lake Winnebago

EAST of Lake Winnebago lies Calumet, one of the smallest of Wisconsin counties, created in 1836. A county of fine oak timber, with marble and stone quarries, its towns and cities together with nearby settlements in neighboring Manitowoc County, offer excellent examples of the assimilation of immigrants into the American way of life.

Moreover, these settlements—Chilton, Stockbridge, New Holstein, Kiel, Valders and St. Nazianz—are examples of various nationalities.

The place names of the region give evidence of a wide disparity of origin. Calumet, for instance, derives from the French "Chalemet," meaning "little reed" or "pipe of peace"; it was given the county because various tribes of Indians were accustomed to holding councils of peace in the area. Chilton was named for Chillington Hall, England, but was erroneously recorded as Chilton instead of Chillington. Stockbridge honored the Indian tribe of that name, just as New Holstein was named by German pioneers who came from Schleswig-Holstein. Kiel was of Belgian origin. Valders, again, was named after the place of origin of many early settlers, who were Norwegians from the valley of Valders. St. Nazianz derived its name from the Roman Catholic Religious Society of that name which attempted an experiment in Christian communal living at that place.

Chilton was founded by a Negro preacher and doctor, Moses Stanton, and his Indian wife. In itself this is an unique feature in the background of the area east of Lake Winnebago. Mrs. Stanton was a woman of courage and spirit, a descendant of that King Philip who was the war like son of Massasoit, great friend of the Plymouth Pilgrims. During the contest for the seat of Calumet County in 1856, Mrs. Stanton showed her mettle by saddling her husband's best horse and sallying forth to get votes. "See that all our friends in this part of the country are awakened to the importance of voting," she cried, "and I will capture enough of the western enemy to save the day. Elder, have a fresh horse for me at Stockbridge at noon tomorrow." She rode for three days and two nights through the wilderness exhorting people to vote—small wonder that Chilton became the seat of Calumet County!

In 1857 Chilton's first newspaper, the Times, was established by John P. Hume, who came in from Manitowoc, after learning the printer's trade in that city. The enterprising Mr. Hume was elected circuit clerk in the following year, and



Mrs. Moses Stanton, first woman to live in Chilton.
Otto E. Heller collection photo.

held that office for two decades, until the incorporation of Chilton as a city in 1877. In that year, too, the women of the city demonstrated a most unusual spirit by raising funds to build a village church which was made available for use by all faiths.

NEARBY STOCKBRIDGE was for many years the home of the Stockbridge and Brothertown Indian tribes, who had moved from New England and New York with the Oneida and Munsee tribes, in 1832 and 1833. The Stockbridge were led by John W. Quinny, who in 1833 framed a constitution as a basis of republican tribal government in place of the hereditary power. He succeeded not only in educating his people beyond the plane of that of most fellow Indians, but was one of the few Indians who managed to escape without being defrauded by representatives of the U. S. Government.

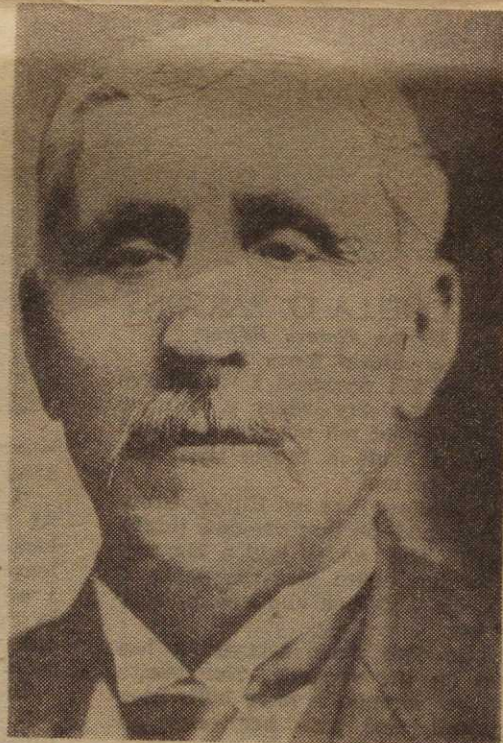
When the Stockbridge Indians came to Wisconsin there were but three white men in all Calumet County, and one of them was the Rev. Cutting Marsh, missionary to the Stockbridge, who had come in with them. By 1839, the Stockbridge were hauling hand made shingles from their village to Fond du Lac, at the behest of Daniel Whitney. A peaceful and well educated tribe, the Stock-

By AUGUST DERLETH

Famous Wisconsin author of some 50 books, including many dealing with Wisconsin, such as *Sac Prairie People*, *Bright Journey*, *Wisconsin-Earth*, etc., and numerous magazine stories.



The first house built in Chilton in 1842. It was erected by Benjamin Garret Fowler, a free will Baptist minister.
Otto E. Heller collection photo.



Edgar M. Dick, last chief of the Brothertowners.
Otto E. Heller collection photo.

bridge are depicted in various letters and books of the time.

