

LATHERS.

William J. Lathers, eldest son of John W. Lathers and Angelina Beckwith Lathers, was born in 1859. The name seems to have been a simplified and shortened form of the name Lauderthal, (Lauderdale), from the duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany. When young, the pioneer John W. Lathers, father of William, came with his parents to Turtle. On March 8, 1859, he married Miss Angelina Beckwith, who was a cousin and secretary of Mr. William Hodson of Turtleville, and William J. Lathers was their first child. The land holdings of Mrs Lathers became extensive, mostly in Section 16, where a Section road, named "Lathers Road" marks the fact that his descendants still live there. He was a model farmer and for many years Chairman of the Turtle Town Board. He designed the present Town Hall.

In 1931, working with Governor La Follette, Mr. Lathers built the Milwaukee Road Overhead, where a tablet marks his work. He died in the same year, suddenly. He was a member of St. Thomas' Church and was buried in Calvary Cemetery. The Overhead will always be his memorial.



TURTLEVILLE CEMETERY.

As a burial ground, the Cemetery of the Town of Turtle may be older than Shopiere Cemetery. It was laid out according to a fine plat in 1886, but it appears burials were made there long before that. Miss Iva Butlin has given the history of the ground.

William Lathers, descendant of the pioneer Lathers in this country, settled in Montgomery Co., N.Y. His descendant, another William Lathers, married Margaret Lasher of Montgomery Co., N.Y. They came west to Turtle; he died in 1879, she in 1889, and were buried in this cemetery. Their children were as follows:-

1. Lanah, --- married George Ecker.
2. Nancy, ---- married Charles Snell.
3. Mary, ---- married Louis Shoemaker. Henry Louis Shoemaker.
4. Susan, ---- married Ira Lewis.
5. Caroline, ---- died in infancy.
6. John W.
7. William H.

We are concerned with Henry Louis Shoemaker. He was born May 14, 1827, in Canajoharie Co., N.Y. He came west and settled in Shopiere, was a carpenter, but gave up that trade for farming. He bought a farm in Turtleville, land between the west end of the bridge and the cemetery. Miss Butlin says the cemetery was taken out of his farm, somewhere in the middle of the century. His wife, Mary Lathers, was born Nov. 14, 1825. She died May 22, 1914.

Mr. Shoemaker was killed at the St. Paul Railway crossing near Beloit on Prairie Ave., in 1883.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Louis Shoemaker had two children, Ellen, born April 6, 1852 in Shopiere. She became the mother of Miss Iva Butlin. The other child was John, born in 1855 in Turtleville. Thus, the cemetery must have been begun after the year, 1855, when the Shoemakers came from Shopiere to Turtleville.



Grave of John Hopkins,
Shopiere Cemetery. Mr.
Hopkins was an early
surveyor. He married
Sarah Chamberlain.
See genealogy.



HAZEN D. CHENEY.

Died Apr. 2, 1853. Ae. 29.

This is the inscription on the middle large stone in this group. How Mr. Cheney came to be buried in Shopiere Cemetery is not clear, because he was identified with the early history of the Town of Beloit. Some early records name him as Chairman of the first town meeting of the Town of Beloit, held April 5, 1842, with Edward Bicknell as Secretary. But this town then included the present Beloit, Avon, Newark, and Turtle.

Old residents say that at an early time a Cheney family lived near the west end of the Shopiere bridge on the upper creek road.



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One of the most interesting features of the older part of Oakwood Cemetery is that it became the resting place for people who were figures in the early history of surrounding townships. One notable example of this is the stone marking the grave of Hazen Cheney near the entrance to Shopiere Cemetery. The stone says he died April 2, 1853. His age at that time is given on the stone as 29. If this is correct, (as one supposes it is), Mr. Cheney must have been a Notary Public at the age of 18, for his name so appears on a document between Joseph Colley of Rock County in the Territory of Wisconsin and Benjamin F. Riddle of Beloit vicinity, which became the Town of Turtle. The date of this paper was Nov. 15, 1842. It was recorded in the County Register's office Febr. 25, 1845, giving one an idea of the legal pace of the times.



THE HART LOT.

