



The Pinery

PUBLISHED NOW & THEN BY THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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***** ANNUAL MEETING *****

Readers are urged to plan now to attend the following Annual Meeting program:

Wednesday, April 18, 1984 at 7:30 p.m.
Sentry Auditorium, in Downtown Stevens Point

The meeting will feature Mr. Tom Pease of Amherst. He is a folk singer and will be offering a collection of local folk songs.

A business meeting will precede the program of Mr. Pease.

Winners of the Rothman competition and the Pine and Iron award will be announced.

This program is sponsored by the PCHS and is free. The public is invited to attend.

YOUR SOCIETY AT WORK

A number of significant developments have taken place over the last several months. Perhaps the most unexpected item concerned the Nelsonville Grist Mill. In January, the Society received a call from the D.N.R. asking if the Society would be interested in obtaining the mill. The decision had to be made within a period of about two weeks. The D.N.R. was to purchase the mill pond in order to drain it and thus create a good trout stream. However, the owner of the mill and pond would sell the two items only as a package. The D.N.R. does not have need of the mill and inquired as to the Society's feelings about it. The Board of Directors felt that if the alternative was to lose this unique piece of our county's history it would not present a great problem to agree to take it.

The state will, apparently, give the mill to the Society once the purchase is made. That will, in all likelihood, take place in late March or early April. It is our hope that if the Society does obtain the mill that the people in the Nelsonville area will help by taking over the running of the mill. The building is in good repair and still contains many of the original or near original working parts. All of this make the mill historically valuable to the county.

For the first time the Society also received some funding from local government bodies. We have been placed in the county budget for \$2000 and have received two \$500 checks each from the city of Stevens Point. One each for 1983 and 1984. The Village of Plover has allocated \$250. Park Ridge and the Village of Rosholt have each sent \$100. It is the hope of the Board that we can increase local government support for this very worthwhile project.

The Board has also begun some detailed planning with regard to the long term projected goals and needed items for the museum project in Plover. It is felt that this project, in its entirety, could be finished in a 5 year period. That is, if the funds are available. Once this is done the need for maintenance, acquisition and staff budgets are all considerations that must be taken into account if the project is to be successful. As near as can be ascertained these considerations are now being discussed and projected.

Finally, the printing committee has published two items over the last few months. A 1984 calendar was put out in November, and in January, an ethnic cook book was put on sale. The calendar sold for \$4.95 and the cook book sells for \$2.00. The Society will print a third calendar for 1985 and then assess whether or not to continue the publication. The very first publication of the Society, A Place Called Plover Portage by Justin Isherwood, is almost sold out and has been very successful. A second printing will have to be considered. At least one other small booklet is also being considered.

Last year was the Society's most successful in many ways, especially with regard to membership. Membership reached an all time high of 283. It is our hope that the upcoming year will be even more so. We on the Board feel that we have an exciting and unique project being constructed in Plover and we hope to be able to expand it this summer.

Tim Siebert
President, PCHS

A FUTURE WITHOUT THE PAST

A recent patron request for information on the Polish Catholic Union of Stevens Point--an organization about which the Society had no information in its files--has prompted the following plea.

It is a sad fact that all too often historical records of real value are lost, destroyed or discarded. This is especially true for the records of local private institutions such as churches, businesses, social organizations, political groups, clubs, and ethnic associations. Without these records future generations will have little understanding of the past. Without these records the name and activities of significant individuals and groups will be lost or at best remain a nostalgic memory.

The PCHS strongly encourages organizations that do not have their own archives to consider donating non-current records (ex. minutes, financial records, letters, scrapbooks, membership lists, diaries, certificates, photographs) to the Society for preservation and for historical research.

HISTORIC BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

[The following information is reprinted from the January/February issue of Wisconsin Preservation, a publication of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.]

Owners of historic buildings will be glad to learn that the Historic Building Code Council, created by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1981, has begun to meet. Under provisions of Chapter 341 of the Laws of 1981, the Council was convened to create a separate building code to govern restoration or rehabilitation of historic buildings. Owners of historic buildings will be able to elect to use the new historic building code or to comply with the existing building code.

To date, the Council has met three times, has selected a chairperson, and has developed a tentative timetable by which the work of the Council should be completed.