Bishop Jackson Kemper wrote, after a visit to the Stockbridge and a stay in a typical Stockbridge home: "The young woman of the house is modest, intelligent and talks well. She has books, ink, a work stand, etc. We had good beds and a good supper, which closed with a fine slice of pumpkin pie."

The Stockbridge remained in the area until 1856, when, after negotiation of a final treaty with the Federal Government, they relinquished their lands and went to a new reservation near to that of the Menominees. The settlement which sprang up there after their going was primarily

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an agricultural one—it grew with such relative slowness that it was not incorporated as a village until 1908.

SETTLED by a plucky band of German immigrants, the city of New Holstein came into being only seven miles southeast of Chilton late in the 1840s, when the influx of one time citizens of Schleswig-Holstein took place. While most of the immigrants were men of means who were agriculturally inclined, the group was well balanced, for it included an editor, a language professor, a doctor and a poet.

Once settled, they were not readily moved. Typical of their spirit is Mrs. William A. Schmidt, who represents the third generation on a farm in New Holstein, bought in 1848, its deed executed on May 29, the day on which Wisconsin became a state.

The enterprising New Holsteiners were active not only in farming, but also in the establishment of musical, theatrical and debating societies. They foregathered constantly for the exchange of ideas despite the hardships of building log cabins, breaking ground for settlement and organizing their community. Even as they had been encouraged to come to Wisconsin east of Lake Winnebago by an earlier German immigrant, visiting in his native country, they in turn encouraged other immigrants to join them, with the result that a further influx of Germans from Schleswig-Holstein came to settle in New Holstein and surrounding areas.

Among the original settlers of New Holstein was J. C. M. Pfeiffer, a gymnast, who immediately became the first instructor of the Turner Society which was promptly organized in New Holstein. This society was destined to flourish longest of all those organized in Wisconsin smaller towns. It fostered not only gymnasium work, handball, indoor baseball, and later basketball, but also dramatics and music. New Holstein was incorporated as a city in 1926.

NOT FAR AWAY, the settlement of Kiel grew up around the home of an old Belgian trapper, who had begun to carve wooden shoes for German and Belgian farmers of Manitowoc County. His small business grew into a small factory, which supplied shoes to mail order houses and other outlets far from Wisconsin. Though this factory ultimately ceased operations, a furniture factory



An early Calumet County threshing scene.
Otto E. Heller collection photo.

soon took its place. Kiel was incorporated as a city in 1920.

Due east of Chilton 15 miles, Norwegians looking for a place to settle, found an attractive hollow in the hills which brought to mind their native region in Norway, the valley of Valders. Here they settled late in the 1840s. They had been attracted to America by one of those books written by early travelers in America—J. R. Reiersen's "Pathfinder for Norwegian Emigrants to the North American States and Texas," which had been published at Christiania, Norway, in 1844. The settlers of Valders included the parents of the famed economist Thorstein Veblen, who was born and spent his childhood at Valders. The settlement did not grow far beyond its original boundaries, and was not incorporated as a village until 1919.

ST. NAZIANZ, too, is unique in its development. Father Ambrose Ochswald, a Catholic idealist who looked hopefully forward to freeing his fellow religions from governmental interference, led 113 members of his parish and neighbors from Baden, Germany, to 3,840 acres of land he had purchased in the Wisconsin forest areas in Manitowoc County. This was in 1854; late in August of that year, the colony raised a tall wooden cross on the side of a hill in that area, and by the following year a church, four log houses, a blacksmith shop and several lesser buildings were the nucleus of the settlement. Twenty head of cattle were communally owned, and all life was organized on a communal basis, with both land and money jointly owned.

The Christian community of St. Nazianz flourished. By 1866 there were 80 members of the male branch and 150 members of the female branch in the Loretto House and the convent which were

