

# ADAMS COUNTY CHRONOLOGY

1818

- Fur traders Jacques Porlier and Agustin Grignon open a trading post at Pointe Basse on the Wisconsin River, a few miles north of what will become the northern boundary of Adams County.

1828

- Frank Provonsal, of French-Indian descent, opens a fur trading post on the west bank of the Wisconsin about two miles above Petenwell Rock.

1829

- Fur trader Amable Grignon and his wife Marie Judith Bourassa take up residence at the mouth of Grignon's Creek, later known as Fourteen Mile Creek in northern Adams County.

1832

- Daniel Whitney and Amable Grignon are both authorized by the Menominee Indians to build sawmills on the left bank of the Wisconsin across from what will become Nekoosa.
- Whitney builds his mill and, to supply it with equipment and supplies hauled by oxcart, blazes the "Pinery Road" north from Portage through Adams County.

1833

- The Black Hawk "War" ends.
- Sauk Chief Black Hawk surrenders to "One Eye" Decorah, of the Ho Chunk, after hiding in a "cave" at the Dells in Adams County--according to some records.
- Daniel Whitney runs the first raft of lumber from northern Wisconsin down the Wisconsin River.

1836

- Congress organizes Wisconsin Territory.
- The Menominee Indians sign the "Lumberman's Treaty," to allow logging and sawmilling in a three-mile wide strip along the banks of the Wisconsin upstream from Nekoosa to Wausau.

1837

- John Bourassa Grignon is born at the Grignon place on Fourteen Mile Creek; he is recorded as the first non-

Indian child born in what will become Adams County.

- Men from the Wisconsin Ho-Chunk tribe visiting Washington D. C. are coerced into signing a treaty by which they give up all their remaining land in Wisconsin.
- John T. Kingston makes a winter journey from Portage to the Big Dells of the Wisconsin cruising for white pine timber.

1838

- Jared Walsworth marries a Menominee woman and is allowed to settle near the Indian village located about two miles east of Lake Mason.
- Robert Allen builds a cabin on Blackhawk Island, at the head of the Wisconsin Dells.

1840

- Federal troops arrive at Portage to gather the Ho Chunk people and remove them to reservations in Iowa.

1844

- The Maid of Iowa, 130-feet long, 20 wide, becomes the first steamboat to navigate through the Upper Dells and upstream into Adams County waters.
- The Territorial Legislature creates Portage County to include land north of the Fox and east of the Wisconsin Rivers.
- Once again, federal troops attempt to remove the Ho Chunk from central Wisconsin.

1845

- The Ward family settles on Indian land in what is not yet the Town of New Haven.
- William Sylvester settles on Indian land and opens the Marsh House tavern on the Pinery Road near what will become Grand Marsh.
- M. Strong opens a tavern where the Pinery Road crosses the Big Roche-A-Cri.

1847

- Henry and Lorenzo Van Wie settle on Indian land in what will become the Town of Dell Prairie.

1848

- The Menominee Indians sign a treaty relinquishing their rights to

land in east central Wisconsin, including Adams County.

- James Edson builds a mill on the creek and founds Plainville.

March 11, 1848

- The Wisconsin Territorial legislature creates the county of Adams; the new county lies west of the Wisconsin and south of the Lemonweir River and is attached to Sauk County for judicial and electoral purposes.

1849

- The Town of Lemonweir is organized as the first Town in Adams County.
- Using lumber discarded by a lumberman traveling on the road from Stevens Point, a man named Stowe builds the first house at Coloma Corners.
- Settlers in the Briggsville area, who are "squatting" on unsurveyed land not yet for sale, organize a "Claim Protection Society."

1850

- Adams County population (on both sides of the Wisconsin): 187.
- The county's first post office opens at the Marsh House.
- Thomas Rich opens a private school at Dell Prairie.
- Peter Larson builds a cabin on the Big Roche A Cri and starts the Norwegian settlement of Strong's Prairie.
- Alexander Briggs and Amphilius Chamberlain dam Neenah Creek and create Lake Mason to supply water power for their mill.
- Schuyler and Leroy Gates build the first bridge across the Wisconsin at the Narrows of the Dells.

1851

- The Towns of Necedah and the Dells are organized west of the Wisconsin.
- Federal surveyors complete the survey of all but three towns in northeast Adams County, finally opening the land to legal purchase and settlement.

1852

- All of Adams County is surveyed and the land is ready for sale.
- Increase A. Lapham, "Wisconsin's



First Scientist," canoes the Wisconsin River and surveys natural resources and Indian Mounds near the river in Adams County.

- A group of African-American men, women and children are living in "cabins" on the Roche-A-Cri at the foot of Friendship Mound.

#### April 12, 1853

- The Adams County Board of Supervisors holds its first session at the William Palmer farm in Quincy.
- The county supervisors elect Ralph Patrick, Grand Marsh, as the first chairman of the county board.
- The Supervisors also create the Towns of Chester, Kildare and Lisbon and accept the bond of Stillman Niles, Quincy to "furnish Adams County a court room and offices."
- Sara and Seth Thompson settle on

*Above: The first bridge across the Wisconsin, built at the Narrows of the Dells in 1850 in Adams County.*

White Creek, hire Newel Carpenter to build a mill and found the village of Cascade.

- The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Roche-A-Cri, predecessor of Arkdale's Trinity Lutheran, is founded in Strongs Prairie.
- John Baptiste Du Bay establishes a stage coach line to carry mail and passengers from Portage to Stevens Point with stops at Big Spring, the Marsh House and Coloma Corners.
- 15-year-old Amelia Seward becomes the first public school teacher on record in the county when she begins teaching in a 12' x 12' smokehouse

converted into a school on the Vroman property in the Town of Jackson.

- Price of wheat: 50¢/bushel; dressed pork: 2.5¢/lb.

#### 1854

- H.M Whitney purchases eighty acres along the Roche-A-Cri Creek to become the first landowner in what will become the village of Friendship.
- The Big Spring Post Office opens.
- Classes are held at the East Easton log cabin school.

#### 1855

- The Adams County Board creates the Towns of Springville, White Creek and Dell Prairie.
- Schools started: Prairie View, Strongs Prairie.
- With a mill, post office and three



*Above: The graves of John P. Wills, Joseph L. Holcombe, Erwin Rider, Lewis Knight, Henry Thomas and M. A. Perry overlooking the Tennessee River on the battlefield of Shiloh.*

streets, the village of Fordham is founded on the Little Roche-A-Cri in the southeastern corner of the Town of Preston.

- Settlers from western New York move to the rapids of the Little Roche-A-Cri and name their village after their home town of Friendship.
- The Friendship Post Office opens.

1856

- **Railroad Talk:** Speculation is rife in the county, with talk of the La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad crossing the Wisconsin River at Point Bluff.
- Also at Point Bluff, the National Methodist Conference builds a two-story, "Institute of higher learning" for men and women.
- John Sylvester builds a saw mill on the Big Roche-A-Cri in the Town of Leola.
- Schools started: Pilot Knob, Richfield; Diamond, New Chester; Buckhorn, Lincoln.
- The "Fremont Club" of Quincy calls a meeting at the county building and invites the public to discuss John Fremont, the first presidential candidate of the new "Republican" Party.
- The Quincy Lodge, F. & A.M. is organized at the village of Quincy.

1857

- Juneau County is organized out of Adams County west of the Wisconsin.
- The annual session of the county

board includes thirteen towns; for the first time, all are east of the Wisconsin River.

- Instead of building a court house at Quincy, the Supervisors vote to continue renting a building on the Stillman Niles property for the purpose of "holding court, sessions of the board, conventions and five offices for the officers," for one year at the rate of \$200.
- Luther Stowell and William Burbank build a grist mill at Friendship and the village begins to grow.
- E.P. Cotton builds a dam and grist mill on the Big Roche-A-Cri in Preston; the village that grows around the mill is known by some as Cottonville, by others as Roche-A-Cri.
- Solon Pierce, the first attorney in Friendship, moves his office from White Creek.
- **Railroad Action:** The La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad crosses the Wisconsin River at the new village of Kilbourn, which is named after the railroad's president.
- H. W. Kingsbury operates a tri-weekly stage coach line to carry mail and passengers from the railroad at

Kilbourn to Wisconsin Rapids via Plainville, Point Bluff, Quincy and Strongs Prairie.

- The Adams County Agricultural and Mechanical Society is organized to promote farming and industry in the county and hold a county fair.

1858

- Citizens petition the supervisors to move the county seat out of Quincy and vote to move the county seat to Friendship, whose settlers have organized the County Seat Building Company to build a court house for the county government.
- Julius C. Chandler founds the Adams County Independent, the county's first newspaper, at Friendship.
- Schools started: Stafford, New Haven; Hadlock, Quincy; Chester, Rome; Twin Valley, Springville; Friendship, located on what is now the north side of Lake at West Street.
- Uriah Dorman opens the Half-Way House Tavern on the road between Plainfield and Wisconsin Rapids in Leola.

1859

- The state legislature charts a road to run from Wautoma to the Wisconsin River; known as the "state road" in Adams County, it generally follows the route of County Trunks G and J.
- The Adams County Board holds its



first session in the new court house in Friendship; new furnishings include 18 arm chairs, 30 split-bottom chairs and a swivel arm chair for the judge.

- The Adams County Board creates the Towns of Monroe, Rome and Richfield and votes to equip the sheriff with handcuffs and shackles.
- A reorganized Agricultural and Mechanical Society holds the first county fair, at Friendship.

1860

- Adams County population: 6,492
- The Quincy Lodge, F. & A.M. moves to Friendship.
- The county board votes a total of 237 times before selecting A. B. Wincell, Springville, as chairman.
- Adams County Board adjusts the borders of the Towns of Adams, Easton, New Haven, Preston and Strong's Prairie; also votes to build an eight-seat privy for county use, to erect a fence of red oak with a double gate around the court house lawn and, since there is no county jail, to board prisoners in Portage.