Not far from the main gate of Oakwood is the Hart lot. This is another one of those burials of Turtle pioneers in a Beloit, rather than the Turtle cemetery, - why we do not at present know. The Hart family were of ancient Welsh origin in England. They came to America and, after other trial settlements, founded the old city of Hartford, Connecticut. Finally, some of them came to York state. Samuel Hart thus was born in Oneida Co., N.Y. in 1807. In 1853, he came to Wisconsin and bought a farm of 440 acres in Turtle on the Shopiere Road. He built the brick house, formerly red, now painted white, on this farm, now owned by Mrs. C.H. Lindenman. Samuel Hart and his wife had nine children, all born in the east, of whom Samuel Willard Hart was the sixth. Willard Hart or "Will" as he came to be called, attended the district school of Turtle and Beloit High School. He married Miss Frankie Yost of the Town of Beloit family. Samuel Hart is mentioned among Beloit Citizens" in 1856. Fred, son of Willard Hart, married Miss Ida Krahmer of Janesville. Their son, Robert, and his mother, are at this date well-known people in Beloit. The Hart School, begun on Hart property in Turtle in 1866, tho' founded in 1840 by the Bennett family near the old bridge now gone, was named after this pioneer Town of Turtle family.



PERSIS PRESTON.

Born at Methuen, Mass.
March 16, 1789.
Died at Beloit, Wis.
August 21, 1866.

One of the oldest and quaintest of monuments in Oakwood Cemetery. There is no information available now as to who she was, other than the inscription on the stone.



Interments and Inscriptions on the
Freeman Lot. Mount Tabor
Cemetery.

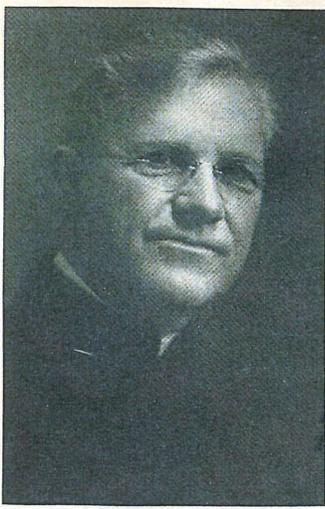
1. Nell Louise Freeman. 1894-- 1943. Mother.
2. Horace C. Freeman. 1886--1947. Father.
3. Richard Edgar Freeman. 1883--1949. Father.
4. Catherine Louise Coon. 1948-- 1950.

Services for Mrs. H.C. Freeman took place April 28, 1943.
Hers was the first burial in Mount Tabor Cemetery, following
the consecration, from the family of the donor.



Grave of Father Joseph E. Hanz
in Mt. Tabor Cemetery.

Father Hanz was for some time President of the
Beloit Historical Society. He took a keen interest
in history and was Chairman of the local committee
to receive a visit from a Caravan sent out by the
federal government, "The Northwest Territory
Celebration Commission," which, on Friday, August
26, 1938 presented a pageant, "Freedom on the March,"
at the Strong Stadium.



The Rev. Father J. E. Hanz, Ph.D., is curate of the St. Jude's parish and directs the affairs of the Brother Dutton school.

FATHER JOSEPH E. HANZ WAS BURIED IN MOUNT TABOR CEMETERY WED.OCT.11,1950. HE WAS ONE OF THE PRIESTS WHO CONSECRATED THE CEMETERY FOR BURIAL PURPOSES BY THE GIFT OF MR. H.C. FREEMAN IN 1942. MT. TABOR WAS THE MOUNTAIN OF THE TRANSFIGURATION AND IS IN GALILEE ABOUT FIFTY MILES FROM JERUSALEM.

II. Monsignor Joseph E. Hanz. Ph.D.
1880--1950.

Notes on the Revd. H.M. Whitney, minister and Beloit College professor, father of Dean Whitney, now retired. There is a Whitney lot in Oakwood, but no stones are visible for photographing.

The Whitney lot in the older part of Oakwood, not far east from the Broder mausoleum, contains no visible burials and is marked by a red granite boulder which has some kind of symbolic bands sculptured on it. A member of the family says that the family burials were in the east.



Pastors from this time on are Rev. Alex G. Wilson, 1870-1871; Rev. Henry M. Whitney, 1871-1872; Rev. John McLean, 1872-1884; Rev. A. Wesley Bill, 1885-1887; Rev. Thomas E. Barr, 1887-1890; Rev. Charles D. Merrill, 1890-1896; Rev. Thaddeus T. Creswell, 1896-1906; Rev. Chauncey T. Edwards, 1906-1910; Rev. Hugh Lowry Moore, 1910-1918; Rev.