The next step is to solicit public testimony about problems that result when the present code is applied to historic building rehabilitation.

We encourage you to become part of this process. If you own, or have been involved in, a historic preservation project and have been forced to decide either to destroy part

of your building's historic character or to apply for a code variance, we encourage you to send us the details. You should describe the rule or rules contained in the codes that caused you the problem and include any additional information, such as photographs, that you feel will be helpful to the Council. Send the information to James A. Sewell, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

You should be aware that, even though the Historic Building Code Council is now working to change the codes, these changes are not now in effect. Because any code modification is a time consuming process that requires legislative approval and public hearings, the earliest possible date by which the new code will become effective is April 1985. Until that time, if you own a historic building, you must still comply with the existing codes.

"ROUNDBALL HOOPLA"

[Sports enthusiasts are forever comparing and evaluating one generation of athletes with another; one set of "rules" with another. We hope, therefore, that the following article from the Stevens Point Journal of November 16, 1916 will prove suggestive.]

BASKETBALL IS FASTER

New Rules Provide For More Speed
And Less Roughness in
Games

The new rules for the 1916-1917 season makes the game of basketball faster and less rough . The players that stick to the rules will thereby be enabled to show a better class of sportsmanship and give more satisfactory results in every possible way.

A blackboard on a gymnasium floor is now compulsory. This has been in vogue in the west for some time but not in the east. This means that the end walls on every court are out of bounds and that running up on the walls is impossible for as soon as a player with the ball touches the wall he is out of bounds.

The board must be protected from the spectators by a distance of three feet.

In regard to officials the umpire is to assist the referee in out of bounds decisions only when so requested by the referee. The captain alone shall represent his team in dealing with officials during the game.

The so called "jump ball". In rule the words requiring the jumper to face his own goal are omitted and the words "with both feet inside his own half [of] the center circle" are substituted.

The ball must be first tapped by one of the jumpers after which it is the ten players' ball. This means that if the center or any other player jumping for a ball can first tap it and then catch it in the air [,] thereby making it a faster game.

In regard to the dribble the new rules gives an excellent interpretation. The instant the ball comes to rest in either one or both hands or touches both hands simultaneously the dribble ceases.

CLIO'S CORNER

[The following article is taken from the Saint Paul Luthern Church Newsletter]

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL HISTORY by Harvey Bartig, Church Historian

It may surprise many of you to know that our congregation operated Christian Day Schools at two different times before the present school was built. From 1889 to 1891 the first school was open. It was located on the corner of Elk and Shaurette Streets, as were the church and parsonage at that time. The former parsonage can still be seen and is over 100 years old. The second school was in existence from 1909 to 1914.

Our present school can be traced back to the pastorate of Rev. W.F. Ludwig during which several parcels of property were purchased by this congregation. In 1951 Rev. Herbert Wunderlich became pastor. Under him plans were made and carried out to begin classes in the church basement during the time the present school addition was under construction. Unfortunately, Rev. Wunderlich did not see the completion of the building. He died following heart surgery shortly before the building was completed.

Classes were organized in 1953 with Mr. John Roth as teacher and principal. \$14,000 was pledged by 13 families to build the school. The Stevens Point Journal reported on September 5, 1957 that the bids for the school addition totaled \$123,822.

In the interim between Pastor Wunderlich's death and Pastor Dake's installation, Mr. Roth relied heavily on the congregation and the Lord to carry out his many responsibilities. He remained here for 15 years. Following his resignation, Robert Luring became acting principal. Roland Golz served as principal from 1969 to 1971, leaving to attend seminary and become a pastor. Mr. Ronal Thies has served our school as principal since 1971.

HISTORY OF HEI CORNERS SCHOOL by Larry W. Ouimette (UWSP)

The Hei Corners School is an old, one room, country school house that was built in 1898. It was known as Joint School District No. 8 of the towns of Amherst and Scandinavia. The school got its name from the Norwegian word Hei, which means an upland or moor. Since it was located at an intersection of two roads as well as being located on an upland, it was given the name Hei Corners School. Today that intersection is known as the corner of County trunks T and V.

The very first settlers in that area were Norwegian American farmers, whose great grandchildren still own and farm the land. Two generations of these families attended the school that operated from 1898 to 1945.