1861

- The Civil War begins. County supervisors vote to pay the families of volunteers \$2 a month for every child under age 12 as long as the man remains in service.
- Isaac N. Earl and other residents of Plainville join the Union Army; serving with the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry in Louisiana, Earl is decorated for bravery and posthumously promoted to Major.
- Led by William Dawes, Strong's Prairie, Adams county men join the "Adams County Rifles", and become part of 16th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment: along with county men in the 12th and 18th Wisconsin, they serve at Shiloh, Bald Mountain, Atlanta and march with General William Sherman "to the sea."
- Solon Pierce, Thomas Marsden and D.D. McGibeny begin publication of the *Adams County Press*, Friendship.
- The commissioners change the name of the Town of Brownville to Big Flats and the Town of Chester to Grand Marsh.
- Otis B. Lapham is elected to the state assembly, he wins again in 1863 and 1869.

1862

- At Shiloh in Tennessee, six members of Company E of the 16th Wisconsin Infantry, die while bearing the regimental flag: N.A. Perry; Henry Thomas, Hancock; Erwin Rider, Richfield; Joseph Holcomb, Coloma; Lewis Knight and John Wills, Strong's Prairie.
- George W. Hall, Dell Prairie, is elected to the state assembly.
- Violence between Sioux Indians and settlers at New Ulm, Minnesota prompts an "Indian Scare" in Wisconsin: White Creek settlers board their windows and stay home at night and farmers at Big Spring organize a "military company" which drills at the village.

1863

- William Badgero, Town of Adams resident, dies while serving with General U.S. Grant and the federal army at Vicksburg.
- John Barton and Reuben Flight purchase the Sylvester sawmill on the Roche-A-Cri in Leola and remodel it to grind grain for feed and flour.

1864

- The name of the post office in the Town of Strong's Prairie is changed from Vinje to Arcade, then changed again to Arkdale.

1865

- The Civil War ends.
- A group of "about three hundred

Pottawatomie Indians" and some Ho-Chunks are camped near Friendship.

- The hops boom begins in central Wisconsin.
- So many wild cherries, blueberries and other fruits grow along the stage line from Grand Rapids to Friendship, via Rome and Strong's Prairie, that it is called "The Huckleberry Line."
- The St. Louis and Wisconsin Lumber Company is incorporated and builds a sawmill on the Wisconsin in the Town of Rome.

**Railroad Talk:** A new federal land grant will--it is hoped-- finance railroad construction from Portage to Stevens Point, via Adams County.

1866

- Solon Pierce publishes his *Battle Fields and Camp Fires of the Thirty-Eighth*; the Civil War memoir is the first book published by an Adams County author.
- Civil War veteran Thomas B. Marsden, Friendship, is elected to the state assembly.
- The Town of Adams issues saloon licenses and the first legal taverns open in Friendship.
- The county supervisors take up a collection among themselves to purchase a table, desk and stove for the county judge.

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*Below: The Munroe family, early settlers "on the Roche-a-Cree."*







*Above: Already standing in 1870, the stone house in Easton was a county landmark until it was demolished in the 1980s.*

- William Goodhue of the Barnum Lumber Company takes over operations at the new sawmill in Rome; a \$28,000 steam engine is hauled cross country from the railhead in New Lisbon and across the river to power the mill; a company town grows up nearby and takes the name of "Barnum."
- **Bad News:** Henry Warp, Strong's Prairie, is severely beaten by a gang

*Below: The West side school, which still stands on County J west of County N.*



of neighbors who "were celebrating Christmas by steeping themselves in whiskey;" Warp later dies from his injuries.

1867

- The Friendship Congregational Church is organized.
- The price of hops peaks at 70¢ a pound.
- Naturalist John Muir visits the Dells in Adams County.
- The county has a total of 17 schools and a school tax of \$1,027.89.
- "The young folks had a very nice time at the courthouse on Christmas Eve...the Christmas tree was arranged with excellent taste and a profusion of toys...." reports the *Adams County Press*.

**Bad News:** William Lake, is convicted of arson for burning the schoolhouse in District #3, Town of Leola.

1868

- The hops boom goes bust as prices fall to 5¢.
- The County Seat Building Company then transfers ownership of the court house for "as long as [it] shall be used for county purposes."
- The interior of the court house is repaired, replastered and repainted.
- High water and ice washes out about 50 feet of the dam at Arkdale.
- While grazing on Main Street, Friendship, the pet sheep belonging to Billy Quaw is kidnapped into a sleigh and carried out of town; Billy pursues the culprit and retrieves his sheep, thanking the thief for "taking his only pet out into the country for a ride."

1869

- James Hinman operates a grist mill in Springville, two miles northwest of Plainville at a place he calls New Winsor. There are seven grain mills in the county, along with Friendship, Arkdale, Olin, Leola, Easton, White Creek and Big Spring.
- Henry Roethe, Plainville, is elected to the state assembly.
- **Bad News:** After shooting down a man in the street, former Adams County clerk and attorney William D. Spain is lynched by an angry mob in Portage.
- **Bad News:** Adams farmer J. H. Rice, dies after his head is "cleft" by a hatchet wielded by his stepson.

1870

- Adams County population: 6,601
- About one mile down from Petenwell Rock, Isaac Olesen operates the "Norwegian Ferry" across the Wisconsin.
- The county board builds a stone building on the court house lawn as a fireproof office and record storage space for county officers.
- The supervisors also vote to allow church and community groups to use the county courtroom for meetings provided they furnish their own candles or oil for light and wood for heat.
- Among the groups using the court room are the Friendship Coronet Band, the Temperance Society and the Congregational Church.

1871

- Passenger pigeons by the million come to nest in virtually all of Adams County; hunters and trappers congregate and bag an estimated 1.6 million birds.
- The county board purchases 160 acres in the Town of Jackson for the county farm to house the elderly, orphans, the developmentally disabled and others unable to support themselves.
- 56,000 acres of state-owned land in Adams County are advertised for sale at 50¢ per acre.
- The Weed Lumber Company, Oshkosh, takes over the old Barnum sawmill in Rome; Weed builds a dam across the near channel of the Wisconsin to create a "boom" or holding area for logs.
- The Weed Company dam floods out William A. Harrison's grist mill upstream; Harrison then moves north to the banks of the 14 Mile Creek, builds another water-powered mill which becomes the nucleus of the village of New Rome.
- Railroad Talk:** The Madison and Portage Railroad Company will build a railroad from Portage to Friendship and Grand Rapids if Adams County will issue \$45,000 in bonds to fund construction.
- Bad News:** Fires sweep through the county: in April, while the wind blows a gale, the prairie south of Friendship is set ablaze; in October a fire up to four miles wide along the Duck Creek Marsh destroys 500 tons



of hay, valued at \$50,000 and "all the young timber for miles."

1872

- On December 28, Friendship records a temperature of -40.
- A new multi-grade Friendship school is built on what is now the east side of Superior Street at East First Street; the county has 62 schools with 2,558 students attending classes for at least five months a year.
- John and Rosalia Hodan, among the first Bohemian settlers of Adams County, purchase land on the eastern edge of Friendship and open a harness shop.
- The county clerk is authorized to spend no more than \$15 on a desk with pigeon holes for filing.
- Railroad Talk:** With no work done on the Madison and Portage Railroad, the county board recalls the bonds issued in 1871.

1873

- Friendship listings in the Wisconsin Business Directory include: James Harrison, physician; Harrison and Stowell, flour mill; John Hill, general store; Elias Banker and W.M. Wright, hotels; Pierce and Waterman, printers; Edward Pratt, blacksmith.
- The county board creates a Board of

*Above: The Barnum School in the Town of Rome; the site is now beneath the waters of Petenwell Lake.*

Immigration to encourage settlement.

- Charles A. Cady, Dell Prairie, is elected to the state assembly; he is re-elected in 1879.
- The Point Bluff ferry, named the Modocawando, is fitted with a steam engine and "Captain" Wood of Quincy takes it to Wisconsin Dells for the tourist trade; it is the first steam-powered boat for to carry visitors at the Dells.
- Bad News:** A windstorm on July 4 destroys property throughout the county and blows a chimney off the county courthouse.

*Below: The White Pine School, in the Town of Colburn.*



1874

- The federal government makes its final, futile attempt to remove the Ho-Chunk people from Wisconsin.
- Yellow Thunder, leader of Ho-Chunk resistance to removal, dies on his land in Sauk County.
- In New Haven, Congregationalists and Free Will Baptists join to build a church building on John Stowell's property in Big Spring.
- The Weed Lumber Company builds a water-powered lath and shingle mill at Barnum.

**Railroad Talk:** The Sheboygan and Fond du Lac Railroad may extend its line from Princeton to St. Paul; Friendship is on "an air line between the two points."

•**Bad News:** A "dolt" attempting to burn the old grass off his hay marsh ignites a fire that destroys nearly every fence in Big Flats and "20 miles of fencing" in Lincoln.

•**Bad News:** The Easton dam gives out; water washes away the foundations of the carding mill and carries away bridges at White Creek and other places downstream.

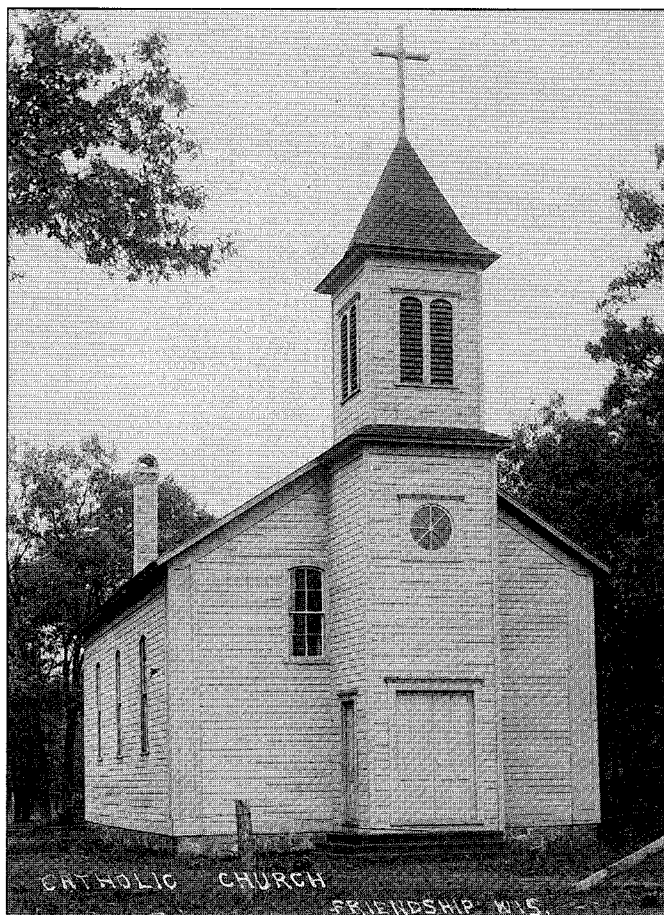
1875

- The first services are held in the newly-built Friendship Congregational church building.
- Danish settlers build a log church in Big Flats, the predecessor of Zion Lutheran.
- George M. Marshall, Big Spring, is elected to the state assembly.
- A cement floor is poured in the stone county office building, five years after the walls went up.
- Ice breaks the "boom" holding logs for milling at Barnum and many logs are lost downstream.

