

## EARLY HISTORY.

The occupation of this region by the whites dates back to the time of trading posts and taverns, established for the supply and accommodation of the lumbermen going into the pineries of the upper Wisconsin.

The first one of these posts within the present limits of Adams was established in 1838, in the present town of New Haven, within two miles of Big Springs post-office, by Jared Walsworth, a man who had experienced much of frontier life as an engineer on the Mississippi. He brought with him his family, and kept a tavern and general supply post. He died several years

ago, but his wife still lives at the site of the old tavern. She was the first white woman in this region.

William Sylvester came about 1845, and located at what is now Grand Marsh post-office, establishing another tavern and feeding post. Shortly after his arrival came Strong, who kept the same kind of a place on the Big Roche-a-Cri, not far from Cotton's, about eight miles north of Friendship. All of these establishments were on the old territorial road between Milwaukee and Stevens Point.

The first child born in this county was J. S. W. Pardee, son of George Pardee, in 1843, at the Walsworth tavern.

The first squatter in this county was George Stowell, who had arrived, in the employ of Walsworth, in 1844. He located in New Haven town, and built a small frame shanty, 16 by 24, and began cultivating a little land. In the following year Amos Landt, Judge Smith, Robert Ramsey and his three sons, a man by the name of Winchell, and "Uncle" Ward, all squatted in the same town, around what is now Big Springs post-office. They all began to make improvements, by building log cabins and tilling small tracts of land.

In the fall of 1849 and spring of 1850, Thomas Rich, William Davis, Holland Carter, George Knox, Cotterel and Mathews, all settled in what is now Dell Prairie. Wells Tyler and Willard Armstrong settled along the banks of the Wisconsin the same year.

From the year 1850 to 1853, immigration into Adams county was very rapid, and the south part was quite well occupied by men who had come to remain.

In 1850, the first school house in the county was built. The site of this building was what is now known as Dell Prairie post-office. It was built by Thomas Rich, who hired Lewis Carter as teacher at \$12 and board per month, and invited the neighbors to send in their children.

Reverend Anderson preached the first sermon in the county, in 1852, at the house of Mr. Rich, who paid him one dollar a visit. He afterward grumbled at the salary, and thought they ought to furnish him a conveyance. Mr. Rich thereupon bought him a horse for \$65, and told him to wear his legs out in the good cause. A church was erected in 1854, at the Dell Prairie post-office, and Rev. C. L. Fisher, a Baptist minister, was employed to regularly supply the pulpit.

The first white settler who died was one Horton, who was killed in the summer of 1850, while digging a well.

In 1851, the land in this region was surveyed, and it became possible to secure good titles. The land office for this region was at Mineral Point, and early on the heels of the survey forty-five men started in one day to enter land at the sales.

During the squatting days the settlers had a club for the mutual defense of each other, and for their protection against any encroachment on claims already taken. Their law was, at times, rather severe, but always effectual; the intruder had to "pick up" and leave, or he would be assisted in a very impromptu manner. The two towns, Dell Prairie and New Haven, are the best settled, and the richest in the county.

There are still tracts of land in the northern part of the county owned by the state and general government, for sale at a low figure. In these northern towns there are found deposits of bog iron ore, and also some beds of kaolin.