These Norwegian families lived near the Portage-Waupaca County line in the towns of Amherst and Scandinavia. The five major families are: Johnson, Swenson, Evanson, Bergen and Borgen.

Turben Borgen was born in 1898, the same year the Hei Corners School was built. His father had attended the first Hei Corners School which was a log school that stood about one-fourth mile west of the present structure on County trunk T. It was built after the first settlers arrived in the area during the 1850's. It closed in the latter part of the 19th century when the population of the area children declined. The building was moved to Pierce Olson's farm and used as a stable, until it was torn down in the early 1970's.

Turben Borgen's children attended the second Hei Corners School. There were some attending when it closed in 1945.

Soon after the school opened, the number of students that attended grew to more than 60. Because of the large numbers, two teachers were hired and a partition was added to divide the room. The partition was removed when the number of students dropped to 15, which was the average from 1920-1945.

On June 27, 1945, the Hei Corners School Board held their annual meeting. It was at this meeting that it was decided to close the school due to the fact that enrollment had dropped to five students.

The members of the Board were: J. Delbert Jacobson, clerk; Leslie Borgen, director; Myron Bobhe, treasurer; and Lillie M. Leppen, principal teacher.

It was decided that the remaining five students would attend the nearest school which was the Riverview School which was in County B, east of Amherst. This school was later closed and converted into a house by a local farm family.

The last five students to attend the Hei Corners School were: Richard Borgen, George Borgen, Arlene Johnson, Howard Borgen, and Isla Evanson.

The Hei Corners School performed many important functions in the area. The teacher coordinated these functions. The school provided transportation for the children and served them hot lunches throughout the school year.

The school was closed during various times of the year, so that the children could help their families with seasonal chores. The school also was involved in goodwill tasks such as selling Red Cross Seals and collecting money for the Salvation Army.

It also provided entertainment by holding socials and presenting plays. In fact, the school was used by local families as a melting pot--various meetings concerning items of farm interest such as tuberculosis tests for cattle.

Some of the teachers instrumental in the success of the school were:

1920-1924	Loretta Lutz
1925-1927	Grace Allen
1927-1928	Marquerite Hauge
1928-1931	Edna Martin
1931-1933	Vivian Stoltenberg
1933-1935	Lorna Quinn
1935-1939	William Williams
1939-1942	Marjorie Pipe
1942-1943	Helen M. Kolz
1943-1944	Cora Moberg
1944-1945	Lillie M. Leppen

Clyde Jenson bought the building after it was vacated. He planned to move it to his farm and use it as a machine shed. He decided against this idea when he found out how expensive it would be to move the building.

Although he did not move the building, he did decide to remove some of the more valuable items so they would not be damaged or stolen. Some of these items include a bell which he took from the bell tower which is atop the school. Other items include pictures which he took from the walls, and a teacher's desk, which he donated to the Christian Science Church in Waupaca.

After removing all the items that he considered important, he sold the school to Lyle Borgen, another local farmer. Lyle and Richard Borgen donated the building in 1977 to the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point Foundation Incorporated. The Foundation

planned to move the building to the UWSP campus to be restored as a museum by the spring of 1978.

However, the University was unable to receive approval for placement of the building. They in turn donated the schoolhouse to the Portage County Historical Society, which is trying to raise \$5000 to move the building to its museum complex in Plover. The Society wants to restore the building because it represents the traditional one room schoolhouse of the period. It has elaborate architecture and the original wood work still remains. The structure is basically sound, although made of wood.

Authentic one room schoolhouse materials have been collected for the restoration project such as desks and old books.

Henry Swenson, who attended Hei Corners School when it first opened in 1898, had complete records of the early years of the school but, unfortunately, these records were destroyed by a fire at his house.

FEATURE

[The following article will appear in THE PINERY in two installments]

THE CIVIL WAR DRAFT IN PLOVER AND STEVENS POINT: A STUDY IN EFFORTS, ATTITUDES, FRUSTRATIONS, AND RESULTS by David Ellison (UWSP)

The Civil War brought the first real concerted effort on the part of the federal government to draft men into the armed forces. Both the North and South used the draft, or more accurately, the threat of the draft, to "muster men" into the service. The draft was at times applauded, hated, scorned, but mostly feared. The draft also clearly served its intended purpose - to raise an adequate amount of men to fight in the Union army, mostly through volunteerism. This being the case, I have chosen Plover Wisconsin as the town to discuss in terms of the effects of conscription during the Civil War. Plover is interesting due to the fact that it was a hot-bed of patriotism and donated heavily in terms of men to the Union cause. Plover's population in 1860 was 898, while the total population of Portage County was 7,502. Yet, the area suffered more casualties during the Civil War than it did during World War II when the population was four times larger.¹ This area, like so many others across the nation, would never again see the majority of the men they sent to the front.