1876

- Railroad Talk:** The Wisconsin Central Railroad builds a depot at Liberty Bluff in the Marquette County Town of Springville, 16 miles east of Friendship; the highway from Friendship, later known as CTH J, is improved to handle increased traffic.
- In Big Flats, the first Niebull school is built of logs.

- With a new coat of paint the court house looks "as bright as the newly washed face of a pretty woman."
- Bad News:** After completing its largest cut, the Weed Lumber Mill at Barnum is destroyed by fire; both mill and the village surrounding it are abandoned.
- Bad News:** In a feud with his "Bohemian neighbor," Town of



*Above: The construction of St. Leo's Catholic Church, Friendship reflected the addition of immigrants from Central Europe to the county.*

Adams farmer John Lerch, a German, is punched, kicked, beaten with a club and shot with a pistol; his assailant is sentenced to two years of hard labor.

•**Bad News:** In Strong's Prairie, "Norwegian" Isaac Ruskard gets into a drunken brawl at a hop-house dance, is stabbed with a knife and dies.

1877

- Railroad Talk:** The Wisconsin Central Railroad begins service between Portage and Stevens Point

- Railroad Talk:** The Milwaukee Road Railroad reaches Necedah, which becomes a shipping point for Strong's Prairie farmers.
- The Pine Grove school opens in Dell Prairie on land donated by Irwin Berry.
- Bad News:** A fire set by an arsonist who may have been employed by her estranged husband destroys the barn

of Mrs. Almina Waterman, Big Flats.

1878

- The Town of White Creek is absorbed into the Towns of Easton and Quincy.
- Local farmers run the Big Spring cheese factory, using about 500 pounds of milk a day.
- Pitching was weak as the Barnum baseball team defeats the Spring Creek Nine, 29-20.
- The county clerk is authorized to purchase 35 cords of 18" wood to heat the county offices.

1879

- Women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony lectures at the Friendship Congregational Church.
- The county has 67 schools, with 2,585 potential students and pays \$8,653.03 in teachers salaries; male teachers average \$21.64 per month, females, \$18.
- The county board votes to

build a barn for the 12 cows, 4 yearlings, 6 calves, 2 horses, and 10 fat hogs at the county poor farm.

- The county pays a \$5 bounty each for 16 wolves and 2 "wild cats" killed in the county.

1880

- County population: 6,741
- The county board grants the Agricultural Society \$250 to fence off the fairgrounds in Friendship and erect an exhibition building to display county farm produce.
- In Dell Prairie, the Irwin Berry family starts welcoming tourists to their Cold Water Canyon Farm.
- Bad News:** The Wisconsin River floods, inflicting heavy damage at Barnum and washing out lowland



roads throughout the county: "a barn containing 6 head of cattle and 5 hogs, *all alive at the time*, swept down the river past Germantown and Quincy."

1881

- The county clerk is authorized to purchase 60 cords of wood to heat the county offices, up from 35 cords in 1878.

- Bad News:** The county is "visited by more destructive wind storms than were ever known to have occurred within its borders"; the tornado touches down in Strong's Prairie and damages the Mikkelsen, Holm, Bradason, Rosgaard, Lyse, Hanson and Ingersoll farms.

1882

- Necedah lumbermen finance the construction of a wooden toll bridge across the Wisconsin at Petenwell Rock.

- Fritz Witt purchases the grain mills at White Creek and Easton.

- Bad News:** "Timber thieves did a pretty lively business during this past winter. Cutting up fallen and dead timber on the land of non-residents has hitherto been winked at..." reads a news report, "but when it comes to cutting and sawing down valuable pine trees and hauling away the logs to be manufactured into fencing and building lumber, the matter becomes a little more serious."

1883

- Civil War veterans organize a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic named in honor of William Badgero at Friendship.

- Strong winds blow down part of the Wisconsin River bridge at Petenwell; the bridge is closed for four weeks.

- Railroad Talk:** The Chicago and North Western extends its line from Tomah to Necedah.

- Bad News:** While on his way to a lumber camp in Wood County, John L. Hesler is killed; the county board offers a \$500 reward for the recovery of his body.

1884

- Roman Catholics build St. Leo church in Friendship and St. Methodius in Lincoln near Pilot Knob.

- Civil War veteran John B. Keyes, Strong's Prairie, is named Adams

County judge; a post he will hold until retirement in 1916.

- GAR members gather at the court house on Washington's Birthday for an "old army supper of beans, black coffee and hard tack"; followed by a dance.

- The new state school law requires that children ages 7-15 attend school at least 12 weeks a year.

- The wooden superstructure of the Petenwell Bridge, now owned by the Town of Necedah, is replaced with iron.

1885

- Benjamin A. Banker, co-founder of the Coldwell-Banker Corporation, is born at Friendship.

- James Woodbury Perkins, New Chester, is elected to the state assembly; he is re-elected in 1887.

- Honor Gahan, Springville, is tried for stealing two pillow cases from neighbor Julia Connell; after deliberating for five minutes the jury finds Gahan not guilty.

- Bad News:** Cholera takes two children in Big Flats, while diphtheria claims one child in White Creek.

- Bad News:** Cyclones strike in Rome and at Big Spring where big winds move the Methodist Church ten inches off its foundation.

1886

- It is reported that, "Evergreens" planted on the courthouse lawn are "things of beauty and a joy to look at."

- The county has a total of 66 schools, 55 of them equipped with a dictionary and 28 with maps.

1887

- The Towns of Adams and Preston organize the county's first high school district and classes begin in one room of the grade school in Friendship.

- A windstorm carries away the eastern span of the Petenwell bridge.

- On January 7, thermometers at Friendship record a temperature of -54

- Bad News:** While the Bacon family of White Creek is attending church, a burglar breaks into the house and steals \$105 in gold, \$10 in paper, \$90 in silver and 200 pennies.

1888

- County school superintendent E.C.

Morse reports that only two towns in the county have purchased books for school libraries according to the terms of the new state library law.

- The newspaper reports that, "The entire criminal expenses of Adams County over the past year does not exceed the sum of \$300. It has not had a convict or any person in jail during the year."

- In Plainville on January 21, snow is about 33 inches "on the level" and a thermometer reads 52 below zero.

1889

- John H. Gunning, Friendship, is elected to the state assembly.

- Dr. Washington E. McGowan builds a home and medical office in Friendship.

- Bad News:** In New Chester fire does "immense damage" to crops and fencerows, "burning the surface black"; in Leola and Richfield "immense fires, for the past two weeks" have "largely burned over" the big marsh there.

1890

- County population: 6,889

- The Towns of Leola and Richfield petition the county board to take part of each and create the Town of "Ranch"; the board agrees but, instead of Ranch, calls the new town Colburn.

- Bad News:** After stealing a drill, chisel and adz from the Friendship cheese factory, burglars blow the iron safe in Hill's Store and make off with \$15 in silver coins.

1891

- The county board names a committee to create an exhibit depicting the natural resources of the county at the Chicago's World Fair scheduled for 1892.

- Railroad Talk:** The county board passes a resolution inviting any railroad to build in the county and offering public aid.

1892

- Bad News:** The Spring Creek area is beset with "a gang of sneak thieves" who steal butter, pork, hams, potatoes and laying hens.

- Bad News:** Fire destroys all the haying shanties, stables and hay in the Duck Creek Marsh.



1893

**"Railroad Talk:** The Chicago and North Western Railroad surveys a line through the county that runs to Friendship; a home building boom ensues, but no railroad construction.

- Arbor Day is celebrated in all the county schools and over 600 trees are planted.

- The county conducts its first "summer school" to "give teachers and those planning on teaching an opportunity to receive instruction in the higher branches and the branches in which they are weak."

- Residents of the Town of Rome petition the county to repair their roads since the town board will not.

1894

- The county supervisors vote "not to burden the taxpayers" by taking part in the planning for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of statehood in 1898.

**Bad News:** An outbreak of scarlet fever closes the Arkdale school.

**Bad News:** High water washes out forty feet of the mill dam in Friendship.

*Above: The Farmer's Union Store in Arkdale sold just about everything anyone would need in the 1900s.*

1895

- A meeting hall for the Grand Army of the Republic/Women's Relief Corps is built on Second and Raymond Streets in Friendship.

- Sophronius S. Landt, Friendship, is elected to the state assembly.

- The Peekaboo Saloon, Preston, is the only licensed drinking establishment in the county.

**Bad News:** A struggle involving a shotgun between James Polivka and John Frank, who had been drinking at the Peekaboo, results in the accidental death by shooting of Richfield youngster John Vachuta.

1896

- Since there is no bank in the county, Stroud's Bank in Kilbourn is designated as the official county depository.

- Located near a bridge made of poles, the Polebridge School opens in Leola.

**Bad News:** "An immense fire" burns

for several days in the Towns of Quincy and Adams.

1897

- Businessmen in the two villages organize the Kilbourn City and Friendship Telephone Company to build and maintain telephone and telegraph lines in and between the two communities.

- School superintendent John P. Lewis reports that he has yet to achieve his goal of seeing a U.S. flag, a state flag, a "world" flag, a globe and a dictionary in all county schools.

- **Bad News:** An outbreak of measles closes the school in Friendship for two weeks.

1898

- For the first time, the total equalized value of real and personal property in Adams County exceeds \$1 million; Strong's Prairie has the highest valuation, followed by the Town of Adams, which includes Friendship.

- The South Burr Oak Methodist Church organizes.

- Charged with embezzlement, former Adams county clerk Charles M.

Simons is found not guilty by a jury in Mauston.

