

Hampden Town Hall notes century of service

1970

By MRS. WALTER BOCK
Register Special Feature

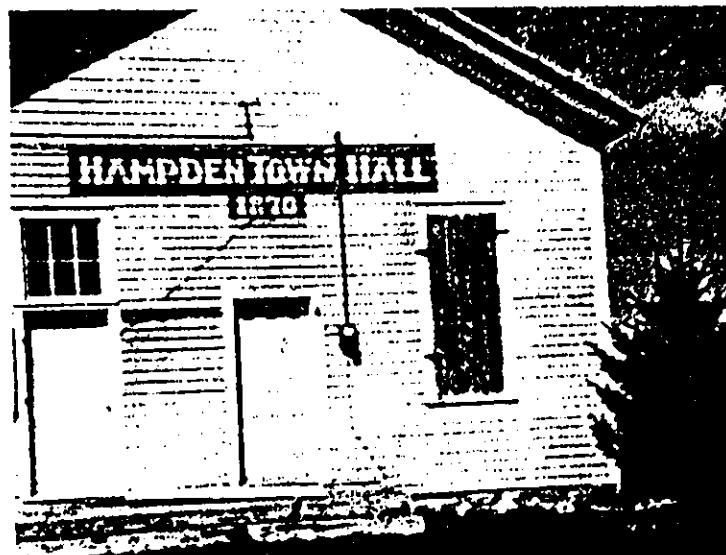
The Hampden Town Hall near Columbus in Columbia County, built in 1870, has been in use continuously for a century of town meetings, elections, community meetings, and in early years, for church services and funerals.

Emil Eggert, one of the oldest Hampdenites, recalls that the town hall was once used for church services. His oldest sister, Ida Eggert; and his oldest brother, Albert Eggert were baptized and confirmed in the Hampden Town Hall as shown on their baptism and confirmation certificates issued almost a century ago and still in Eggert's possession.

He remembers, too, the wooden benches that are built to extend across the room facing the podium for meetings and church services. "At that time," Eggert says, "the building was heated with a pot belly wood burning stove." In recent years the old wood burning stove has been replaced with an oil burning heater.

In the early years the building was lighted with lanterns and oil burning lamps, but about 30 years ago they were replaced with electric lights.

According to records, church services were held in the town hall when a traveling preacher, who rode horseback around his circuit, not only preached on Sunday, he also united people in marriage, baptized babies and



The Hampden Town Hall, built 100 years ago, is still serving the township of Hampden.

—Register photo by Mrs. Walter Bock

buried the deceased with sermon, prayer and eulogy.

The Hampden Cemetery, adjacent to the town hall, has been in existence for more than a century, and many prominent Hampdenites were laid to rest on this beautiful prairie spot between CTH K and N.

One of the older monuments shows Melissa, the wife of E.J. Morse, died Feb. 28, 1830. The William A. Roys family monument shows he was born 1802 and died in 1843. His son, David E. was born in 1841 and died 1842. Other prominent Hampdenites names on monuments include the Eggert, Bush, Fairbanks, Tillotson, Hasey, Soward, Tomkin, McBurnie, Smith and many other families. On large tombstone is simply marked, Susan J. Parker died Dec. 3, 1863.

A monument erected for N. H. Bock shows he was born in Hanover, Germany. He was born in 1819 and died in 1883. He was a veterinarian and was killed when he was kicked in the face by a horse he was treating. N.H. Bock was a grandfather of the late Valter E. Bock of Columbus.

The graves of Israel C. Brewster 1797-1873 and his wife, Sally B. 1801-1884 are marked by a fine monument erected for them by their great grandson, Calvin Coolidge, while he was President of the United States.

After a century of constant use the Hampden Town Hall is still used for elections and a community center.

Arora Meland was town clerk of several years in the Town of Hampden. When she recently moved to her home on Spring street in Columbus, Mrs. Carl (Dorothy) Hermanson was elected clerk.

A community club known as the Happy Hearts Club holds monthly meetings from September to May in the town hall and Fred Hubbard, a former farmer in the town of Hampden, says he and his family have been attending the Happy Hearts Club for the past 29 years and he thinks the community club was in existence long before that time.

The century old building needs new steps and some repair, but it is still a fine center for community card parties and social as well as civic life.

S. Green, C. G. Lathrop, Mr. Marshall, J. M. S. Maxon, Ezra Tucker, James Lamson, R. Francken, William Averill, S. L. Brown, William Stevens, D. Lewis, E. W. Stevens, J. C. Aspinwall, A. Hitchcock, J. Searles, W. Sturgess, S. V. R. Shepherd, C. L. Shepherd, A. Hamilton, J. S. Bolton, J. E. Grant, A. J. Brill, W. E. Randolph, C. D. Cook and C. A. Stockwell have served the church as Pastors. In March, 1880, the membership of the church was ninety-five, with S. H. Bronson, Rec. Steward; John Fardell, H. S. O'Brion, J. S. Babcock and George Kirk, Stewards; J. H. Haskin, H. S. O'Brion, H. C. Glendenning, A. Horton, J. S. Babcock and B. Babcock, Trustees.

First Regular Baptist Church and Society.—The first preaching by a minister of the Baptist Church in this vicinity, was in 1847, Elders Green and Reed being the pioneer preachers. A church was also organized about this time. A legal organization was effected March 18, 1867, under the name, "First Regular Baptist Church and Society." The first Trustees were H. C. Brace, J. A. Franklin, L. B. Reed, Loyal Morton, Deacon; H. C. Brace, Clerk. In 1869, a house of worship, 38x60 feet, was erected at a cost of \$5,000. Those serving the church as Pastors from 1847 to 1880, were Elders Green, Reed, Wade, Jones, Jeffreys, Meredith, Chapin, Langridge, Gorman and Pickering. In 1877, H. C. Brace and A. M. Hastings were elected Trustees, and in 1879, James Randolph, F. C. Thomas, M. A. Franklin and E. Oliver were added to the number. M. H. Bender, Deacon and Clerk.

TOWN OF HAMPTON.

The first settler in the town of Hampden was Alfred Topliss, who located there May 1, 1844. Lewis and Landy Sowards, with their families, arrived there some four or five weeks later. J. E. Haight and family arrived in the autumn of the same year. What is now the county of Columbia was, in that year, mostly an uninhabited wild. Fort Winnebago, Dekorra, and some eight or ten families in Columbus and Fountain Prairie, then constituted nearly the entire population of the county. The first settlers of Hampden had to go to Aztalan Post Office, a distance of thirty miles, for their letters and papers. Most articles of provisions were procured at Milwaukee, a distance of seventy miles. The road then traveled to Milwaukee was by way of Aztalan, and thence through the dense and nearly uninhabited forest of Rock River woods for eighteen miles, over a track that was hardly passable, requiring five or six days to make the journey to Milwaukee and return. The country in all directions was without roads (excepting the Indian trails) and all rivers and brooks without bridges, in this or adjacent towns. The traveler had to search in all directions to find a place where he could possibly cross the streams and marshes and then to find himself in a situation from which, with the utmost difficulty he could extricate himself and reach the opposite shore. This difficulty was much increased by the rains which were of such frequent occurrence during the summer and September of that year. The marshes, which were the dependence of the settlers for hay to winter their stock, were so filled with water that hay could not be procured from them until October, when the grass was so injured by frosts as to make the hay of diminished value, and a consequence was that quite a proportion of the cattle died during the winter following for want of suitable food to sustain them.