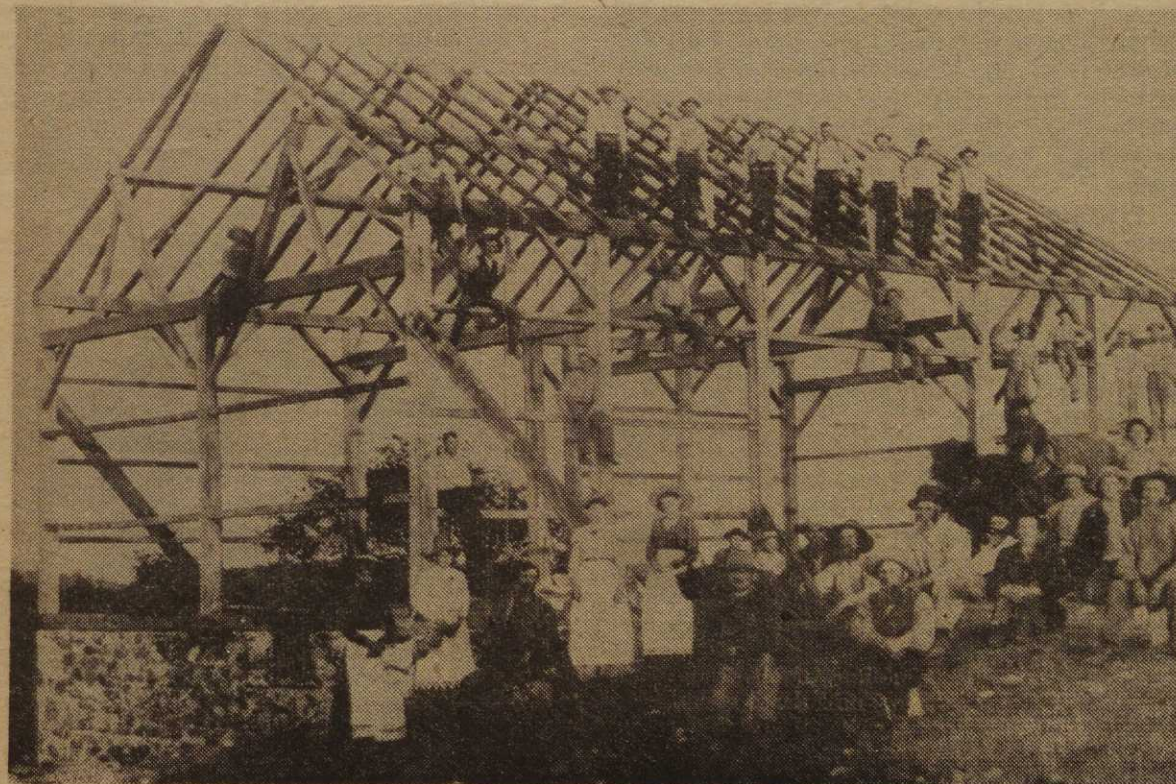
put up there. Only the death of Father Ochswald brought an end to the experiment, for when the property, which had been held in his name, came into a joint stock company, dissension arose. Eventually part of the property was acquired by the Salvatorian Fathers, who conduct a seminary and church there today, dominating the village, which is today a small, compact hamlet whose houses are scattered along the hill slopes toward the church buildings on the hilltops. Still strongly German, St. Nazianz today has an old world flavor and an air of almost monastic solitude.

LARGEST of the cities in the area east of Lake Winnebago is Chilton, with a population of approximately 3,000. Chilton is a quiet city supporting, an aluminum factory, several grain elevators, a canning factory, a large malt house, two flour mills, a cheese factory, a dairy, a brewery and a condenser, for the milk production of Calumet County is high, its production of milk having approximated 60,000 gallons per square mile. In contrast, the population of Stockbridge is scarcely 500, and it remains a neat but small agricultural village; that of New Holstein is close to 2,000, of Kiel almost 2,500, of Valders, under 1,000.

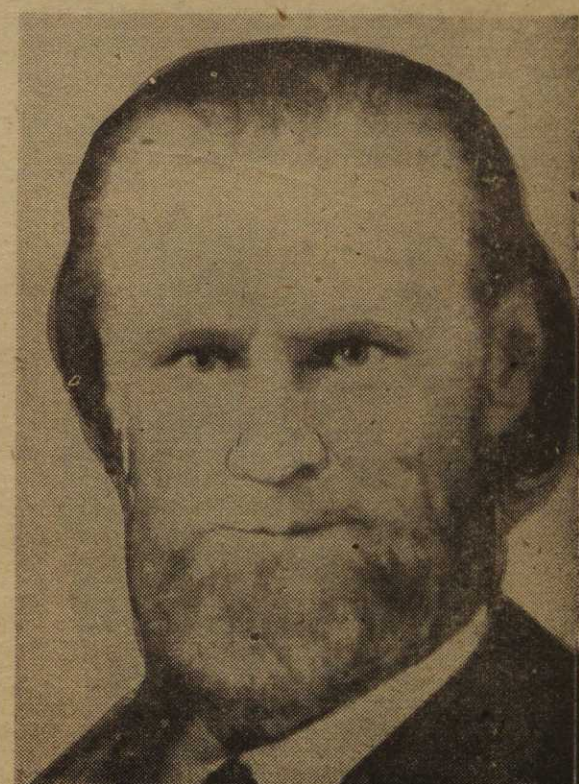
Tourists find the area a pleasant, picturesque region of Wisconsin. Its sights are not startling, but they are rewarding—an old mill near Kiel; the St. Nazianz seminary, church and convents; Indian mounds near New Holstein; Manitowoc swamp with its extinct lake near Chilton.

Its well known people are not many. They include one time Representative James Robinson, the legislative leader, Jerome Fox, the Narragansett Indian heroine, Catherine Stanton, all of Chilton, and John Harbrecht, a healer, of nearby Millhome.

Perhaps even more important to Wisconsin are the generations of sturdy immigrants of the region, whose trim and prosperous farms, and whose thrifty ways testify so well to the success of the assimilation of the foreign born into our population.



A barn raising scene—in the late 1860s.
Otto E. Heller collection photo.



Onetime Representative James Robinson.