1899

- The county clerk's office is connected to the Friendship telephone line and has been given permission to purchase a typewriter for \$175.
- Hugh McBride and Rose Nemetz, Quincy, are the first county couple to receive a marriage license under the terms of the new state law.
- The Jonesville Congregational Church, Jackson, is organized.
- Bad News:** Fire destroys the E. H. Thiele mill in Arkdale; in about thirty minutes all the machinery, the building and 1000 bushels of feed are lost; valued at \$6,000, the mill is "the most valuable property in the county."

1900

- County population: 9,141
- A new assessment raises the total equalized value of property in Adams County to \$2.45 million, an increase of 150% in two years; Strong's Prairie has the highest valuation, followed by Adams (with Friendship village) then New Haven.
- Adams County has 82 public schools, employs 127 teachers, has 2,671 students enrolled and spends \$18,569.07 on schools.

•A wood frame addition is built onto the stone office building to give the Register of Deeds and Treasurer more space.

•The Easton Dairy Product Association and the Leola Creamery Company are incorporated.

•**Railroad Talk:** Promoters sell stocks and bonds to build the "Princeton and Wisconsin River Railroad" through the county.

•**Bad News:** Burglars break into the county clerk's office and make off with the petition to the county board calling for county bonds to build the Princeton & Wisconsin River Railroad.

1901

•The county supervisors vote to allow George Reynolds to spend \$200 to construct a county exhibit for the state fair.

•Dells Resort Company Manager Nat Wetzel organizes an "Inter-County Fair" for farmers and tourists that is held on River Road just outside Kilbourn.

•The Star school is organized in the

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*Below: Showing off Adams County produce in front of the new bank which opened in Friendship in 1910.*

Towns of Adams and Lincoln.

•John A. Henry, Easton, is elected to the state assembly.

•The First Baptist Church of Leola is organized.

**Railroad Talk:** The circuit court rules that Adams County has not agreed to finance construction of the Princeton and Wisconsin River Railroad and is not liable for the loss of its petition.

**Railroad Talk:** The Princeton and Wisconsin River is "said to have secured" nearly all the right-of-way it needs to lay track across the county; the railroad completes some grading work near Friendship and plans to build a depot at what becomes the corner of Main and Airport Dr.

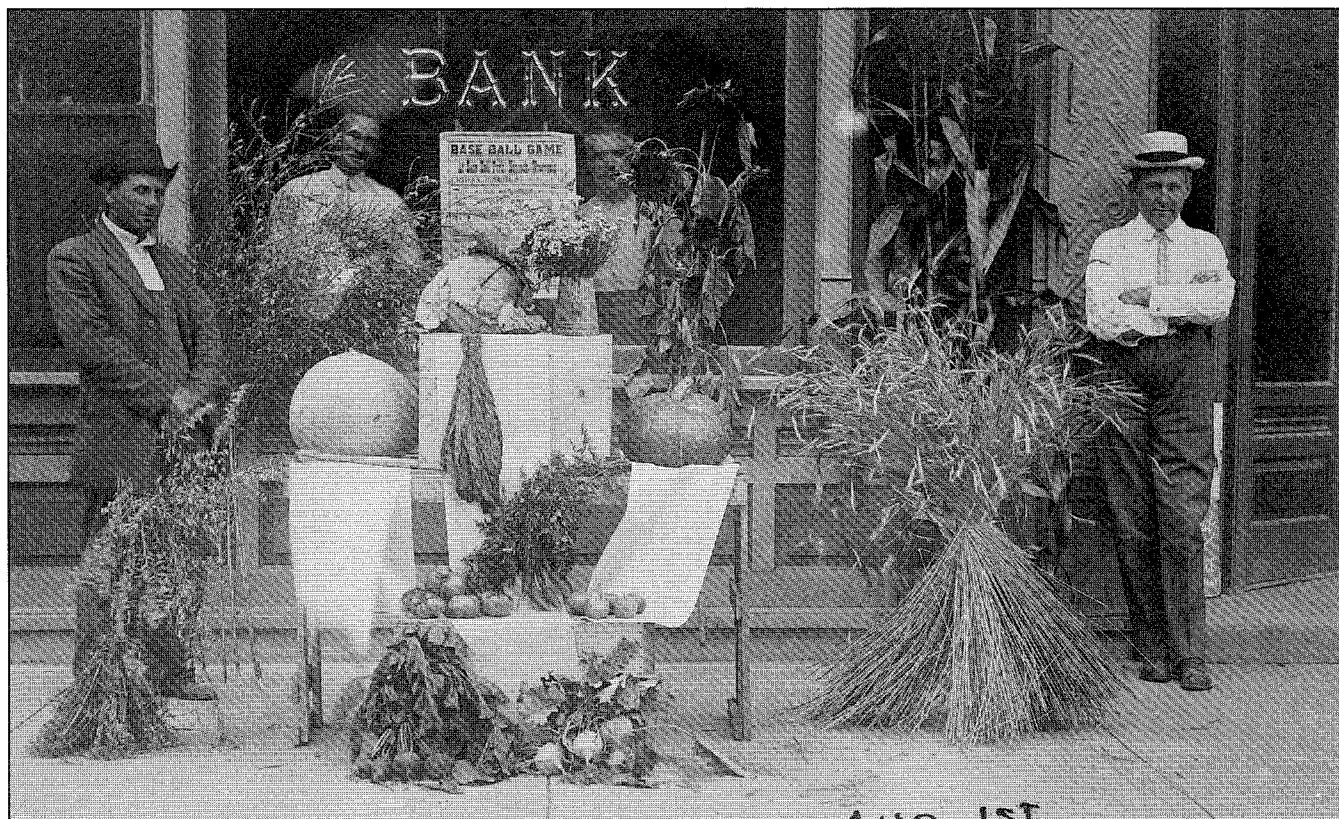
1902

•The county supervisors vote to share the cost of building a bridge over the Big Roche-A-Cri at Arkdale with Strong's Prairie and at Holliday Mills with Leola.

•St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church is organized in Big Flats.

•An addition doubles the size of the school in Friendship.

•**Bad News:** Burglars attempt to crack the safe in the office of Judge John B. Keyes, fail and flee when the Judge sends "a charge of buckshot" after them.





1903

- According to the new state law, births must be registered with town or village clerks for a fee of 75 cents.
- George Lee, William Henrickson and E. P. Husor incorporate the Arkdale Creamery Company.
- After already serving twenty years for the crime, Martin Fenner admits to shooting John L. Hesler after Hesler was slow to move a loaded wagon that had rolled onto Fenner's foot.
- **Railroad Talk:** The Town of Adams issues \$10,000 in bonds and the Town of Lincoln issues \$6,000 to purchase stock in the Princeton and Wisconsin River Railroad; bonds will be held in escrow until "the completion of said line...to the village of Friendship."
- **Bad News:** Eleven cases of small pox are reported in Big Flats.

1904

- In the presidential election, Adams County casts 1,399 votes for Republican Theodore Roosevelt, 273 for Democrat William Parker and 29 for Socialist Eugene Debs.
- The county board creates a Court House Committee to "secure plans, specifications and estimates" to build a new court house; costs are "not to exceed the sum of \$15,000."
- The Scandinavian Methodist Episcopal Church opens in Arkdale.
- The New Rome Community Church opens as an inter-denominational church.

1905

- The Court House Committee submits plans for a new court house; cost is \$15,000 and work should be completed in 1906; no action taken.

1906

- Three deer are killed in Quincy during the hunting season; "This we believe is the extent of the deer killed in this county this season."
- George Lee, Leonard Sullivan and H.C. Anderson incorporate the

- Arkdale Potato Company while William Olterdorf and others incorporate the Adams County Produce Co. in Arkdale.
- George Hesler, D. McChesney, Carl Moss, P. A. Cavanaugh and others incorporate the Grand Marsh Creamery.
- Forty young people from the county are attending the Wood County Normal School to train as teachers.
- Milwaukee businessmen incorporate the Wisconsin Town Lot Co., which will come to own extensive acreage in Adams.



*Above: In use until 1996, the wooden trestle crossing the tracks on Elk Ave between 4th and 5th was the last wooden bridge in the county.*

1907

- Albert F. Hill, G.W. Waterman, John W. Gunning, John W. Purves and William Sweet petition the county court to incorporate the village of Friendship; boundaries are surveyed, a census taken; residents vote 45 to 20 in favor; population of the new village: 308.
- The new village board purchases a small frame building, moves it to the court house grounds, installs a "steel cage" and creates the first "village lock-up."
- J.W. Gunning builds a fine two-story home at the south end of Main street across from the McGowan House.
- The county hires its first female office employee, stenographer Lois

- Hardy, who is to record the work of the court house building committee.
- The Agricultural Society celebrates its 50th year with a \$400 appropriation from the county.
- The main ditch of the Leola Drainage District transforms wetlands to farms.
- The Church of Christ, Big Flats, is organized.
- **Bad News:** Lightning strikes and ignites a fire that destroys the J.B. Hill home on the edge of Friendship.

1908

- Bohemian immigrants organize a local lodge of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.
- The Hilke family builds a new two-story store and hotel at Big Flats Corners.
- In compliance with state statutes the county board empowers the Highway Committee to lay out a system of highways eligible for state aid in the county.
- The Friendship village board passes an ordinance

closing all saloons at 10:30 PM, except on Saturday, when they may remain open until 11:00 PM.

- **Railroad Talk:** The Milwaukee Road Railroad is considering running a new rail line from Montello to Necedah, via Westfield and Friendship, if county taxpayers offer aid.
- **Railroad Talk:** if county taxpayers put up \$75,000 in bonds, the Western Transportation Company will build a railroad from Portage to Briggsville, Big Springs, Easton, Friendship and Wisconsin Rapids.
- **Railroad Talk:** if county taxpayers put up \$100,000 in bonds the Central Wisconsin Transit Company will build a railroad from Wisconsin Dells to Wisconsin Rapids via Easton, Friendship and Big Flats.

1909

- The Wisconsin Dells dam is completed and raises water levels upstream as much as 19 feet.

•St. Leo's Catholic parish, Friendship, is organized.

•**Railroad Talk:** The Chicago and North Western Railroad has begun survey work on a line from Camp Douglas to Princeton, which would cross the Wisconsin River near Hadlock in the Town of Quincy and cross Adams County "a short distance south" of Friendship.