The year 1845 afforded some additions to the population, but they were mostly transient settlers who have long left for other localities.

In 1846, the brothers, Elijah and Perry Lee, with their families, and Mrs. Roys and her son, Clarendon Roys and brothers, and Messrs. Henry Clark, Thomas Smith and Benjamin Chase, arrived and located in the town. A settlement of Norwegians was also made in the southwest quarter, and a settlement of Germans in the southeast quarter of the town.

The town of Hampden is bounded on the east by Columbus, on the west by Leeds, on the north by Otsego, and on the south by Dane County. Before the organization of the county into towns it was in the third election precinct composed of Townships 10 and 11, Range 11, the place of voting being at the house of Landy Sowards, the Judges of Election being Jonathan

(over)

E. Haight, Landy Sowards and Henry Pellet. The precinct was known as Dyersburg, so-called in honor of Wayne B. Dyer, the first settler of Otsego, and first Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. In 1849, Township 10, Range 11, was organized into a town to which was given the name of Hampden, and the house belonging to Cornwall Esmond, situated on the northwest corner of Section 15, designated as the place for holding the first election.

Among other early settlers of the town were Daniel Soward, Clarendon Roys, Benjamin Chase, Mr. Tillotson, Henry R. Clark, Clark Hazard, James Montgomery, Jonathan E. Haight, William K. Custer, John A. Franklin, Lyman Morse and John Derr.

Alfred Topliff taught the first school in the town on Section 11, in 1847.

Rev. Reuben Bates, a pioneer Methodist preacher, was the first to proclaim the Gospel here, though previously Rev. Edward Smith preached the funeral sermon of Mr. Douglas in June, 1845. In 1846, at the house of Mr. Morris, he delivered his first discourse.

In 1857, the Town Board purchased of Samuel Smith a fraction over two acres off Section 6, for a place for the burial of the dead.

The town in 1865 erected a comfortable town hall, 26x36 feet in size. Here town meetings are held, and the hall has also been used for religious and educational purposes.

A post office was established near the center of the town in 1847, and A. Topliff made Postmaster. He was succeeded by Benjamin Chase, Lloyd Newcomb and William Bradley. About 1865, the office was discontinued, but re-established in 1877, and Halver Halverson made Postmaster.

Among the principal farmers prior to 1856, might be mentioned Clarendon Roys, Henry R. Clark, Clark Hazard, Eli Sowards, Daniel Sowards, C. C. Tillotson, T. S. Roys, James Montgomery, E. Fairbanks, James H. Sutton, John Derr, Peter Hanson, O. J. Oleson and E. Knudson.

About the year 1868, E. Fairbanks began to give special attention to the improvement of cattle and sheep. His herds of Durham cattle and merino sheep, between the years 1868 and 1880, have been exhibited at county, district and State Fairs, with results highly satisfactory to their owner. The example of Mr. Fairbanks has been imitated by other farmers in the town. Several fine horses were imported from France, in 1875, by an association formed in the town.

The town of Hampden is largely rolling prairie in the western and central portions, the prairie connecting by a narrow strip with that of Fountain Prairie and Columbus. In the southwest there are small tamarack marshes. The town lies upon the eastern slope of the dividing ridge, and thus rises rapidly from east to west. In the lower portions on the east line, the altitude is 320 to 350 feet; whilst on the west side, it is 400 to 500 feet. In the southeast is high ground, continuous with that in southwest Columbus. The town lies on the southern boundary of the county, in the southeastern part, by which it is separated from the town of Bristol, in the county of Dane. It is about twenty miles southeast of the city of Portage, and known as Township 10 north, of Range 11 east. The town is watered by a small stream that flows through it from west to east—an affluent of the Crawfish River.

The first entry of land was made by Alfred Topliff June 28, 1844, consisting of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter and the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 11.

The following is a list of town officers from the organization of the town to the present time:

1849—William K. Custer, Chairman; Nelson B. Lloyd, George D. Mead, Supervisors; John A. Franklin, Clerk; Lyman Morse, Treasurer; Enoch Pulver, Assessor.

1850—Elijah Lee, Chairman; James Montgomery, Cephas Tillotson, Supervisors; Thomas B. Haslam, Clerk; Albert Pease, Treasurer; Jonathan E. Haight, James H. Sutton, Albert Wilkins, Assessors.

1851—Elijah Lee, Chairman; Henry R. Clark, James Montgomery, Supervisors; Thomas B. Haslam, Clerk; Albert Pease, Treasurer; Ezra Mead, Assessor.

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TOWN ORGANIZATION AND NAME

The first settlers of Hampden had to go to Aztlan post office, a distance of thirty miles, for their letters and papers, and most of their provisions were procured at Jilwaukee, seventy miles away. The road then traveled to the Cream City by way of Aztlan and thence throught the dense forests of the Rock River region for some twenty miles to their destination. It required five or six days to make the journey to Jilwaukee and return.

Found in Prairie, then constituted nearly the entire population of bago, De Korr, and some eight or ten families in Columbus and Ward came Lewis and Landy Sowards, with their families. Fort Winnebago, prior to 1866. He located in Hampden May 1, 1844, and a month after, who served the county as its first surveyor and for several terms who served the county as its first surveyor and for several terms

The first settler in that part of Columbia County was Alfred Topliff,

EARLY SETTLERS

Hampden is well watered, without being swampy, and is favored by a tributary of the Rock. River, a tributary of the Crawfish, which has been gradually fading away. The county assessor reports that over three hundred acres are still devoted to the weed in Hampden as a raster of live stock. It is one of the best sections of Columbia County for sheep and swine, and is in the Wisconsin "tobacco belt" as a raiser of live stock. It is one of the best sections of Columbia

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TOWN OF HAMPDEN

on the northwest quarter of Section 15, was designated as the place for holding the first election.

There is some difference of opinion as to the origin of the name. It is known that several of the most substantial of the early settlers were Englishmen. The name of the great English patriot, John Hampden, was naturally dear to them, and especially to Thomas B. Haslam, town clerk for a number of the earlier years of the local government and otherwise identified with the general progress of this section of the county.

FIRST SCHOOL.

Mr. Topliff taught the first school in the town on Section 11, in 1847. A postoffice was established near the center of the town in the same year.

Among the best-known farmers who came prior to 1856 may be mentioned Clarendon Roys, Henry R. Clark, Clark Hazard, Eli Sowards, Daniel Sowards, C. C. Tillotson, T. S. Roys, James Montgomery, E. Fairbanks, James H. Sutton, John Derr, Peter Hanson, O. J. Oleson and E. Knudson.

INTRODUCTION OF FINE STOCK

About the year 1868 Mr. Fairbanks began to give special attention to the improvement of cattle and sheep. His herds of Durham cattle and merino sheep were exhibited at county, district and state fairs for years afterward and won fame and all kinds of ribbons. Several fine horses were imported from France in 1875 by a town association, and later considerable attention was given to the improvement and raising of swine.