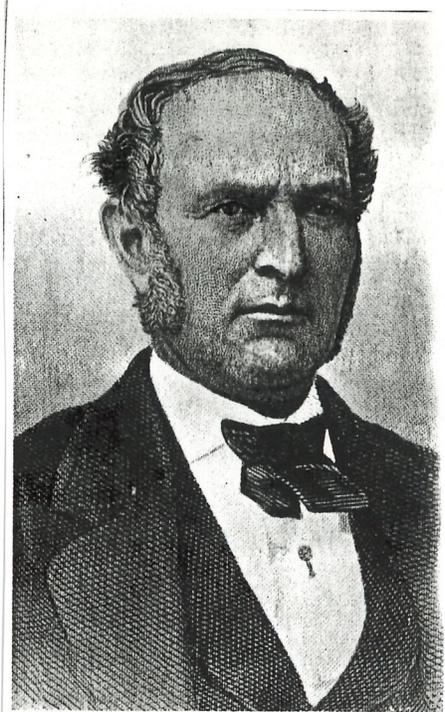
E. A. Finn, 1918-1919; Rev. Homer Mitchell Noble, 1919-1928, and the Rev. William F. Scoular, 1929—.

Two of the above ministers were active in the affairs of Beloit college. The Rev. Mr. Whitney served as professor of rhetoric, and the Rev. Mr. McLean as a member of the board of trustees and substitute professor of moral philosophy. During the time that the Rev. Mr. Creswell was pastor the new church was built, and during the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Edwards, it was dedicated. (June 7, 1907.) The memorial windows were installed during the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Noble. Since the Rev. Mr. Scoular has been pastor a new organ has been installed, the gift of Mrs. Marian Messer Sawyer. The church was re-dedicated on March 19 1933

MR. SAMUEL J. GOODWIN CAME TO
 BELOIT FROM WATERVILLE N Y
 ABOUT 1860 WHEN HE BOUGHT THE
 WELL-KNOWN FARM ON THE ROCKTON
 ROAD HE SOON BOUGHT THE BUSHNELL
 HOUSE AND STARTED THE GOODWIN BLOCK.
 MR. GOODWIN DIED IN 1885.



Where Caleb Blodgett's home and the old Rock River House once stood at the corner of State and Grand, Prof. Jackson J. Bushnell of Beloit College built the Bushnell House in 1853-54. It was one of the finest hotels of its time in the middle west. There Lincoln dined. Later it was owned by Samuel J. Goodwin, who built the Goodwin Opera House adjoining it in State street. It was like this in 1873. The Goodwin House is now the Goodwin Block, an office building, owned by J. Dana and Emerson G. Pect.



Samuel J. Goodwin, farmer, hotel owner and builder of the famous old Goodwin Opera House.



OP-F-23,2



BY 1837 THE REVD STEPHEN PEET WAS AN ORDAINED MINISTER CIRCUIT RIDER AND ORGANIZER FOR EASTERN PROTESTANT CHURCH AUTHORITY THIS MEANT PRODIGIOUS LABOR WHEN "ROADS" WERE ONLY FOOTPATHS AND INDIAN TRAILS HE DIRECTLY HELPED TO FOUND BELOIT COLLEGE AND SHOPIERE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BELOIT BUILT IN 1842 AT THE S W CORNER OF BROAD & PROSPECTS STS THE THIRD SUCH CHURCH IN WISCONSIN WAS IN THE ORBIT OF HIS LARGE ORGANIZATIONAL LABORS THE OLD KEELER RESIDENCE STANDS NEAR THIS SITE

(Note. The inscriptions on the Peet monument are now very difficult to read, because of the crumbling character of the stone. I am not at all sure that the date I give for Rev. Peet's birth is correct and I have been unable to find it anywhere else.)

Rev. Stephen Peet.
Born at Sandgate, Vt.
Feb. 20, 1787. (?)
Died at Chicago. March 21, 1855.

Erected by the ministers and churches of the northwest.

For thirty years a minister of the gospel. A pioneer in the Bethel cause. Frontier missionary pastor in Ohio and Wisconsin. Home missionary superintendent and organizer of many churches in this state. One of the organizers and most ardent friend of Beloit College. ----- agent and ----- of the ---- and Union Theological Seminary at the time of his death.

Thou ----- with honour.

Martha Dennison Peet.
Widow of Rev. Stephen Peet.
Born at Stonington, Conn.
March 17, 1796.
Died at Beloit, Wis. Nov. 13, 1877.
Rest.

Martha Peet.
Born at Euclid, Ohio.
July 14, 1827.
Died at Beloit, Wisc.
June 24, 1870.
Out of the shadow into
the light.
Home.

(The above photograph is not a very good one. I visited the lot many times, without being able to do any better than this. The light just was not what was needed to bring out the fast fading inscription. It is a great pity that so historic a monument with its noble tribute to a pioneer should be allowed to deteriorate.)