•**Railroad Talk:** according to "Appletree" Barnes of Waupaca and Big Flats, the Chicago and Wisconsin Valley Railway Company will--if Adams County taxpayers put up \$100,000 in bonds--build an electrically-powered railroad from Wausau to Portage, via Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Big Flats, Friendship, Easton and Big Spring.

•**Bad News:** The Easton dam washes out; miller C. L. Colby suspects burrowing muskrats as the cause; the loss is severe since it is September, the peak of the milling season.

•**Bad News:** Fire in the drained marshes of Leola destroys the crops and burns deep into the peat.

1910

•County population: 8,604

•With \$10,000 in capital, Albert F. Hill, John W. Gunning and John W. Purves organize the

Friendship State Bank; it is the first bank organized in the county.

•**Railroad Talk:** With survey work underway, the directors of the Chicago and Wisconsin Valley Railway vote to build their line without Adams County bonds.

•**Railroad Talk:** In a hearing before the Railroad Commission, a spokesman for the Chicago & North Western declares that his company will build a "spur" from the new depot to be built "one mile" south of Friendship "into the village limits;" also a siding will be built in Strong's Prairie, "not over three miles from Arkdale."

•**Railroad Action:** With a surveying crew in Friendship, the North Western builds a 16 room boarding house on company land south of the village;

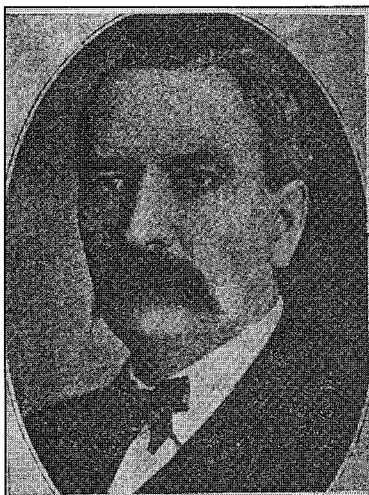
this boarding house is the first building in what will become Adams.

•**Bad News:** Fire destroys hundreds of acres in the Duck Creek and White Creek marshes, burning as far as Grand Marsh and Pleasant Prairie; fire also cuts a half-mile wide swath through Preston and Richfield.

•**Bad News:** Due to extreme drought conditions, the Agricultural Society cancels the county fair.

1911

•The county board votes in favor of authorizing a \$30,000 bond issue to



**Frank McConick**  
OWNER AND PROPRIETOR  
**Adams County Abstract Co.**  
Register of Deeds from 1889 to 1899  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
**Real Estate, Loans and Insurance**

Loans Judiciously Placed in Adams County are O. K. Twenty years experience and no foreclosures  
A new and Complete Set of Abstracts of Adams County. If you want Land or an examination of Title, give us a call. Our Prices are right.

**FRIENDSHIP, - - - WISCONSIN**

*Above: Ad for Frank McConick's real estate and financial services. Along with Theodore Werner, McConick was the first developer of the city of Adams.*

build a new court house.

•Construction work begins on the Bohemian lodge hall in Friendship.

•Veteran teacher Maybelle Douglass becomes county school superintendent; she is the first woman to hold a county office.

•George W. Bingham, Friendship, is elected to the state assembly; he will be re-elected in 1929.

•Nurseryman A. D. "Appletree" Barnes plants 500 apple trees along the road south of Big Flats Corners.

•St. John's Evangelical Lutheran

Church, Quincy, is organized.

•A meteorite, weighing 1.75 pounds, crashes through the roof of the William Gaffney barn in New Haven: scientists buy what is known as "the Kilbourn Meteorite" and distribute pieces to museums throughout the United States.

•**Railroad Action:** The Chicago and North Western Railroad finishes laying track across the county and builds a new bridge across the Wisconsin at Carmon Rock in Strong's Prairie; depots are built and new villages develop at "Brookings",

Grand Marsh, Adams and Holmsville;

Adams is no longer the only county in Wisconsin not to have a railroad.

•Rail service begins on December 11, 1911, with two freight and two passenger trains running to Wyeville and Milwaukee daily.

•Real estate men Theodore Werner and Frank McConick offer free lots on the main road between Friendship and the North Western depot to a bank, hotel, opera house, society hall or hospital; by mid-year they have sold 75 lots.

1912

•In a statewide referendum, Adams

County voters--all men--vote 708 to 635 in favor of amending the state constitution to recognize voting rights for women; the amendment fails to pass statewide.

•John Peterson, Carl Witt, Albert Straus, K.F. Priebe, James Peterson and Frank Kamrowski petition the county court to incorporate the village of Adams; boundaries are surveyed, notices posted, a census taken; residents vote 124 to 2 in favor; population of the new village: 326.

•The new village of Adams and the town of Adams organize Joint School District No. 10 and build a wood-frame grade school on Grove Street in Adams.

•With \$10,000 in capital, C.E. Babcock, G. H. Parham and Harry W.

Burney organize the Adams County State Bank.

- Trinity Congregational Church is organized in Adams.

"Charles Eaton organizes a company to publish a newspaper called the *Adams Herald*.

- The Grand Marsh post office moves about one mile west from the Patrick farm to the new village on the North Western line.

- The Arkdale Farmers Creamery Co. begins operations.

- The Friendship village board replaces the wooden sidewalks on Main Street with concrete walks.

- The county board votes in favor of working with the village of Friendship to improve the road running south to the railroad depot in Adams.

- Railroad Action:** Work is completed on the 24-stall roundhouse, coal chute, water tank and depot at the Adams railyards.

- Bad News:** The Atcherson Hotel, known as the oldest building in Friendship, is destroyed by fire.

- Bad News:** The weather is so cold early in January, that children in grades 1-4 at Friendship school are sent home because "it was unable to heat the room."

- Work begins on a new brick elementary and high school on West Fifth and Raymond Streets in Friendship.

1913

- County voters cast ballots in favor of building a new court house and work begins.

- The county court house committee sells the old wooden court house to the highest bidder, R. R. Roberts, Monroe, for \$415.50; he moves the building to the east side of Belfast Street, south of Fourth and remodels it for rental housing.

- The Grand Marsh Congregational Church holds its first services in the former Pleasant Prairie School.

- St. Ann's Catholic Church is organized in Brooks.

- The "Great Aviator" Floyd Barlow is sched-

uled to fly his Curtiss aeroplane at the county fair but cancels after an "accident involving a bluff," at Durand.

- Bad News:** High water on the Roche-A-Cri washes out Holliday's mill in Leola; the hotel nearby is destroyed by fire and the little village abandoned.

- Bad News:** Fire destroys three buildings on the west side of Main Street in Friendship.

1914

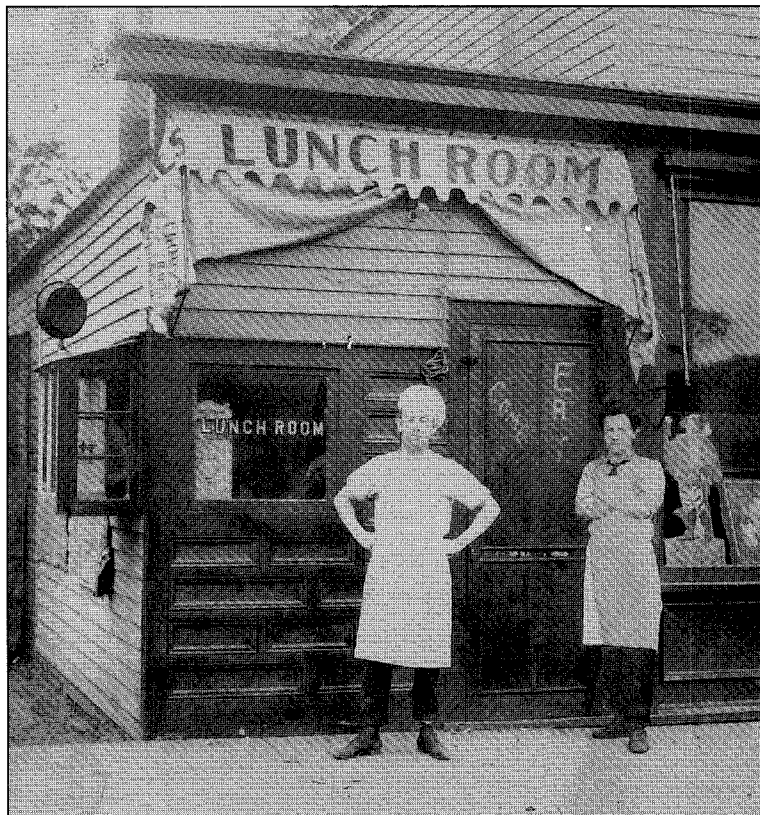
- World War I begins in Europe.

- Catholics build the first St. Joseph's church in Adams.

"Guy Willis takes over the *Adams Herald* and renames it the *Advertiser*.

- Adams businessmen organize the Adams Building Association to build a \$12,000 garage and showroom for a new Ford dealership on west Main between Center and Willow; in the course of construction, a second story is added for a meeting hall and the building becomes the "Adams Opera House."

*Below: Big and small businessmen came to take part in the Adams railroad boom. The lunch room stood at about 179 Main in Adams.*



- With \$10,000 in capital, nine area farmers and businessmen organize the Grand Marsh State Bank, Grand Marsh.

- The owners of automobiles in the county will be charged a registration fee with the money to be used for county roads.

- George Polivka purchases the "Friendship Power and Light Company," installs a hydroelectric generator on Friendship dam and begins delivering electricity to Friendship and Adams.

- The Beanery restaurant opens in Adams; in order to serve railroad workers, the county's first and only 24-hour restaurant.

1915

- The Holmsville/Dellwood Post Office opens.

- The McFarlin Brothers purchase and dismantle the county's stone building; the stone is later used to erect a stable/garage on the lot south of the Friendship mill.

- H. E. Cole, Baraboo, completes his survey of Indian mounds and reports more than 650 ancient earthworks in the county, including a rare buffalo mound in the Town of Rome.

- The Country Club, a local organization taking part in a national movement to improve life in rural areas,

sponsors a lecture by the University of Wisconsin's E. L. Luther, on the advantages of having a county agricultural agent.

- A new dam is built on the Big Roche-A-Cri at Arkdale.

- The Brooks Creamery begins operations.