HAMPDEN CENSUS OF 1850

Compiling a list of persons residing in Hampden from the census record was a difficult task due to various types of handwriting and the errors in spelling. These records cannot be accepted as totally accurate since some census takers spelled the names of families phonetically and not as actually spelled by the family. Another factor for inaccuracy was due to the fact that some people may have been omitted because they were not at home when the census taker came. However, despite imperfections, the census records give a fairly accurate idea of who some of the first settlers of Hampden Township were.

Household	Age	Sex	Occupation	Place of Birth
John Shanklin	29	M	Farmer	Ohio
Mrs. Lucy Shanklin	26	F		North Carolina
Daniel B. Shanklin	5	M		North Carolina
Harry H. Shanklin	3	M		North Carolina
David Shanklin	3 mo.	M		Wisconsin
Mary A. Young	21	F	Housekeeper	New York
A. Haskins	23	M	Farm laborer	Massachusetts
John Beard	23	M	Farm laborer	New York
Francis Smith	21	M	Farmer	Germany
Mrs. Sarah Smith	20	F		Germany
Dorothy Smith	50	F		Germany
Christian Smith	45	M		Germany
George Undone	40	M	Farm laborer	Germany
Frederick Smith	40	M	Farmer	Germany
Mrs. Margaret Smith	28	F		Germany
Linda Smith	2	F		Wisconsin
Thomas Smith	40	M	Farmer	England
Mrs. Rhoda Smith	24	F		New York
Sarah Larca	15	F	Housekeeper	New York
Samuel Smith	41	M	Farmer	England
Daniel Soward	26	M	Farmer	Ohio
Mrs. Sophia Soward	28	F		Ohio
Marion Soward	4	M		Wisconsin
Ransom J. Soward	2 mo.	M		Wisconsin
Joseph Synder	14	M	Farm laborer	Germany
Cephaz C. Lillatson	31	M	Farm laborer	New York
Mrs. Eileen C. Lillatson	21	F		New York
Emma J. Lillatson	2	F		Wisconsin
David Lillatson	3 mo.	M		Wisconsin
Elva Soward	34	M	Farmer	Ohio
Mrs. Louisa Soward	33	F		Ohio
Darwin Soward	8	M		Illinois
Amanda Soward	5	F		Wisconsin
Eli W. Soward	3	M		Wisconsin

Household	Age	Sex	Occupation	Place of Birth
Landy J. Soward	43	M	Farmer	Virginia
Mrs. Mary Soward	33	F		Ohio
William P. Soward	15	M		Ohio
Elizabeth Soward	11	F		Ohio
Eli J. Soward	9	M		Ohio
Sophia Soward	7	F		Ohio
Sarah Soward	5	F		Wisconsin
Silas Soward	2	M		Wisconsin
William G. Soward	23	M	Farm laborer	Illinois
Abel Van Burkirk	19	M	Farm laborer	Ohio
Susan Soward	51	F		Virginia
Levi Soward	19	M	Farmer	Illinois
Lewis Soward	17	M		Illinois
Susan Soward	16	F		Illinois
Rhoda Soward	14	F		Illinois
Adam Snyder	34	M	Farmer	Germany
Mrs. Barbara Snyder	35	F		Germany
Joseph Snyder	14	M		Germany
Peter Snyder	11	M		Germany
Sophia Snyder	2	F		Wisconsin
James H. Sutton	38	M	Farmer	New York
Mrs. Jane Sutton	38	F		New York
Abraham S. Sutton	16	M		New York
George A. Sutton	14	M		New York
John J. Sutton	12	M		New York
Daniel J. Sutton	10	M		New York
Fletcher Sutton	7	M		New York
Frederick Sutton	4	M		New York
Rachel Sutton	5	F		Wisconsin
Ellen M. Sutton	3	F		Wisconsin
Saber G. Sutton	1	M		Wisconsin
John Trapp	40	M	Farmer	Germany
Mrs. Margaret Trapp	40	F		Germany
Frederick Hamel	16	M		Germany
Andreas Rosenberg	9	M		Germany
Alfred Topliff	51	M	Farmer	Massachusetts
Mrs. Mary Topliff	49	F		Massachusetts
Julia G. Topliff	25	F		Massachusetts
Mary S. Topliff	23	F		Massachusetts
Henrietta Topliff	13	F		New York
Lindsay Wakiman	18	M	Farm laborer	New York

Page 485	Household	Age	Composition	Type of Birth	Number of Children	Milk	Wife	Household	P. 485
1	Milk	11	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	1
2	Milk	12	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	2
3	Milk	13	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	3
4	Milk	14	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	4
5	Milk	15	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	5
6	Milk	16	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	6
7	Milk	17	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	7
8	Milk	18	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	8
9	Milk	19	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	9
10	Milk	20	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	10
11	Milk	21	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	11
12	Milk	22	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	12
13	Milk	23	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	13
14	Milk	24	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	14
15	Milk	25	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	15
16	Milk	26	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	16
17	Milk	27	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	17
18	Milk	28	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	18
19	Milk	29	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	19
20	Milk	30	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	20
21	Milk	31	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	21
22	Milk	32	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	22
23	Milk	33	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	23
24	Milk	34	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	24
25	Milk	35	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	25
26	Milk	36	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	26
27	Milk	37	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	27
28	Milk	38	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	28
29	Milk	39	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	29
30	Milk	40	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	30
31	Milk	41	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	31
32	Milk	42	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	32
33	Milk	43	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	33
34	Milk	44	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	34
35	Milk	45	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	35
36	Milk	46	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	36
37	Milk	47	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	37
38	Milk	48	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	38
39	Milk	49	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	39
40	Milk	50	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	40
41	Milk	51	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	41
42	Milk	52	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	42
43	Milk	53	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	43
44	Milk	54	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	44
45	Milk	55	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	45
46	Milk	56	Milk	Milk	1	Milk	Milk	Milk	

Hampden Census of 1860

<u>Household</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Real Estate Value</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>
488					
Patrick' McKinen					
Sarah Soward	6		Wisconsin		
Mary Soward	4		Wisconsin		
487					
Eli Soward	43	farmer	Ohio	\$5000	\$2000
Darwin R.	18		Ohio		
Amanda	15		Illinoie		
Eli. W.	13		Wisconsin		
Levi M.	9		Wisconsin		
under Carlos Hazard					
Lewis Soward	42		Ohio		
485					
Daniel Soward	34	farmer	Ohio	\$8000	\$550
Sophia	34		Ohio		
Marion	13		WI		
Ransom	9		WI		
Jos. Passage	18		Ohio		

Hampden Census of 1870

Landy Sowards is not listed in this census.

<u>Household</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Real Estate Value</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>
Eli Sowards	54	farmer	Ohio		
Louisa	53	keeping house	Ohio		
Wesley	22		Wisconsin		
Levi	19		Wisconsin		
Wm Sowards	33	farmer	Ohio	\$2400	\$1000
Cleza	30	keeping house	New York		
Marella	11	at home	WI		
Herbert Gilpon	28	farmer	Ohio		
Sarah B. Gilpon	23	keeping house	Wisconsin		
Cora Anna	5	at home	Wisconsin		
Charles J.	2	at home	Wisconsin		
Daniel Sowards	51	farmer	Ohio		
Elisabeth	28	keeping house	New York		
Adaline	3	at home	WI		
Ransom	20	at home	WI		
Eli Sowards	30	farmer	N. Y.	\$800	\$400
Armilia	23	keeping house	N. Y.		
David	3	at home	WI		
Marion Sowards	24	farmer	WI	\$200	\$500
Mary	19	keeping house	WI		
Darwin	27	farmer	Ill	\$3000	\$700
Matilda	22	keeping house	Pennsylvania		
Darwin	1		WI		

History of the Town of Hampden.

