

George W. Peck, 1840–1916

George Wilbur Peck moved to Wisconsin from New York in 1843 with his family to what now is known as Cold Spring. He was a prominent writer, humorist, and politician. He served as Ripon's **City Treasurer in 1867** and established one of the city's early newspapers before eventually becoming the **17th Governor of Wisconsin**.

The Ripon Representative Newspaper

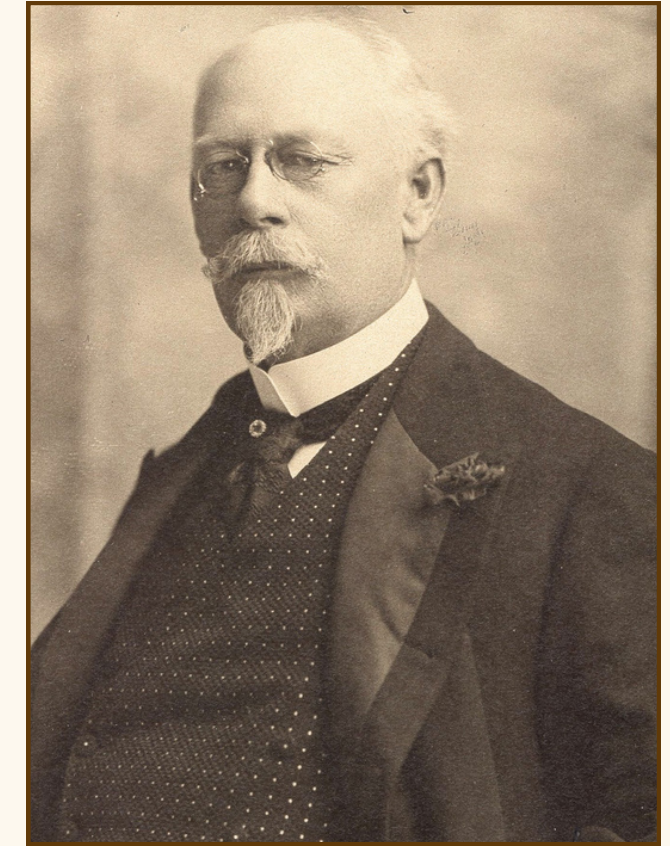
Following his service as a Cavalry officer in the Civil War, Peck moved to Ripon in 1866. He teamed up with local figure Jedediah Bowen to launch a weekly newspaper called The Representative. This venture helped build his reputation as both a writer and a prominent local figure.

Local Political Beginnings

Though he would later become a high-profile Democrat leading a heavily Republican state, his political career officially launched in Ripon. In 1867, he successfully ran and served as the **Ripon City Treasurer**.

Living in the "Little White Schoolhouse"

Peck purchased and lived in the **Little White Schoolhouse**. After the building outlived its use as a school, it was sold to Peck, who moved it to the corner of Houston and Fond du Lac streets to use as his private residence from 1860 to 1908. In 1860 he married Francena Rowley (1843–1906) of Delavan, WI. He and his wife had two sons.



Later Success

Peck eventually moved his publishing efforts to La Crosse and then to Milwaukee, where he founded the highly successful weekly paper Peck's Sun. It was here that he authored **Peck's Bad Boy**, which became a national comedic sensation and was later adapted into several films.

His widespread popularity propelled him to a landslide victory as Mayor of Milwaukee in 1890, and just months later, he was elected Governor of Wisconsin.