

It was located on the east bank between Forest Avenue and Division street, and the site is now covered by the plant of the Gurney Refrigerator Co.

THE FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS.

The organization of a joint stock company at Green Bay in 1835 may be taken as the initial step toward a permanent settlement of Fond du Lac county. By the first of January, 1836 this company had come into the ownership of 3705 acres of land in what was then Brown county. In the meantime a village plat had been surveyed and named "The Town of Fond du Lac." The village existed, however, only on paper for it was not until the spring of 1836 that the company commenced the erection of what is known as the "First House in Fond du Lac County." This house which was erected on: "Lot 9 in Block 9" of this "Town" is described as a "double log house with an open hall through the center, and a stairway leading to chambers above. It had a back addition used as a kitchen. Brothertown Indians (civilized) came from Brothertown, some fifteen miles distant, to raise the structure." Colwert Pier, coming from Green Bay, was the first occupant of the house being joined by his wife at this place on the sixth of June 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Pier were the only white residents of the county till March 11, 1837, when Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pier and two children arrived. On June 1st, 1837 Norman Pier and Albert Kendall joined the colony. On June 17th, 1837, Harriet Pier, and September 3rd, 1837, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Pier and son Oliver arrived, this constituting the entire white population until March 1838.



THE FIRST HOUSE IN FOND DU LAC.

The first house in Fond du Lac was built in 1836, by the Fond du Lac Land Co. for a place of entertainment for travelers and to attract settlers. It was first occupied by Colwert Pier, who acted as host until the death of his wife in 1838. Mr. Pier was succeeded as landlord by Dr. M. C. Darling, who remained only for a few months until he could erect a similar house of his own. John Banister occupied the house till 1839 acting as landlord and post master. Late in 1839 Dr. Darling leased the building, removed the postoffice to his own house at the corner of Main and First streets and closed the company house. How long it was closed is not known, but it is recorded that the Messrs. Weikert and Clock opened the first store in Fond du Lac in that building in 1844, occupying the north section, while George McWilliams had rooms in another part. William Carey in 1845 was living in a third section of the house and died there in 1846. In 1846-7 Col. Davis occupied the building and boarded the workmen who were building the first steam mill ever erected in the county. In 1848 it furnished a temporary home for three families, those of Mr. John Kuicks, Mr. Leander Landerman and a third whose name is unknown. In 1852 Mark Harrison made a sketch of it for his celebrated painting and to him it is due that the present generation has a correct picture of the First House in Fond du Lac County.