BELOW IS A COPY OF THE TRUE INSCRIPTION ON THE SHAFT ERECTED
TO THE REVD. PEET. FURNISHED BY MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY
THROUGH THE KINDNESS OF PROFESSOR ROBERT IRRMANN OF
Inscription on tombstone in Beloit, Wisconsin BELOIT COLLEGE

REVEREND STEPHEN PEET

Born Sandgate, Vermont, February 20, 1797

Died Chicago, Illinois, March 21, 1855

For thirty years a minister of the gospel. A Pioneer in the Bethel cause. Frontier missionary, pastor in Ohio and Wisconsin. Home Missionary superintendent and organizer of many churches in this State. One of the originators and most ardent friends of Beloit College. Financial Agent and President of the Board of Directors of Chicago Theological Seminary at his death.

Erected by the ministers of the Northwest.

"Them that honor me I will honor."

Martha Denison

widow of

Rev. Stephen Peet

Born at Stonington, Connecticut

March 17, 1796

Died at Beloit, Wisconsin

November 13, 1877

Life of Governor Harvey At Shopiere Is Described For the Historical Society

THE spirit of an early Wisconsin governor may have lingered somewhere about the precincts of the Shopiere Congregational church Wednesday afternoon as Miss Annie S. McLenegan described the life of Governor Louis P. Harvey and members of his family while residents of the village. It certainly seemed possible such a spirit might have been there when Frank Dole, at Miss McLenegan's invitation, stepped forward and told of having often seen the Harvey family enter the church to take their pew, well down in front. He even pointed to the very pew, saying the recollection was clear, though he was a child at the time.

There was something about the beautiful interior of the sacred edifice which made it easy to mentally fill in a picture of the distinguished parishioners walking down the aisle slowly, in all the formality of crinolines and Sunday broadcloth characteristic of the period before Civil War times.

Preceding the paper on Governor Harvey, Miss McLenegan read some introductory paragraphs as follows:

"This church was founded April 27, 1844 by the Rev. Stephen Peet, of the American Home Missionary Society in Wisconsin territory, and 13 Shopiere residents who signed as charter members. Among them were the family names of Olds, Chamberlain, Smith, Randall, Culver, Swingle and Hopkins. The next Sunday, the Rev. Peet gave the sermon and communion. He was chosen moderator and the Rev. Dexter Clary, secretary. The first church meeting was held Jan. 12, 1845. The building fund begun in 1846, was followed Oct. 6, 1850 by a resolution to build a church. The present edifice was completed in 1853, the original building being in what is now the chapel.

Thus, this church, as a congregation, was, last April, 102 years old.

"At this time, I should like to present some of those whose families have been continuously in its fellowship and at least some of whom are here on this occasion.

"Mrs. Daniel Spicer. As Miss Nellie Holmes, Mrs. Spicer is the granddaughter of Thomas Holmes, a pioneer member of the county government and who gave funds for the chapel and for original windows—destroyed in the cyclone of 1880.

"Mrs. Addie Atkinson. She is a member of the large pioneer family of Dockstader. Jacob Dockstader was one of the founders of business in Shopiere. Together with Caleb Culver, Mr. Dockstader gave the original bell of the church and it was tolled for his funeral. Mrs. Atkinson is the daughter of Joseph Dockstader and has all her life been a musician and worker in this church.

"Mrs. George Aekley. As the former Miss Alice Smith of Tiffany, her grandmother, Mary Barrett Chamberlain, a wonderful pioneer woman, her aunts, Mrs. John Hopkins, Mrs. Jared Randall and her grandparents on her father's side, Daniel and Eda Smith, were of the group of the 13 charter members of this church. Her relative, Mrs. Mary Miller, together with John Holmes, one of the founders of the Beloit Savings Bank, gave labor and money toward the present bell.

"Mrs. Van Galder. Her grandmother, Miss Diantha Nash, is said to have been the first teacher in the Town of Turtle, or at any rate, a very early one, who remembered hearing the wolves howl in the woods about here. Miss Nash married Merritt Bostwick, whose son, Philo, was Mrs. Van Galder's father. Like her grandmother, Mrs. Van Galder has been a teacher, and is a skillful writer of poems and plays. Mr. Van Galder belonged to the large La Prairie family of that name.

"Mrs. Carrie Smith. She is the granddaughter of the pioneer, Justus Swingle, and the daughter of Warren Swingle. Her grandmother, Mrs. Maria Swingle, was one of the 13 charter members of this church. Mr. Raymond Swingle, treasurer of the Town of Turtle, is her brother.