The first settler in the town of Hampden was Alfred Topliff, who located in that town May 1 1844. Lewis and Landy Sowards, with their families, arrived there some four or five weeks later. J. E. Haight and family arrived in the autumn of the same year. What is now the county of Columbia was, in that year mostly an uninhabited wild. Fort Winnebago, Dekorra and some eight or ten families in Columbus and Fountain Prairie, then constituted nearly the entire population of the county. The first settlers of Hampden had to go to Aztalan P. O. a distance of 30, miles, for their letters and papers. Most articles of provisions were obtained at Milwaukee, a distance of 70 miles. The road then traveled to Milwaukee was by way of Aztalan and thence through the dense and uninhabited forest of Rock river woods for 18 miles over a track that was hardly passable and requiring five or six days to make the journey to Milwaukee and return. The country in all directions was without roads (excepting the Indian trails) and all rivers and brooks without bridges, in this or adjacent towns. The traveler had to search in all directions to find a place where he could possibly cross the streams and marshes and then to find himself in a situation from which, with the utmost difficulty he could extricate himself and reach the opposite

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The year 1845 afforded some additions to the population, but they mostly transient settlers who have long since left for other localities.

In 1846 the brothers Elijah and Perry Lee, with their families, and Mrs. Roys and her son Clarendon Roys and brothers and Messrs. Henry Clark, Thomas Smith, and Benj. Chase arrived and located in the town. A settlement of Norwegians was also made in the southwest quarter, and a settlement of Germans in the south-east quarter of the town.

Columbus Democrat
Aug. 12, 1876

THE FAMILY TREE OF

CHAPTER IV.

THE FIRST PLATTING OF COLUMBIA COUNTY.

The county of Columbia having been set off from Portage County by act of the Legislature approved Feb. 3, 1846, an election was held April 1st of that year in the several precincts of the county for the election of such officers as the act provided for that the county might be fully organized on the 1st day of May following. At that election Solomon Leach, John Q. Adams and John Langdon were elected County Commissioners. The records of their first meeting are given herewith.

PART I.

At a meeting of the County Commissioners held at the house of Elbert Dickason on the 16th day of July, A. D. 1846, after severally taking the oath required, the board was organized by calling Solomon Leach to the chair. Present: Solomon Leach and John Q. Adams. (Mr. John Langdon who had been elected as a commissioner did not appear.) It was resolved:

1. That that portion of Columbia County commencing at the northeast corner of said county embracing townships twelve and thirteen of range twelve, and all that part of townships twelve and thirteen range eleven, lying east of the section line between five and six, be set off in a precinct to be known by the name of the "LeRoy Precinct" and that Nathan Griffin, James Buoy and Ervin McCall be judges of election in said precinct, said election to be held at the house of Oliver Langdon.

This precinct embraced all of the present towns of Randolph, Courtland, Springvale and Scott except the west tier of sections in Scott and Springvale.

2. That that portion of said county embraced in townships ten and eleven in range twelve to compose a precinct to be known as the "Columbus Precinct," elections to be held at the house of A. P. Birdsey and that Asa Proctor, J. T. Lewis and Jeremiah Drake be judges of said election.

This precinct embraced all of the present towns of Columbus and Fountain Prairie, and the city of Columbus and village of Fall River.

3. That townships ten and eleven of range eleven compose a precinct to be known by the name of "Dyers Burgh Precinct" and that the elections be held at the house of Landy Sowards, and Jonathan E. Haight and Henry Pellet be the judges of election in said precinct.

This precinct embraced the present towns of Otsego and Hampden and the village of Rio except a small portion of the village which was detached from Lowville.

4. That town ten, range ten, south half of town eleven range ten and east half of town ten range nine compose a precinct to be known

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by the name of "Lowville Precinct," elections to be held at the house of Jacob Low and Wm. H. Young, Henry Herring and Stephen Brayton be judges of election in said precinct.

This precinct embraced all of the present towns of Leeds, the south half of Lowville, and the east half of Arlington.

5. That west half of town ten range nine, town ten range eight, fractional town ten range seven compose a precinct to be known by the name of "Pleasant Valley Precinct" and Marston Bartholomew, Aaron Chalfant and J. Maynard be judges of said election: elections to be held at the house of Marston Bartholomew.

This precinct embraced the present town and village of Lodi, the west half of Arlington and the town of West Point, but the fractional part of town ten range six was not included.

6. That townships eleven, ranges eight and nine, and the south half of town twelve range nine, and all that part of town twelve range eight lying south of the Baraboo River compose a precinct to be known by the name of the "Dekora Precinct;" elections to be held at the house of LaFayette Hill, and Joshua W. Rhodes, John Springer and Thomas Swearingen be judges of election in said precinct.

This precinct embraced all of the present town of Dekorra, the south half of Pacific and all of Caledonia lying south of the Baraboo River. The name was spelled as it appears on the diagram, "Dekora."

7. That all that part of town twelve north of the Baraboo River, and town thirteen, and fractional town fourteen range eight; town thirteen and north half of twelve range nine, compose a precinct to be known as the "Winnebago Portage Precinct;" elections to be held at the house of Gideon Low, and that Richard F. Veeder, Daniel D. Robertson and Henry Merrell be judges of election in this precinct.

The resolution establishing this precinct appears to have been defective in including *fractional town fourteen range eight*. Town fourteen was not a part of Columbia County; doubtless fractional town thirteen ranges six and seven was meant. The Menominee* Indian lands in town thirteen remained a part of Portage County. It is doubtful if anything more than the Grignon tract, in the city of Portage, and that portion of Fort Winnebago lying east of the Fox River was rightfully included within this precinct.

8. That townships thirteen and twelve and the north half of town eleven range ten and one tier of sections on the west side of towns twelve and thirteen range eleven compose a precinct to be known by the name of the "Wyocnia Precinct;" elections to be held at the house of Elbert Dickason, and Charles Spear, Darius Bisbee and Harvey Bush be judges of election in said precinct.

*The name of this tribe of Indians has been spelled in many different ways. In preparing the maps which appear herein, the local method in most common use, "Menomonee," was followed. Since the maps were engraved a bulletin has come to my knowledge showing the manner in which the Bureau of American Ethnology and the Indian Bureau have agreed upon a system for the spelling of Indian names, and that for the tribe mentioned will be followed in these pages, viz: "Menominee."

The names of the Hampden Civil War Veterans have been alphabetically arranged by Regiments and Companies. There may be some errors which often are hard to overcome. Many of the old military records had misspelled names and some records contradicted each other. This list is as accurate as I could obtain under the circumstances. (Author)

HAMPDEN CIVIL WAR VETERANS BY COMPANY AND REGIMENT

- 2 -

Private Marcus M. Burk

Enlisted February 8, 1864, wounded at Wilderness, Virginia; mustered out with the Veterans Reserve Corps, August 16, 1865.

Private Uri F. Laskey

Enlisted July 15, 1861, wounded at Gainesville. Died of wounds October 13, 1862 at Alexandria, Virginia.