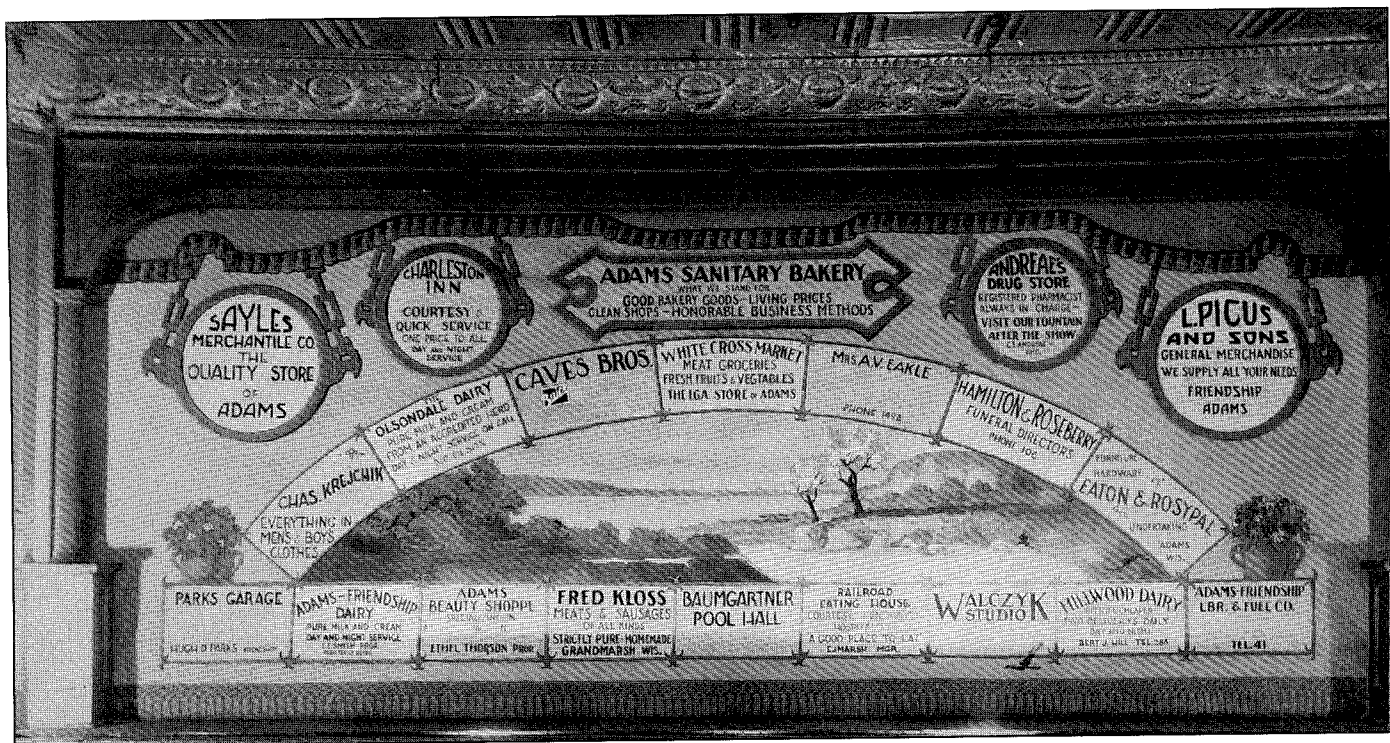
- Bad News:** A hard frost on September 4 nearly destroys the buckwheat crop and severely damages corn and potatoes.

- Bad News:** Fire destroys Foster's hardware, Colby's and Lumby's store and the post office in Grand Marsh.

1916

- Declaring that if "you want to get something good on the market you serve notice on the public that you have the goods,"





*Above: The curtain at the "Opera House" in Adams made a good directory of local businesses in the 1920s.*

county school superintendent Florence Billings, requests that the county purchase a mimeograph machine and publish a school newsletter; the board agrees.

- Chris Holm and four partners organize the Holmsville Produce Company to build a warehouse and buy and sell potatoes, cucumbers and other produce at "Holmsville" in Strong's Prairie
- The "Minnesota Special" passenger trains makes daily stops in Adams.
- Bad News:** The Adams school is closed for two weeks "on account of an epidemic of measles in April and for two weeks "on account of diphtheria" in November.
- Bad News:** Local Doctors Treadwell, Poppe and Beech consult with the state board of health on a case of "infantile paralysis" in Preston.

1917

- The U. S. enters World War I.
- Foreign-born "aliens" who have yet to state their intention to be citizens must register with the county clerk.
- Alan Galbraith, Friendship, is elected to the state assembly.
- Alice and Joseph Houghton purchase the *Adams Advertiser*.
- The county court house is connected to the Friendship Electric Light and Power Company.
- The county supervisors begin to set aside funds to rebuild the Wisconsin

River bridge at Petenwell.

- The Adams County State Bank moves to a new brick building with a "cement vault" at 149 S. Main, Adams.
- The railroad builds a 5,000 ton ice house at Adams, for which ice is to be cut from Friendship Lake.
- Bad News:** The old Friendship Hotel, on the corner of Second and Main is destroyed by fire; the building was moved to the village from Fordham in 1858.

1918

- World War I ends.
- The county has 86 schools, with 3,223 students, plus 6 male and 91 female teachers; school libraries have a total of 14,714 books.
- Due to the Spanish flu epidemic the Adams Village Board of Health orders all "schools, churches, Sunday schools, theaters, moving picture houses, saloons, billiard halls, other places of amusement and all public gatherings closed for an indefinite period of time."
- Telephones are installed in the offices of the county school superintendent, judge and district attorney.
- A state inspector issues tickets to 17

auto license violators in Adams and 3 in Friendship.

1919

- State and federal laws limiting the sale of alcoholic beverages go into effect; Prohibition begins.
- Catholics organize St. Joseph's parish, Adams.
- Three Lutheran congregations in Strong's Prairie combine to organize Trinity Lutheran Church, Arkdale.
- A new 560-foot long, "camelback" steel truss bridge across the Wisconsin is built at Petenwell Rock.
- Bad News:** William Wise, Adams, returns home at 4:00 AM, is mistaken for a burglar and shot to death by his wife, who keeps a pistol handy for self-protection.

1920

- County population: 9,287
- The number of farms in the county peaks at 1,557.
- At the primary in September, women vote for the first time in state and federal elections in Wisconsin.
- Ernest Ryall is hired as the county's first Extension Agricultural Agent; he helps organize Boys and Girls Clubs later known as 4-H.
- The state highway laid out from Friendship to Grand Rapids in 1913 is officially designated as State Trunk Highway 13.
- In Adams a three-story brick school



***Above:** The Washington Birthday's ice storm of February 22, 1922 wreaked havoc throughout central Wisconsin, including the Atcherson home on the corner of West and Lake in Friendship.*

building is built and residents conduct a book drive to establish a library of 500 books in the village school.

- The Adams Auto Company moves out of the Opera House to its new garage and showroom on Grove and Main Street.
- Village of Adams residents complain about poor service; the Friendship Power and Light Co. promises to make improvements in order to supply electricity 24 hours a day--and raise rates.
- Federal liquor law enforcement officers raid two moonshine stills with a "considerable quantity of unlawful booze" in Adams.

1921

- The county supervisors vote to hold two regular sessions, spring and fall, and select the first Traveling Library Board to oversee the movement of books from school to school.
- The Adams County Branch of the Wisconsin Humane Society is established with a \$25 appropriation for a "depository" for animals in Friendship.
- Trinity English Lutheran Church is organized, Adams.
- 65-year old Charles Elliott purchases the *Adams Advertiser*.
- The sheriff is authorized to hire an

undersheriff at \$100 a year and two deputies at \$50 each.

- Bearing a search warrant, Sheriff Hoard finds three buckets of moonshine, sugar and cornmeal on the Knight farm in Big Flats.

1922

- At the spring term of the county court, the county's first female jurors are selected; the first name drawn is that of Hattie Moshure, Quincy.
- J. B. Hill, J. W. Purves, Louis Picus, Charles Krejchek and G.F. Treadwell incorporate the Friendship Creamery Company.
- At Brooks the post office opens and the Brooks Community Club organizes a Boys and Girls Club with 14 members.
- Sheriff Hoard finds a 'still in operation on the Cusack farm in New Haven.
- The Adams Commercial Club erects welcome signs on Highway 13 just outside the village limits; the signs also direct motorists to the public campground on south Main Street.

- County treasurer John M. Graham bequeaths a portrait of Abraham Lincoln to be hung in the county courtroom upon his death.

•The county clerk is authorized to see that the lawn is fertilized with manure and to purchase a rug and six rest chairs, "rocking," for the "Ladies Rest Room" at the court house.

- North Western railroad workers strike; supporters hold a benefit dance in Adams.