"Mrs. Carrie Brainerd. Mrs. Brainerd is a daughter of the late John Weirick, a family coming somewhat later than the pioneers, but very active in community affairs to which they have contributed much.

"James Haggart. I should like to mention James Haggart, whose late wife was Miss Carrie Weirick, daughter of Addis Weirick. Mr. Haggart is of a pioneer family, always part of the life of this community and also the vicinity of Janesville.

"Frank Dole. Frank Dole is the grandson of Eleazar Dole, a Shopiere business man of early days. Johnson Dole, son of the preceding, who married Miss Cornelia Dockstader, was the father of Frank Dole and his younger brother, Robert, now no longer living. Mr. Dole has held office for a long time in this church.

"The Dole homestead on the upper road near Tiffany, with cobblestone foundation, hooded front door, glass side-panels, and fanlight above, together with cross-barred window sash of 12 panes is a home in the genuine, original early American style.

"As I am to say something this afternoon about Gov. and Mrs. Harvey, because of a piece of good fortune, I pause at this point. For in Mr. Dole, we still have with us one who remembers some of the Harveys." (Here occurred the description by this venerable Shopiere citizen of seeing the Harvey family participate in church services).

Then Miss McLenegan continued:

"Louis Powell Harvey was an affable, smiling young man of 27,—when, after student days at Western Reserve university, he came to Kenosha, or Southport as it was then called. He was both postmaster and editor there. After losing his postmastership because of his Whig politics, he came to Clinton Corners, Wis., which was probably known to him because of the stage coach which rumbled through there over to Shopiere and on.

"Come also to Clinton Corners to live, John Perrine with charming daughters. Speedily Louis Harvey in 1847 opened a store at

the Corners and married Miss Cordelia Adelaide Perrine. She was of French extraction, 23, with dark bright eyes and small, trim figure. Probably because there was then no Congregational church in Clinton in Nov. 1849 Mrs. Harvey united with this church in Shopiere, and Mr. Harvey on May 5, 1850, his uncle the Rev. O. S. Powell being pastor here, 1850-53.

"By this time, Mr. Harvey had opened a store in Shopiere, where he also had the post office and was a partner with Jacob Dockstader and Jared Randall in operating an improved mill and dam, costing \$18,000. In 1851, the Harveys moved to Shopiere and lived with his parents in what we call still "the Harvey house."

"In 1853, Mr. Harvey was elected to the Wisconsin Senate for the south half of Rock county. This was only the first of one state office after another which sought the youthful Harvey. Known not only for his integrity, Mr. Harvey was skilled in public procedure and debate. The ranks of a newly forming Republican party, pledged to the abolition of slavery, called him. So the Harveys found they could no longer stay in Shopiere; in 1859 they moved to Madison.

"By this time, the meetings of the Turtle town board were seldom held any more in Turtleville. And many times, as long as Peter Fonda was chairman, there was as yet no Turtle hall, business was transacted in his home, formerly Amos Tucker's plow factory, the large brown stone house still at the base of this hill, as you go down. Here on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1860, Turtle voters cast ballots which helped elect Abraham Lincoln president; and, in the same place, Nov. 5, 1861, they balloted to elect Louis Harvey governor of this state. On Jan. 6, 1862, he was inaugurated.

"So, the Harveys came to Shopiere and went,—a sojourn of only eight years, like their lives, brief, crowded, brilliant, finally tragic. On April 19, 1862, his brief governorship was ended; Governor Harvey, while returning from a mission to Wisconsin troops, was drowned at night in the dark water of the Tennessee. With all the fire of her being, the stricken widow went into army hospital work, to which the government appointed her. On she went in a pioneer field, as long as the need was and her strength lasted. Then she resigned and went to live with her sister, Mrs. Benson, at the old Clinton Corners. In this place, where her life with Mr. Harvey had so gaily begun, Mrs. Harvey died Febr. 27, 1895.

"Mr. Dole has told us the Harveys sat in those pews. He recalls Mr. Harvey's mother in the silk gown and bonnet of a lady of quality coming into church. The mighty tide of life flowing through this historic place, bore the Harveys, as it has hundreds, to their work and to a mysterious change called death. But, amid all these blooms which the devotion of a Garden Club has assembled, unseen presences are here; in the sweet old bells, in music and prayers they knew, they speak; and they live in the immortality of their good deeds. Because pilgrims go on pilgrimage always to something they revere, so we have come. And, by being near them once more, we shall go on our journey refreshed."