Perhaps the major problem in conducting research on Plover is the non-existence of the Plover Times, or rather the Stanton Times and Republican as it was called during the war years. Only scattered issues survive from 1861-1865. Consequently, I have relied on the Stevens Point papers for first hand accounts and feelings toward the draft. So, in a way Stevens Point is integrated into the study and complements the focus on Plover. Besides, gaining a feeling for the times from the surrounding area can only benefit and broaden this study. As an aside, the absence of the Stanton Times might not have been a total loss. The Wisconsin Pinery was at no loss for words when it commented: "The Stanton Weekly Times says it has the largest circulation of any paper published in the county. He is a liar. The Pinery has over double the circulation of that mean, low-lived, half-supported sheet..."² With all due respects aside, the purpose of this paper will be to investigate the background of the draft, as well as analyzing the public feeling and reaction as it pertained to bounty raising, substitution, war-fever, and the tangible effects of the draft in general.

Before entering into the effects of the draft on Plover and Stevens Point, I would like to set the direction of this study in its correct historical setting by briefly discussing the impact of the war and draft on the state of Wisconsin. Wisconsin provided over 91,000 men (1200 over its entire quota) to the war effort. Over 11,000 of the men died in either battle, of wounds, disease, or from events after discharge. In addition, over \$12,000,000 was spent by the state and its citizens in support of the Union.³ Such an effort was basically in response to the presidential call for troops. There were four such calls carrying with them the threat of the draft. The first call and ensuing draft took place in the summer of 1863. Additional drafts were conducted in the spring, 1864, the fall, 1864, and the spring, 1865. The Enrollment Act of 1863 which legalized the draft also stipulated that all districts would be notified of their quotas and urged to fill them before the deadline.⁴ Predating the Enrollment Act of 1863 was the 1862 presidential call for 300,000 troops. This was basically a state draft where the Secretary of War would instruct a governor of a quota that had to be met. Governor Solomon was notified that if Wisconsin's quota of 11,904 men was not met by August 15, the deficiency would be made up through the draft. The governor proceeded to issue orders for the enrollment of all able bodied men aged 18 to 45.⁵ The state draft of 1862 was confined only to those counties which did not meet their quota. These were usually counties with heavy immigrant populations whose distaste for war stemmed from their European experiences.⁶ Only 4,537 men were drafted, of these 19 deserted and 1,622 simply did not report.

The 1863 draft brought direct federal involvement in the draft. In Wisconsin two classes of men were enrolled totaling 121,202. The first class included all men liable to military service between the ages 20 and 35. The second class included all unmarried men fit for duty above the age of 35 but below 45.⁷ Concerning Portage County, the summer call for troops and the November draft resulted in 27 names being drawn from Stevens Point and 1 from the town, 4 from Sharon, 4 from Eau Pleine, 5 from Hull, and 4 from Plover. Vigorous attempts were made to avoid the draft in which volunteering was seen as the most honorable route. Veterans for re-enlistment received \$402, recruits \$302, and in most towns \$100 was added to those amounts.⁸ The 1863 draft was not very successful. Of the 14,955 men drafted state-wide, 628 actually served, 252 hired substitutes, 6,285 were discharged for physical reasons, 5,081 paid the \$300 commutation fee, and 2,689 never reported.⁹ While the preparations for this draft were taking place, Lincoln ordered on October 17, 1863 another call for 300,000 men. Wisconsin's quota would be set at 10,281 with 74,976 men of the first class enrolled for possible military service throught the country. The penalty for not filling the quota would be as Adjutant General Augustus Gaylord stated on November 23, 1863: "If the quota above given is not filled by voluntary enlistment, a draft is ordered by the General Government on the 5th of January 1864, to supply the deficiency then existing."¹⁰ The January draft did not take place for on February 1, 1864, Lincoln issued a call for 500,000 men which was assumed to include the 300,000 from the October 17 call. March 14, 1864 brought an additional call for 200,000 men. The system of extra bounties by the towns was enough to raise enough men to negate the draft for the two,¹¹ calls. Additional credits from the 1863 draft did much to further alleviate the pressure. Try as it may, the state finally succumbed to the 500,000 call of July 18, 1864. A draft therefore took place on September 19, 1864 resulting in 17,534 draftees. Again, efforts to secure these men proved to be futile. Only 2,494 were conscripted, 954 hired substitutes, 6,724 were discharged, 7,367 failed to report, and 4 men paid the \$300 commutation fee.¹² The North's last draft was ordered to take place on March 27, 1865 for districts that did not meet their quota. This was enough of a threat to the bounty-weary people, and the quota was narrowly achieved.¹³ On a state wide scale the draft was not all that successful in securing men into the service. But overall, call after call, the people of Wisconsin were able to achieve their quotas a majority of the time. As we shall see in Plover and Stevens Point, there was much commotion concerning the whole affair.