Company H - 15th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment

(Known as the Norwegian Regiment)

2nd Lieutenant John L. Johnson

Enlisted January 17, 1862, resigned May 15, 1862.

Private Anfind Thompson

Enlisted November 15, 1861, mustered out of duty February 13, 1865.

Company D - 16th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment

(Known as the "Hanchettville Union Guards")

Captain Edwin B. Roys

Enlisted October 3, 1861, promoted to 1st Lieutenant November 27, 1861, promoted to Captain April 12, 1862, resigned November 4, 1862.

* Private Darwin B. Sowards

Enlisted October 14, 1861, discharged September 6, 1862.

Private Frederick Wolf

Enlisted October 12, 1861, other information unavailable.

Company I - 18th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment

(Known as the "Lewis Rangers")

Captain Ira H. Ford

Enlisted August 6, 1861, promoted 1st Lieutenant November 15, 1861, taken prisoner at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Private Ira Dearborn

Enlisted August 14, 1862, taken prisoner July 16, 1863, mustered out of duty July 4, 1865.

Private Joseph S. Edwards

Enlisted August 14, 1862, wounded at Blakely, mustered out of duty July 4, 1865.

Private Frederick Hines

Enlisted August 14, 1862, mustered out of duty July 4, 1865.

Private William Holshutter

Enlisted August 13, 1862, wounded at Jackson, Mississippi, mustered out of duty July 4, 1865.

Private Elijah Hotaling

Enlisted August 13, 1862, wounded and taken prisoner at Sabine Cross Roads. Mustered out of duty, July 24, 1865.

Private Charles A. Hoyt

Enlisted February 18, 1864. Transferred to 35th Infantry Regiment on July 1, 1865.

Private Mathias L. Johnson

Enlisted August 15, 1862, died of wounds received at Arkansas Point, February 5, 1863.

Private Torbigan G. Oleson

Enlisted August 15, 1862, mustered out of duty July 4, 1865.

Private Augustus Peters

Enlisted August 15, 1862, mustered out of duty July 4, 1865.

*Private Preston Sowards

Enlisted August 21, 1862, discharged January 17, 1863.

Private David Warner

Enlisted August 14, 1862, died of disease at Young's Point, Louisiana, on January 14, 1863.

Company B - 36th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment

Private Milner Hawes

Enlisted February 25, 1864, wounded June 18, 1864. Killed in action at Ream's Station, Virginia on August 25, 1864.

Company A - 50th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment

Private Richard Dent

Enlisted February 6, 1865, mustered out of duty
February 8, 1866.

Company E - 50th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment

Private Samuel Andrews

Enlisted February 18, 1865, mustered out of
duty October 24, 1865.

Company M - 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery Regiment

Captain Ira H. Ford (See Company I - 18th Regiment).

Lieutenant Herbert R. Lull (See Company A - 7th Regiment).

*Private Darwin Soward

Enlisted September 1, 1864, mustered out of duty
June 26, 1865.

Company (Unknown) 4th Wisconsin Battery, Light Artillery

*Private Marion F. Soward

Enlisted September 3, 1864; mustered out of duty
July 3, 1865.

Company E - 3rd Wisconsin Regiment Cavalry

Corporal Hiram R. Tripp

Enlisted February 14, 1862; transferred to Veterans
Reserve Corps February 1, 1865.

4th United States Cavalry - Regular Army

Private Charles H. Hazard

Enlisted April 10, 1864 (further details unavailable).

Private Orin M. Marsh

Enlisted April 10, 1864 (further details unavailable).

Private Daniel W. Marshall

Enlisted April 10, 1864 (further details unavailable).

Private Samuel Umberger

Enlisted February 10, 1864 (further details unavailable).

HISTORY OF HAMPTON

NAMES ORIGIN:

Hampden was named by Thomas Haslam after John Hampden whom he greatly admired. John Hampden was a British patriot who resisted Charles I's demands for ship money that was not voted by Parliament. He was prosecuted for his defiance, argued his own case for twelve days and lost 7-5, but public opinion favored him. He became a member of the famous long parliament which lasted from 1640 to 1653. He was seized by the king, but was released. He died a natural death, but the king was beheaded in 1649.

No information was available on Thomas Haslam as to where he lived or where he is buried, however he did serve as township clerk for several years. The old schoolhouse on Hasey road was named "Haslam" so he may have lived near there.

EARLY SETTLERS:

First settlers in the town was Alfred Topliff who settled in Section 11 on May 1. 1844. He was followed that year by Lewis and Landy Sowards and J.E. Haight. Haight settled on the farm now owned by R.H. Castieberry. He died in 1873.

These early settlers had to go to Aztalan (near Lake Mills) to get their mail and travel to Milwaukee to get their provisions. This was a long hazardous trip over marshes, swamps and streams for there were no bridges.

This first summer of 1844 was very wet and the marsh hay upon which the farmers depended for caring for their cattle through the winter could not be harvested. Consequently many of the cattle died that first winter.

Other early settlers were in 1846 Elijah and Perry Lee who settled on the farm now owned by William Hohlstein on Eggert Rd. One of the Lee daughters, Marilla, became the wife of Thomas Sanderson and her daughter Isabelle married A.J. McFarlane who owned the farm now owned by Willis Trapp.

Another early settler was H.R. Clark who owned the Eugene Bergum farm.

A Norwegian settlement sprung up in the southwestern part of the town and a German settlement in the southeastern part.

TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHED:

The first election was held at Landy Soward's when Hampden was still part of Dyersburg named after Wayne B. Dyer the first clerk of the town of Otsego.

The town was organized at the home of Cornwall Esmond in 1849. This home was on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15.

People arriving in Hampden about this time or a bit later included Daniel Sowards who lived in a tent on the farm where the Hampden School now stands. Legend has it that he stuck his wooden staff into the ground and it grew into a tree.

Prominent farmers of the fifties and sixties included: C. Roys, H.R. Clark, Clark Hazard, Eli Sowards, Daniel Sowards, C.C. Tillotson, T.S. Roys, James H. Sutton, John Derr, Peter Hanson, O.J. Oleson and E. Knudson.

In 1865 a 26'x36' town hall was constructed. In addition to town meetings, religious meetings and funerals were held there.

In 1857, two acres were purchased from Samuel Smith for the purpose of burial of the dead.

POST OFFICES:

In 1847, a post office was established by Alfred Topliff in what is now Vernon Selje's house. Benjamin Chase was the postmaster. This postoffice was discontinued in 1865. A post-office was established in 1877 with Halvor Halvorson as post master. This would have been on the farm now owned by Nelden Peterson. This probably existed until the advent of Rural Free Delivery in 1896. People in the eastern part of the town got their mail from the Columbus Post Office.

SCHOOLS:

The first school was established by Alfred Topliff in Sec. 11. Part of Hilda Bell's kitchen is that old school.

A little red schoolhouse stood on the corner of "N" and "60". Schools in this time were established within walking distance for the children of the area. Since this walking distance was so important the Hasey Road came into being. When the James Hasey children, who lived where Casper Gilbertson lives now, were old enough to go to school Mr. Hasey petitioned to have a road laid from what is now known as Hall Road to Highway 60. Without this road, the children would have had to go all the way around on Hall Road to "N" and then to the school. The petition was granted even though the road all came off the Hasey land instead of half off one farm and half off the other.