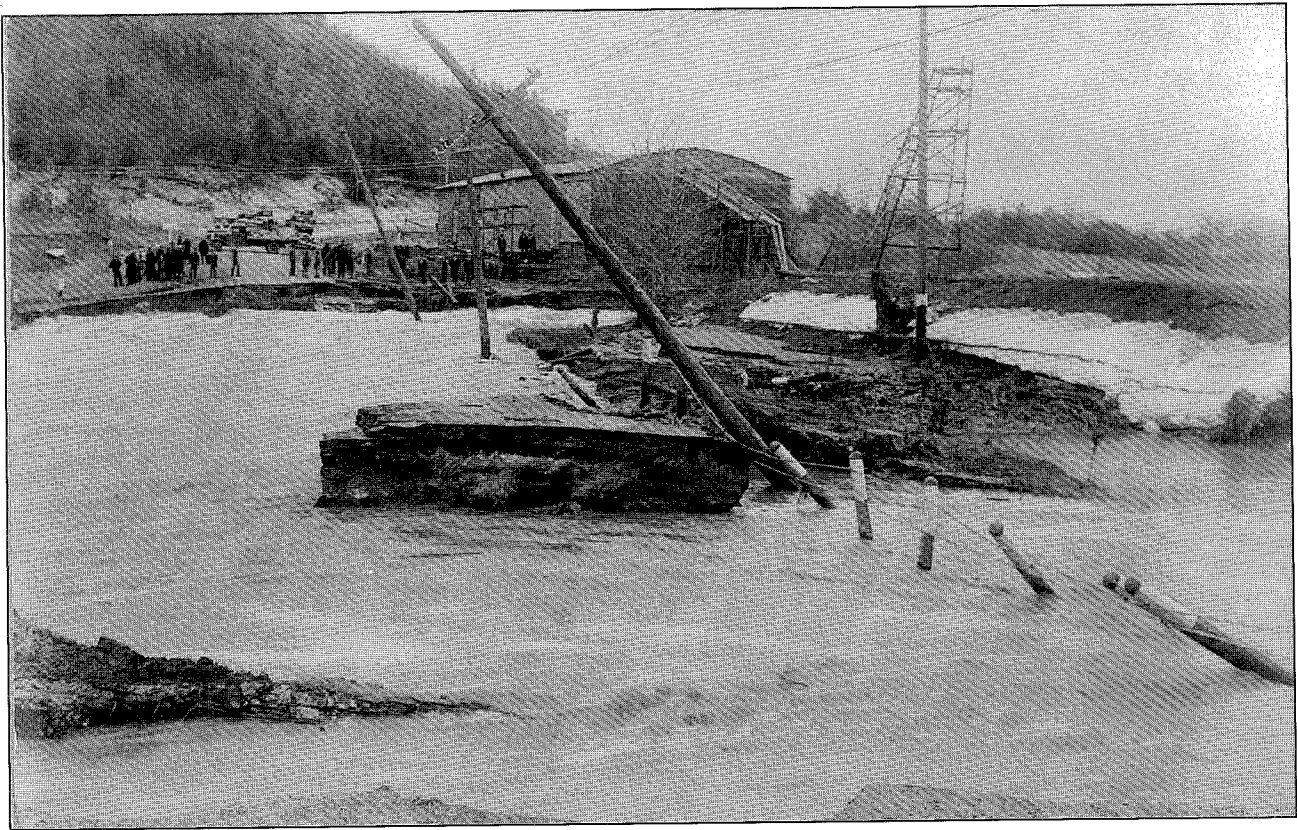
•**Bad News:** Soon after welcome signs are erected at the Adams village limits, vandals deface the one facing Friendship.

•**Bad News:** The Washington Birthday--2/22/22--sleet storm coats central Wisconsin with ice, destroys trees and knocks out phone and power lines.

1923

•Since they are often used for the sale of alcohol and other illegal activities, dance halls in rural areas are regulated by the county; churches, schools and PTAs may not sponsor dances; no one under age 16 is admitted and "all dances have to have sufficient lighting to uphold proper behavior."

•**Bad News:** Feeding on brush and trees felled by the 1922 ice storm, fires rage through the county.



*Above: The washout of the Friendship dike caused two fatalities in 1928.*

1924

- County offices will no longer be open on Saturday afternoons.
- The Progressive Business Men's Association of Adams is founded and commended for its efforts to promote Adams and Friendship.
- The name of the *Adams Herald* is changed to the *Adams Times*.
- Supervising Teacher Katherine McGowan runs a summer school for failing seventh grade students, with emphasis on history and geography.
- Sheriff Hoard and deputies raid moonshine stills in Lincoln and on the Huyck farm in Preston.
- George Polivka buys the water power site at Cottonville to develop it for hydro power.
- Volunteers in the village of Adams meet to organize a fire department; Clarence Martin is the fire chief.
- Bad News:** One fire damages the electric power plant in Friendship, another destroys the Masonic Temple.

1925

- County farmers test their cattle in order to eliminate tuberculosis.
- A bus line is inaugurated from Wisconsin Rapids to Adams-Friendship and Kilbourn.
- Robert W. Wood, Adams, is elected to the state assembly.
- Stating that it would be "very

expensive to the taxpayers" and "fight nature," the county board passes a resolution opposing a state law mandating snow removal from state and county roads.

- Since they are "detrimental to the welfare of the citizens," the county board passes a resolution banning public dances on Sunday.

1926

- The City of Adams is incorporated.
- Four stations are set up in the county to treat seed potatoes for scab and "black scurf."
- Chicago builder Simon P. Linehan subdivides 3,000 acres into city lots and develops the Dellwood on the Wisconsin River in Quincy.
- George Polivka sells the Friendship Electric Light and Power Co. to Wisconsin Power and Light.

1927

- Tablets are distributed in all county schools to prevent iodine deficiency.
- Ten schools organize Parent-Teacher Organizations: Arkdale, Brooks, Friendship, Hillcrest, Dawes, Ward, Badgerland, Pleasant View, Dellwood

and Monroe Center.

- The village of Friendship purchases right-of-way connecting the Adams road to Belfast Street in hopes that the state will relocate Highway 13 to run past the court house.
- Two men are arrested for selling illegal whiskey at a dance at the Dellwood Pavilion; and L. Garlock, manager of Ida's Restaurant in Adams is fined for possession.
- Bad News:** Cottonville teacher Irene Morley is the victim of highway robbery when her car is stopped by masked robbers who block Highway 13 south of Adams and relieve her of \$18 in cash.

1928

- The Adams-Friendship Free Union High School District is organized and a high school building is built on Main Street and Breevort Boulevard.
- Interscholastic high school sports begin when the A-F football team takes the field for three games.
- The state mandates that school districts must furnish transportation for all students residing more than one mile from a school; parents furnishing transportation are to be reimbursed at the rate of ten cents for one student, fifteen cents for two.
- With two owls, three groundhogs and one deer, residents start a "zoo"



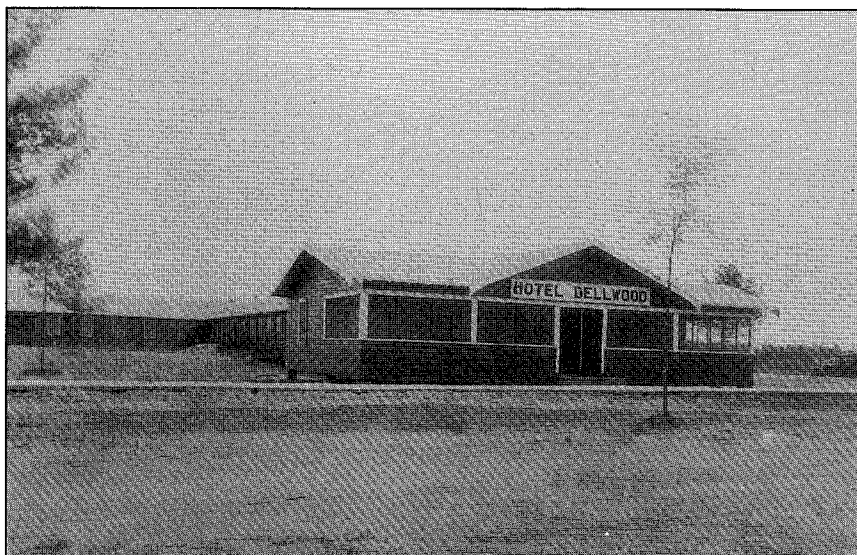


**Above:** The gateway to the Dellwood Subdivision, which offered riverfront lots for second-home buyers in the 1920s.

in the "Railroad Park" on Grove and Main Street in Adams.

- Businessmen organize the Commercial Club; officers are C.S. Andrae, C.H. Gilman, B.A. McBride, and R.B. Wood.
- A new 125-foot tall smokestack is built on the railroad power house in Adams.
- With state aid, Friendship builds a road connecting Belfast Street with State Highway 13 on the south edge of the village.

**Below:** The Dellwood Hotel, where prospective purchasers could stay while shopping for land.



**"Bad News:** Burglars break into the Bohemian Hall, Friendship, steal the dinnerware, a copper boiler and light bulbs.

**"Bad News:** High water washes out the Friendship dam and the bridge below; ignoring warnings to stop, Cecil Renner, William Brott and Henry Brott drive their car into the water, drowning both of the Brotts.

1929

- The collapse of the New York stock exchange signals the start of the Great Depression.
- Real estate tax delinquency is already a problem in Big Flats, Preston, Colburn, Leola, Monroe and Rome, where about 25% of taxes are unpaid.
- Adams county votes against repeal of prohibition, 777-698.
- The county has 156 children registered in 17 4-H Clubs.
- The C & NW donates an obsolete

wooden passenger car for use as the library of the city of Adams.

- Classes begin at the new Adams-Friendship High School and the first graduation ceremony is held.
- With an offer of financial support from the Juneau-Adams Bankers Association, the county board authorizes the Sheriff to hire as many as ten special duty deputies to serve without pay unless called to duty by the Sheriff.
- I.S. Jones is elected to his first term as county school superintendent.
- "Bad News:** "Some graceless scamp" steals light bulbs from the Adams community Christmas tree.

1930

- County Population: 8,003
- At his own expense County Board Chair R.B. Wood attends a special governor's conference on the economic depression.
- The C & NW Ladies Club sponsors a community Christmas tree in Railroad Park, Adams.
- The first basketball game is played in the new high school gym: A-F defeats Mauston, 27-10.
- Citing the amount of after hours business he conducts, the county board votes to install a telephone in the sheriff's house.
- Bad News:** Fire destroys the Picus Store building and severely damages neighboring buildings in Adams; built in 1912, the building was one of the first in Adams.

1931

- The average gross annual income of an Adams County farm is \$847, lower than all but a few northern counties; the real estate tax paid on an Adams County farm is 42 cents per acre, the lowest in the state.
- A football field is built on the east side of the high school.

1932

- 262 young people are enrolled in 25 4-H Clubs in the county.
- Baseball player Len Koenecke, Adams, begins his major league career with the New York Giants.
- Bad News:** Due to the economic depression, farm prices reach an all time low; the Red Cross distributes flour and other commodities in the county: telephones are removed from county offices, including the sheriff's;

county employees take a 10% pay cut; the county agent's position is terminated; the county will not pay to transport children to school who live closer than 2.5 miles; all people receiving public aid are not allowed to drive a car except to go to work.

1933

- Franklin Roosevelt is inaugurated and New Deal relief programs begin in the county.
- A winter drought creates near record-dry soil conditions throughout

• The county board authorizes the state to acquire rights of way, install telephone lines and build fire towers on Friendship, Quincy and Elephant Mounds.

• Hamilton Walrath, the county's last surviving veteran of the Civil War, dies at his home in White Creek.

**Bad News:** After being released by the Brooklyn Dodgers, Adams baseball player Len Koenecke charts a small airplane to fly home; he gets into a fight with the crew and is killed by the pilot.