Before entering into the local reaction to the draft, the political atmosphere and convictions of Plover, Portage County, and Wisconsin as a whole must be analyzed. The 1860 and 1864 presidential elections reveal that all three sections were firmly Republican. In the 1860 election Wisconsin gave Lincoln 56% of the vote (86,110 votes), Douglass 43% (65,021 votes), Breckenridge .5% (889 votes), and Bell .009% (151 votes). Portage County gave Lincoln 64% of the vote (994 votes), Douglass 32% (471 votes), and Breckenridge 4% (58 votes). Plover followed suit and awarded Lincoln 76% of its vote (152 votes), while Douglass was only able to muster 24% of the vote (47 votes).¹⁴ The 1864 election was just as decisive in Wisconsin for Lincoln as the 1860 election was. Despite significant financial and personal sacrifice, the state announced its dedication to the Union. In 1864 Lincoln drew 50% of Wisconsin's vote (82,736 votes), McClellan 39% (65,598 votes), and the Union Majority Party 10% (17,138 votes). Portage County gave Lincoln 69% of its vote (704 votes), and McClellan 30% (311 votes). Plover found itself 87% in favor of another term for Lincoln (138 votes), while only giving McClellan 13% of the vote (20 votes).¹⁵ One must keep these figures in mind when reading the comments and opinion of the area. While the constant call for men was indeed acutely irritating to the populace, the area's dedication to the war and its goals were never compromised.

Owing to the size of Plover, the town's involvement in supplying men to the Union war effort was immense and significant. As noted, Plover's 1860 population was 898. Out of that number nearly 150 men served under the Union flag. Twenty-one were commissioned officers, of which Colonel James S. Alban is the most remembered. The fiery Unionist was to fall at the battle of Pittsburgh Landing in 1862. Nevertheless, Plover has the honor of being the "banner town" in the state for furnishing more soldiers than any other town of its size.¹⁶ The Stevens Point Daily Journal noted that, "Few communities had a record comparable to Steven's Point's neighbor to the south, Plover. The village was a hot-bed of patriotism, and one of its leading citizens, Col. James S. Alban, was the most prominent Portage County resident to die in the war."¹⁷ Alban was the main reason for Plover's burning patriotism. From 1856-1861, Alban, along with Jervis W. Carter published the Plover Herald. Their impassioned stands against the slave states undoubtedly was the main cause for Plover's high enlistment rate.¹⁸ Stevens Point was quite envious of Plover's early positive action. On April 19, 1861 (only a week after the shelling of Fort Sumter) Plover held a meeting to raise men for a company. The Wisconsin State Rights exclaimed, "If the people here, have not life enough to hold a meeting, let us go to Plover!" In the same issue the newspaper reported that the Plover military meeting "Resolved, that this meeting is in favor of sustaining the President of the United States in vigorous measures in putting down the so called southern rebellion, and that as citizens of the United States, we will use all proper means to do so."¹⁹ Of course, J.S. Alban served as chairman of the meeting. Stevens Point, however, had a hard time generating men to volunteer for the service. The States Rights moaned on July 31, 1861 that while Plover had supplied twenty-five men to date, Stevens Point with the largest population in the area had only supplied two men with little hope of getting any more.²⁰