Rural schools existing until 1955 were Nelson, built in 1940 after old one burned, Sutton, Sharpee, Fairbanks, John Hampden, and Haslam. By 1955, they were down to three and in 1960 they were all closed with the advent of the Hampden School.

CHURCHES:

The first church service was held in the town of Hampden with the Rev. Rueben Bates preaching the first sermon.

The only church edifice ever built in the town of Hampden was built in 1883 and dedicated on Jan. 16, 1884. It replaced the old Gravel Church which stood on the boundary line between Otsego and Hampden and was torn down in 1891. Methodist in denomination the church was served by pastors from Fall River. A twenty stall horse shed, built in 1903, stood behind the church, but it burned to the ground in either 1917 or 1918. Services were continued at the church until 1920. On December 11, 1920, the last service was held there--the funeral service for Fred King, the father of Mrs. Fred Minick who still owns the property at King's Corner at the intersection of King Road and County A. Incidentally, Mr. King was a charter member of the church and contributed fifty dollars to its construction. This was quite a sum in the days of two cent ~~chick~~ and four or five cents a dozen eggs!

After the church ceased to serve as a spiritual center for the town, it was sold to Clarence Helgerson who converted it to a machine shed. Today it still stands as a landmark and memorial to the sturdy early settlers who cherished it as their church. A painting of the old church painted by Ralph Bluemel of Columbus hangs on the wall of the new Hampden Town Hall so that forthcoming generations will know that Hampden once had a spiritual center even though it is no longer used as such.

CHEESE FACTORIES:

In the early days and well into the fifties cheese factories were located in various places in the town. Farmers hauled their milk to factories in milk wagons and hauled home the whey to fatten their hogs. Later trucks replaced the wagons and truckers were hired by the farmers to pick up their milk. These trucks were equipped with whey tanks and the farmers received their proportionate share of whey each day.

To my knowledge there were the following cheese factories:
Quaker Hill-now occupied as a dwelling by Inez Crochet and her family.

HAMPDEN-now occupied by a Peterson family.

There was a creamery on the northwest corner of A and 60 which was operated by a Frank Hanson who was the grandfather of Frank Lueders of Columbus.

There was also a creamery or cheese factory across from Willis Damm's. There is still a good usable well there.

FEED MILLS:

There were two feed mills in Hampden to which the farmers hauled their grists. One was operated by Willie Link across from the Quaker Hill Cheese Factory. Willie was Eugene and Walter Link's father. This mill was later operated by Wynne McFarlane and was finally moved to E. Bristol.

Another mill operated for a time at Hampden Corners.

STORES:

In the early days there were two stores. One was Bell's store at the corner of 60 and A where Wesley Timmons now lives. Many dances and parties were held in the hall above the store. This store was torn down in about 1921 or 1922 and the material was used by Chester Tompkins to build the house which now owned by Henry Harvey.

The other store was originally known as Brewers store and was built by Milan Brewer, Mrs. Hattie Hasey's father. Here ~~too~~ many dances, parties and community affairs were held. After a series of owners, this store was finally closed and while being used as a dwelling by a Jones family, it burned to the ground and one of the Jones children perished.

The only "tavern in the town" also came to a "fiery" end when the "Hoot" tavern, grocery and filling station was destroyed by fire a few years ago. In the late twenties, Frank Lang started a small gasoline station on the NE corner of the A and 60 corner. When prohibition came to an end he obtained a beer license and enlarged the place somewhat. The Langs owned it until his failing health forced its sale. Other owners enlarged it and it became known as the "Hoot"--a gathering place for the local neighborhood. With its burning came the end of the only tavern in the town and also the only filling station.

HISTORICAL MARKER:

We may never have had a governor or a president in the town but we do have an interesting historical marker or monument in the Hampden Cemetery. This marker reads:

BREWER

Israel C.
1797-1873

Great-grandparents of President Coolidge
Natives of Vermont

Sarah B.
1801-1884

Mr. and Mrs. Brewer lived on the farm now owned by the Marvel Lees and as the marker points out came to Wisconsin from Vermont. Mrs. Coolidge, being one of the oldest of the family, never came to Wisconsin but remained back east. When Coolidge was president, he purchased and had sent to the cemetery the huge granite marker which replaced the one that was there.

Descendants of the elder Brewers now living in the area include Hattie Brewer Hasey and her three children Harold, Irene and Floyd.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE:

All rural telephone exchanges in the early days were small and locally owned. The early Hampden telephone exchange was located on the old "Cap" Ford farm now owned by Wayne Moore. In 1911, the Schlieves moved to the farm and the previous owners the Hopkins had the Leeds telephone exchange in the house. The Schlieve's daughter, Edna, the late Mrs. Arthur Selje, took over the operation which at that time consisted of a wall telephone with four lines and four levers. Later came a slightly more complicated switchboard. Later the switchboard was moved to Johnson's and then to Peterson's--both on Hampden Corner. In about 1920, or shortly thereafter, the Hampden Farmers Telephone Co. was formed and they bought out the Leeds Co. and bought switchboard service from Columbus. Officers of this early company were: President, George Steinbach and H.E.Ott; Secretary, Fred Hasey; Treasurer, Nick Kranz and after his death Mrs. Mary Kranz assisted by Margaret Andler and Beatrice Kranz. Linemen for the company were Herman Stange, Lawrence Link, Joe Weisensel Sr. and Verian Weisensel. In the fifties, the company was sold to the Wisconsin Telephone Co. and another small locally owned business passed into oblivion.

100 YEAR FARMS:

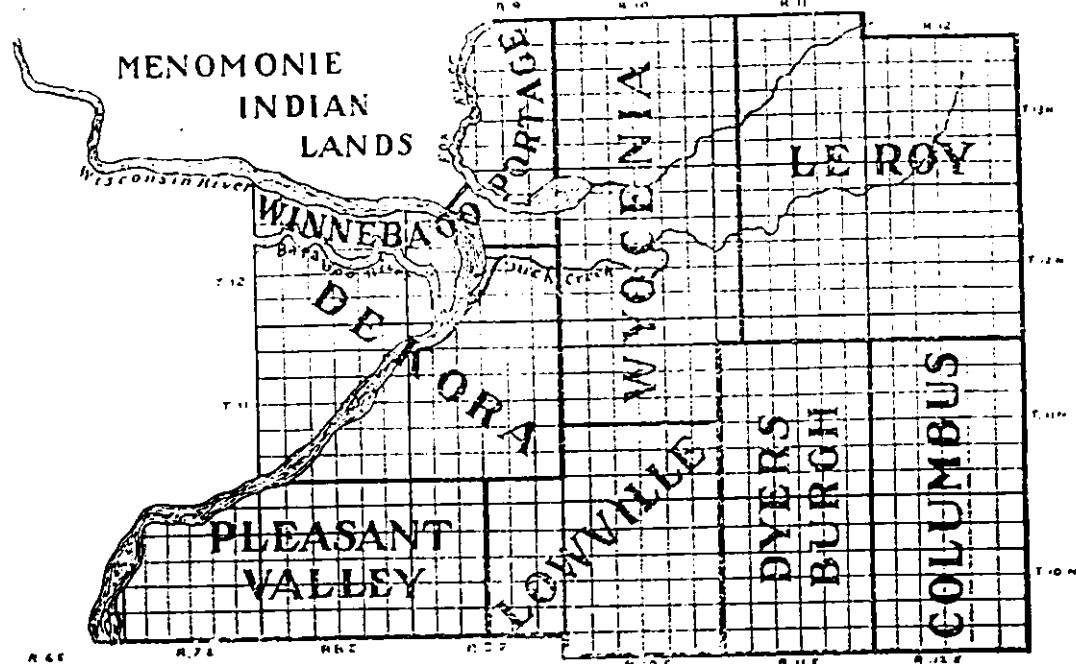
No history of the town would be complete without a listing of the farms that have been in the same family continuously for 100 years or more. I hope I have omitted no one, but if I have please forgive me. The list is:

Meland	Derr
Sutton	Damm
Sowards	Arnold
Hall	Trapp, (Rupert)
Bell	Foster
Duborg	Fox (Leo Fox and Robert Finger farms)
Clausen (Burke)	Trapp (Zeno, estate)

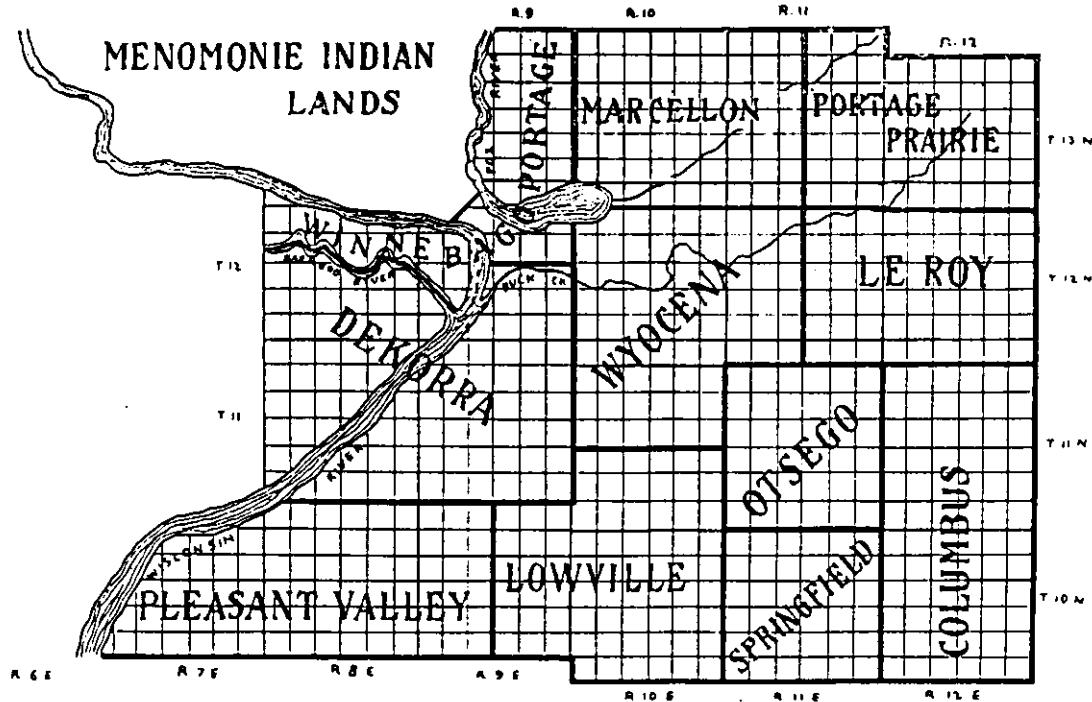
Steinbach (Ott)

May those of us whose roots in Hampden go back 100 years join with the new residents to make our community one of which we can be proud. So proud, that when someone asks us where we live we can reply "Hampden" and assure him that Hampden is not the land of nowhere but a community which we are proud to call home.

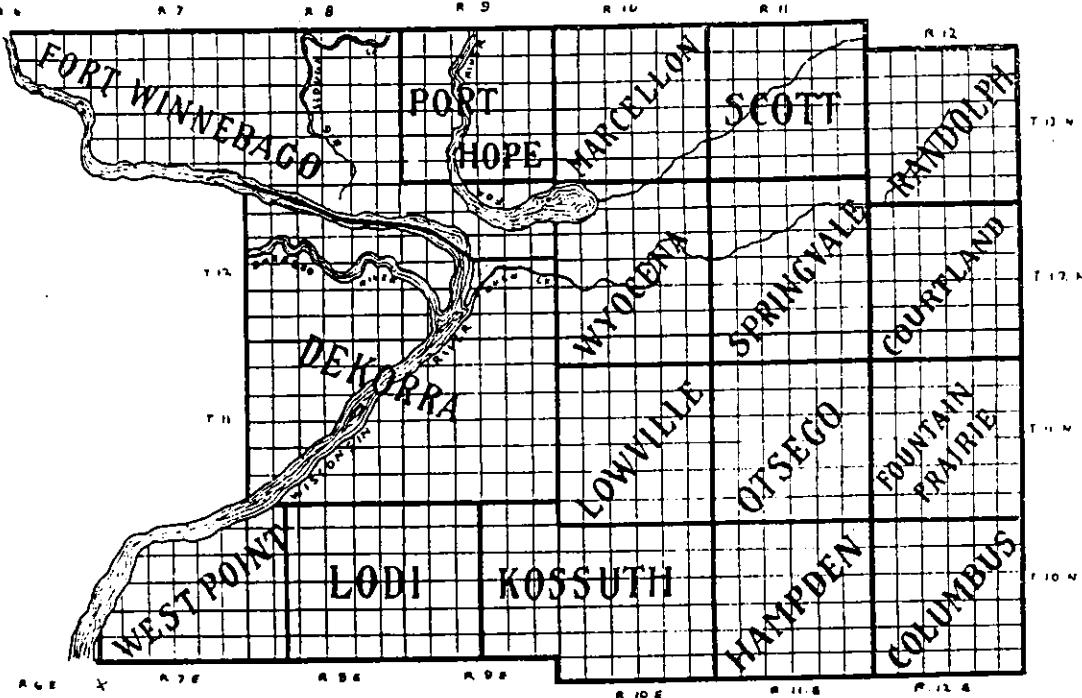
(This brief history of Hampden is a resume of the talk given at the dedication of the new Hampden Town Hall in October 1972 by Margaret Bell Lee.)