While Stevens Point was having a difficult time in getting men to volunteer, in June 1861 the city did manage to form the Home Guard of Stevens Point with Sammuell Stevens as captain. In addition, the Pinery Rifles, under the command of Captain James O. Raymond of Plover, left on July 7, 1861 to join the Seventh Regiment but were later incorporated into another regiment.²¹ In addition to the Rifles, such other companies as the Evergreens and Lyon's Pinery Battery were quickly organized. The area's logging industry was clearly advertised in the names of these companies.²² Yet not all attempts at the formation of companies met with success. A very early effort at the formation of a company in Plover in May 1861 had to be disbanded because all the members from Grand Rapids pulled out.²³ Clearly then, war fever hit Plover very early. War fever or not, the town was soon to come to a different emotion with the onset of quotas and drafts. This is what we must now turn our attention to.

Plover and Stevens Point were both sub-districts included in Wisconsin's Congressional Sixth District. Consequently, all quotas for the Sixth District had to be filled by the respective sub-districts. One issue of the Stanton Times and Republican that has survived, makes much of the claim that up to its latest printing (July 4, 1863) the heavily Republican Second, Third, and Sixth Districts had large excesses in volunteers while the slightly Democratic Fifth District showed a small excess, and the heavily Democratic First and Fourth Districts suffered from heavy deficiencies.²⁴ Still, according to the Adjutant General's report of 1864, the Sixth District in the 1863 draft saw 1,643 of its men drafted of which only 126 were actually inducted into the service. The rest either failed to report, were discharged, hired substitutes, or paid the commutation fee which totaled \$182,000.²⁵ In the 1864 draft Plover had a combined quota of 54 out of which 37 recruits were submitted, 6 veterans re-enlisted, and only 4 men were drafted. Prior to the October 17, 1863 call for troops, Plover had an excess of 8 men who were included in the quota for 1864. Out of the 54 man quota, Plover submitted 55, leaving a credit of one man to be put towards the next draft. Portage County as a whole received a quota of 554.²⁶ The 1864 draft still did not go over well. Evidence of gross evasion from the draft was still present. Of the 3,764 men drafted from the Sixth District, only 722 men were actually inducted into the army.²⁷ A clear disillusionment with the draft was present among the enrollment age men. Mixed feelings were conveyed through the media. As we shall see, disguised emotions of trepidation color these mixed feelings.

In the strictest interpretation of the draft, it must be acknowledged that the draft allowed the Union to survive. Congress did anticipate public indignation against the draft and left many opportunities of evasion open to the draft aged man. The draftee could obtain a substitute, or even pay the \$300 commutation fee. Yet, the underlying purpose of the Civil War draft was to act as a threat and spur volunteering rather than functioning as an end in itself. Every community had the opportunity to raise its quota and thus entirely avoid the draft. Indeed, Plover and Stevens Point were able to avoid a number of the drafts. Only when the quota was not met was the draft imposed. Consequently, as Eugene Murdock notes, "Hence the Civil War draft, an unwelcome innovation in American life, was only a semi-draft, a device to raise a one million man army by encouraging volunteering."²⁸ Instructions for conducting the drawing of names for the draft were contained in the Provost Marshall's Regulations and were followed fairly uniformly by all enrollment boards. Portage County's enrollment board was located at district six headquarters in LaCrosse. Names of the enrolled men were often dropped into a wheel. A blindfolded or blind individual would then draw the names out of the draft wheel and hand them to the commissioner who would read the names aloud while a clerk recorded them in a book. The drawing would continue until the quota had been met. The remaining names would then be sealed in an envelope and stored until the next draft.²⁹ Neither the Enrollment Act nor the Regulations stated the amount of time a draftee should be entitled to before arriving for his examination. The standard was generally accepted as ten days. While the ten days were explained as giving the man time to settle his affairs, many took the opportunity to flee north to Canada.³⁰

The reaction in Stevens Point (again the absence of the Stanton Times frustrates research) toward the draft was that of initial satisfaction, mid-course jitters, and final condemnation. On August 2, 1862 the Wisconsin Pinery noted that of the 300,000 men that Lincoln originally called for, only 2,000 men were actually raised in a thirty day period. The Pinery asked "what then is to be done?" Its answer, "We must become a military people. Let drafting be resorted to at once. Three hundred thousand men can thus be raised in thirty days."³¹ Lincoln, only two days later, called for a draft of 300,000 men to take place. The Pinery was also quick to reassure its readers that the news of the draft was being well received among the area's population. On August 16, 1862 the Pinery noted:

The call for 300,000 men by drafting is, so far as we can judge, favorably received by the people at large. Some whose hearts are not right,

are disposed to find fault, from the fear that they may be caught in the draft; but they form merely exceptional cases. The draft is welcomed by patriotic men as being the best and surest mode of raising a full army, and as the only method of compelling disaffected citizens to do their share towards extricating the nation from its difficulties.³²

Yet, while the Pinery extolled the patriotic virtues of abiding with and wholeheartedly accepting the reality of the draft, the newspaper nonetheless expressed latent fears about the draft actually being imposed upon the area. The Pinery in November 1863 urged the people of Stevens Point to copy other local areas (Plover?) in raising their quotas, "or else we shall have the draft upon us with all its hardships...." Furthermore, apathy would only lash the draft upon the city "with all its obnoxious accomplishments. Let us avoid it while there is yet time."³³ The Wisconsin Lumberman on December 21, 1863 reported a town meeting at the offices of Messrs: Eaton and Alban in order to raise a bounty for volunteers. The paper reminded the people of the \$700 that had already been raised and that \$200 more was expected in order to raise the needed volunteers, so that "our quota will be full, and our city saved from the draft."³⁴ Stevens Point during the Civil War seemed to be in a similar quandry as we are in the twentieth century concerning taxes. We either call for or against increased taxes with the belief that the results will improve our lifestyles. Nevertheless, we often bemoan the strain on our pockets when taxes are raised and complain of the lack of services when taxes are cut. This seemed to be the same mentality that prevailed in this area 120 years ago. The newspapers continuously called for and supported the draft as a needed measure for the safety of the Union. Yet, at the same time they feared and resented its effects on the community. There is further proof of this mentality. After the Pinery had denounced the "obnoxious" effect of the draft in 1863, it nonetheless on January 6, 1865 commented: "Let Congress at once urge upon the president the necessity of a further draft of 800,000 men, and we will be able to put into the field before the dawn of spring, trustworthy, reliable, soldiers and with a series of decisive victories will assuredly trample the rebellion to the dust."³⁵ It is interesting to note to what extremes the papers reported efforts to recruit men during lulls on their reporting on the draft. The Lumberman reported that Captain W. Van Myers (a long time recruiter in the area) even went so far as to promising that he could enlist some "stalwart Indians" if the need for men became desperate enough. The Lumberman of course extended the best of luck to the good captain.³⁶ Finally, when victory was assured and tensions eased, the area news media found its golden opportunity to severely thrash the draft. On April 7, 1865 the Pinery, which as recently as January 6, 1865 had called for another draft of 800,000 men, unleashed this attack:

The experience of this war ought never to be lost to us, as we may drift into another of equal dimensions. The almost absolute failure of the provost marshal 's method of conscription, apart from its inequality and unpopularity, shows us that such a system of recruitment is both unwise, costly, and unreliable.³⁷

True, the draft was by no means a well executed concept. Yet, the Pinery ignored one important fact: the draft and the fear it created, stimulated the people of the North to reach their quotas (most of the time) and field armies that ultimately proved victorious. Relying on a purely volunteer army during a time of war, especially in a state such as Wisconsin where the physical threat of the war was remote, would have proved futile.

(To Be Continued In Next Issue of THE PINERY)

NOTES

- 1 Malcolm Rosholt, Our County Our Story: Portage County Wisconsin (Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Portage County Board of Supervisors, 1959), pp. 513-514.
- 2 The Wisconsin Pinery, June 12, 1863, p. 3.
- 3 E.B. Quiner, The Military History of Wisconsin: A Record of The Civil And Military Patriotism of the State In The War For The Union (Chicago: Clarke & Co., 1866), p. 8.
- 4 Eugene C. Murdock, One Million Men: The Civil War Draft In The North (Madison, Wisconsin: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1971), p. 9.
- 5 Quiner., pp. 139-140.
- 6 Robert W. Wells, Wisconsin in the Civil War (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: The Milwaukee Journal, 1962), p. 31.
- 7 Quiner., p. 161.
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