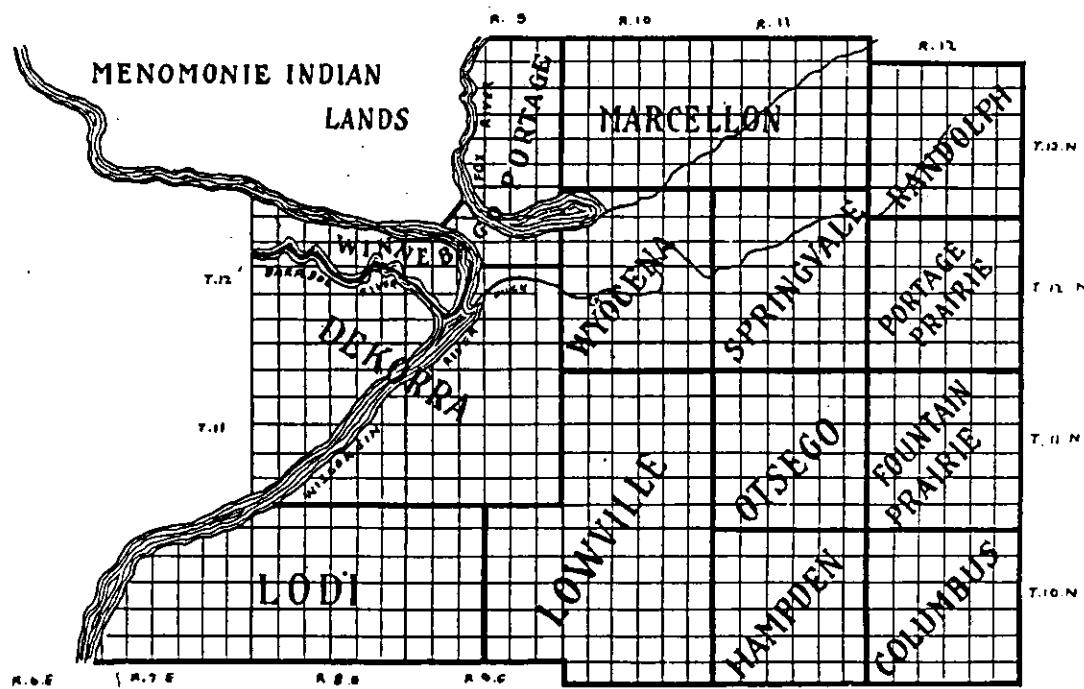
Names and Boundaries of Precincts of Columbia County as Established by the Board of County Commissioners, July 16, 1846



Names and Boundaries of Precincts of Columbia County as Established by the Board of County Commissioners, April 3, 1848



Names and Boundaries of Towns of Columbia County as Established by the Board of Supervisors, January 8, 1850

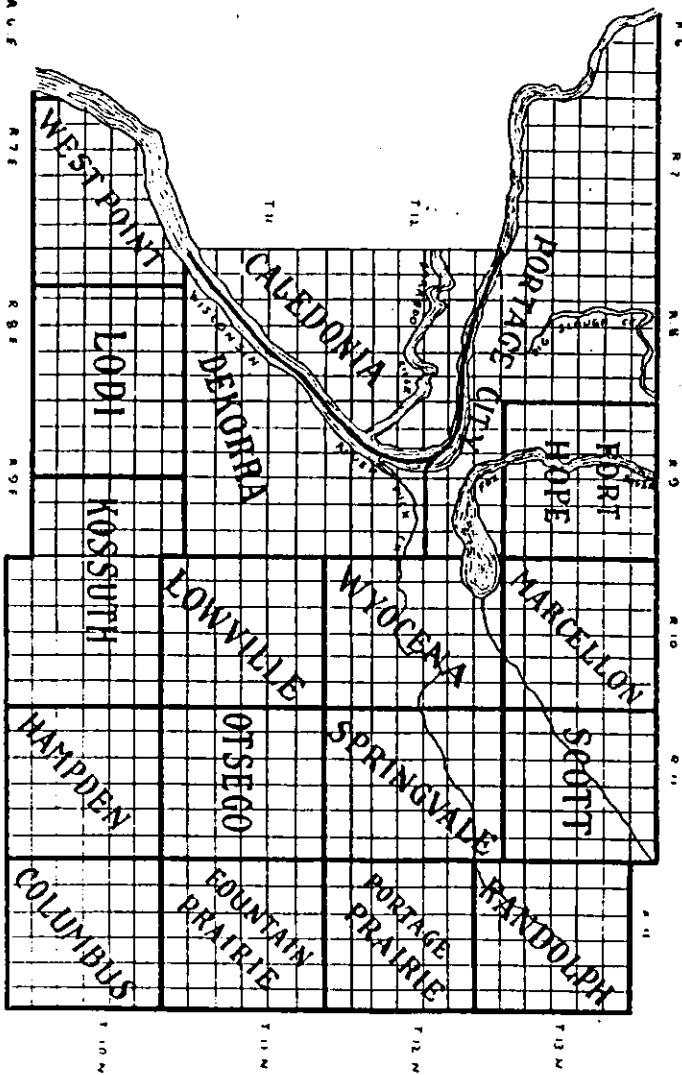


Names and Boundaries of Towns of Columbia County as Established by the Board of Supervisors of Columbia County, January 9, 1849

NOTE.—The Town of Marcelion was divided Nov. 16, 1819, and Town of Scott created out of west half.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

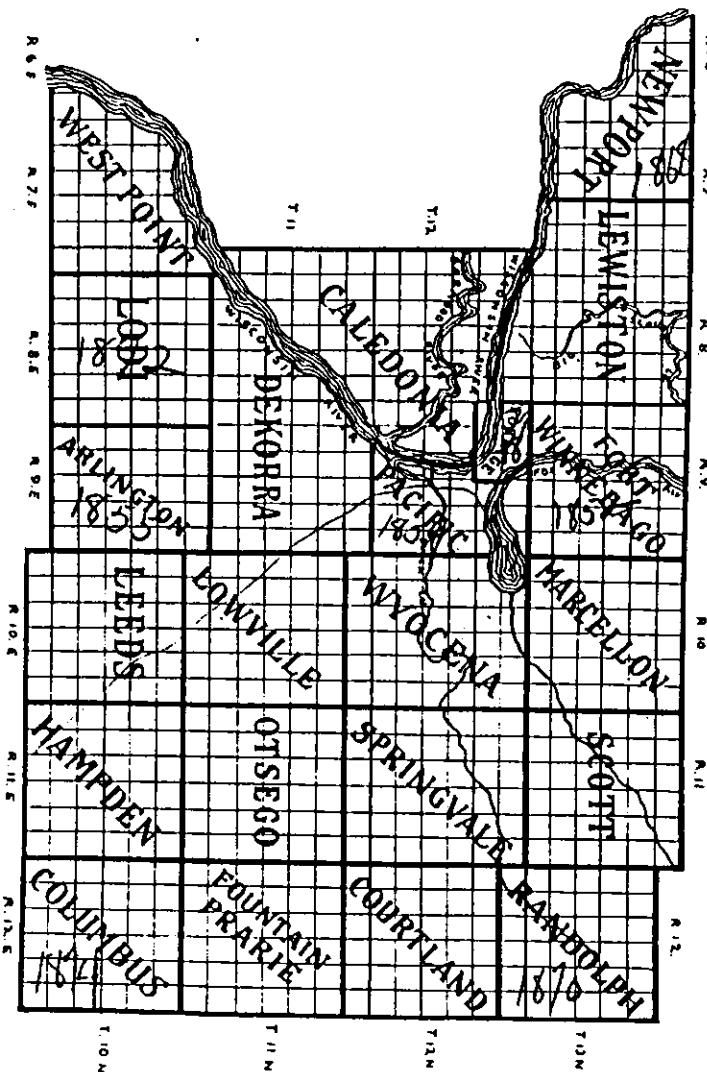
37



Names and Boundaries of Towns of Columbia County as established
in 1851

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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Names and Boundaries of Towns and Cities of Columbia County as they
appeared January 1, 1855