• Adams County American Legion Post 250 is organized with C. W. Peters as first Post Commander

• The county's Czech-American community welcomes "one of the biggest ever" conventions of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association to Friendship.

• Edwin W. Bloomquist, Adams, is elected to the state assembly.

• The Adams County Board votes to purchase the county fairgrounds from the Fair Association for the sum of one dollar.



central Wisconsin.

• **Bad News:** The Red Cross flour distribution ends so the county board votes to distribute only flour grown and milled in Adams County; the flour is to contain three parts rye and one part wheat.

1934

- High winds combine with drought weather conditions to create severe soil erosion in central Wisconsin.
- The Chicago and North Western Railroad "400" high speed trains make their first Chicago-Twin Cities runs through Adams.
- The A-F High School football team has its first undefeated season.

*Above: Amy and Olive Dunn served customers at Dunn's store in White Creek in the 1930s.*

1935

• Six percent of the county's population, about 500 people, are on public welfare; it is one of the lowest county percentages in the state; the average monthly welfare payment is \$18 per person.

• The county board creates a Mediation Board between debtors and creditors to prevent foreclosure on property and a Pensions Department to administer the new federal social security program.

• **Bad News:** With 43 students ill, scarlet fever closes the Adams school.

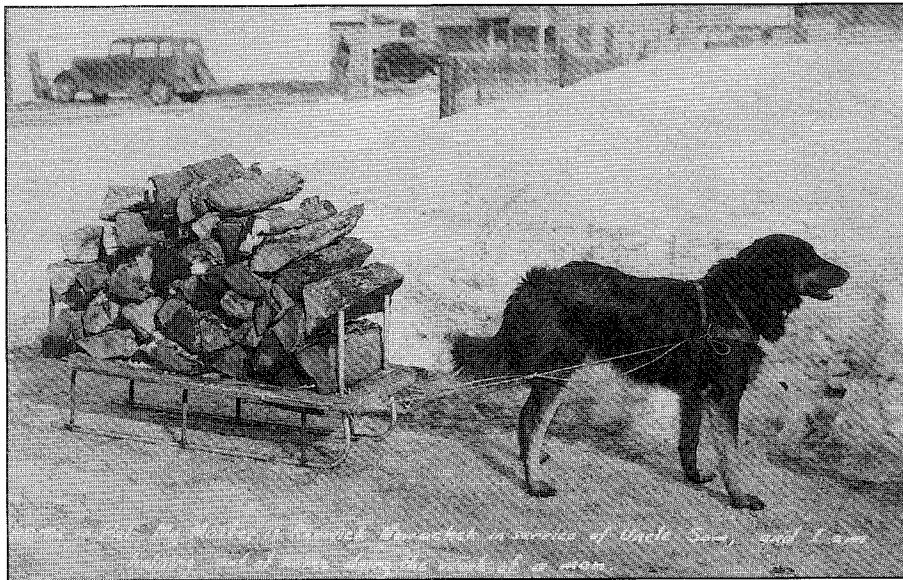
1936

• New Deal farm aid projects are in full swing in the county.

• With temperatures at record levels in July, the county is declared eligible for a special drought relief program.

• County farmers take part in the Central Wisconsin Shelterbelt Project and plant 98,000 trees, enough to plant a three-row windbreak from Friendship to Wisconsin Rapids.

• Hybrid corn is planted on four farms in the county; drought destroys two, but the county farm plot reports a hybrid corn yield 50% greater than



*Above: His name was "Pal" and he was mobilized for the war effort by the family of his "master," Renwick Nowacheck of Adams, who was "in service of Uncle Sam."*

that of traditional corn varieties.

- The county allots funds to register the graves of veterans buried in the county and to mark them with flags.
- The Old Settlers Club is founded in Adams; membership is restricted to those who lived in Adams prior to 1913.
- Schools in Leola are consolidated, with grades 1-4 at Polebridge and grades 5-8 at Rathermal.

1937

- Drs. Harry Shapiro and A.J. Harris build a brick hospital building in Adams with an air conditioned operating room.
- Funded by the County Teacher's Association and 4-H Clubs, the new 4-H Exhibit Building is completed.
- The county is surveyed for conservation tree planting and 86,000 pines are distributed to landowners.
- The city of Adams installs a municipal water and sewer system.
- The Adams Fire Department takes part in a national competition in Chicago.
- Ralph Kleinfelter purchases the *Adams County Times*.
- The state highway department acquires a 300-foot wide strip on each side of Highway 13 near Roche-A-Cri Rock as a roadside park.
- The state opens a three-day deer

hunting season in the county; the county board and private landowners respond by posting their lands.

- The locks are changed on the court house and keys issued only to designated parties as too many people are entering the building and taking free showers in the basement.

1938

- Congregational pastors petition the county board to close the county fair on Sundays; no action taken.
- Since they are damaging the grass, youngsters will no longer be allowed to play football on the court house lawn.
- The county sheriff department hires its first road officers.
- The Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Company purchases 2,000 acres of tax delinquent land in the county.
- With help from a \$200,000 federal loan, farmers in Adams and Marquette County organize the Adams-Marquette Electric Co-operative; the first "coordinator" is James Joyce of Briggsville.
- Bad News:** The Wisconsin River rises to record levels and floods farms in the Town of Quincy where some farmhouses are one-half mile away from dry land; high water threatens to wash out the Friendship dam and workers are sandbagging the dike near the bridge.

1939

- World War II begins in Europe.
- The C & NW introduces its first "steamlined" 400 trains but reduces its roundhouse operations at Adams,

cutting the work force here.

- Dr. G.V. Smeby opens his dental practice at Adams.
- The City of Wisconsin Dells, since most of the scenic part of the "World Famous Dells" is in Adams County, requests annexation to Adams County; the county board agrees and forwards the resolution to state officials.
- Everett Erickson, Bob Roseberry and Shirley Johnson purchase a Curtis Pusher and a Piper J-2 Cub which they fly off the "Strong's Prairie Airport."
- The county board purchases 80 acres southeast of Adams for the first County School and 4-H Club Forest.
- The county sends letters to tavern keepers asking them not to serve high school students.

1940

- County population: 8,449
- The Federal Food Stamp program is inaugurated in the county.
- The county board purchases the McChesney property on Patrick's Lake for a 4-H Camp.
- The East Easton and Easton schools are consolidated with grades 1-4 in Easton, grades 4-8 in East Easton.
- With Madison lakes too polluted for safety, the railroad contracts with the Ashworth Brothers to cut ice on Friendship Lake and haul it to the railyards in Madison.
- Ralph Klinefelter purchases the *Friendship Reporter* and merges it with the *Adams County Times*.
- Bad News:** With tens of thousands of National Guardsmen to take part in maneuvers at Camp McCoy this summer, federal police crackdown on "vice" in the area; a New Haven tavernkeeper and two women are arrested for keeping "a house of ill-fame."

1941

- With the railroad powerhouse no longer needed, the landmark smoke-stack is demolished.
- Merchants in the townships request that food stamps be distributed throughout the county, so all the purchases will not be made in Adams and Friendship.
- The Star, Pilot Knob, Diamond, Buckhorn and Spring Bluff schools are consolidated.
- The county now has 47 rural schools



and 29 elementary school districts; hot lunches are available, cooked and served by the teachers.

- After the Japanese attack American bases in the Pacific, the United States enters World War II.

1942

- Young men and women volunteer for military service; a scrap metal drive is conducted and Christmas boxes are sent to all men in service.
- Drs. B.P. and R.S. Ingersoll purchase the hospital and clinic in Adams.
- The county board votes to change the name of Cottonville Pond to Big Roche-A-Cri Lake.
- The county 4-H Camp Committee purchases closed country schools and moves them for use as dormitories at the 4-H Camp at Jordan Lake.
- Approximately 100 concerned citizens attend a meeting at the court house to discuss "juvenile delinquency"; they are assured by a state corrections official that the county is far below the state average in delinquencies, with only one boy committed to the Industrial School at Wales.
- Bad News:** Thieves vandalize the Graham, Big Spring, Badger Valley, Dell Prairie and Gibson schools and make off with radios, cash, stamps, pens and mechanical pencils.

1943

- A Honor Roll listing all county men in military service is erected on the courthouse lawn.
- The case of John Weinkauff, his wife and two daughters, Grand Marsh, attracts attention; struggling farmers,

the German immigrants refuse to register as "aliens," and are sentenced to federal prison.

- The state orders the county to erect a steel fire escape from the court room on the north side of the court house.
- The county highway department moves a building from a Civilian Conservation Commission camp near City Point for use at the fairgrounds.
- Responding to complaints about underage drinking, the city of Adams threatens to revoke tavern licenses and passes an ordinance requiring all taverns closed between 1:00AM and 1:00PM on Sundays.
- Bad News:** Thieves break into Al Bowers' Arkdale Roller Mills and steal ten bags of feed and some tools.

1944

- The Wisconsin Conservation Commission donates a building, installs toilets and a well at the 4-H Camp.
- The county purchases land south-east of Adams and plants 55,000 pines in a Memorial Forest for war veterans to be maintained by the American Legion Post.
- Shirley Young is named the county's first Extension Home Economist.
- Einar Jensen and a Conservation Department crew plant 100 "decorative" spruce and other trees on the court house lawn.

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*Below: A bevy of the babies he delivered over the years came to Patrick's Lake to honor Dr. Harry Frederick in 1943.*

- Bad News:** The county board offers a reward of \$50 for the arrest and conviction of the "persons or persons who willfully and maliciously damaged the honor roll on the court house yard."

1945

- World War ends.
- The Wisconsin Conservation Commission will purchase 3600 acres of land as a public hunting ground in the Town of Colburn.
- Plans are announced to develop Friendship Mound as a tourist attraction with a road built to the top.

1946

- Veterans organize the Adams-Friendship VFW Post.
- Residents collect clothes and other items to be shipped to war-devastated Europe.
- The Extension Home Agent becomes a full-time position and the county hires its first Veterans Service officer, B.A. McBride.
- Funded by Friendship and Adams, Ivan Janney and Elton Davis build a floating raft and diving tower at Friendship Beach.
- Bad News:** Three local teenagers are fined \$5.00 each for overturning the raft at Friendship Beach.

1947

- The county has twenty one-room schools, five state-graded schools and one city school system.
- Everett Erickson and Shirley Johnson open the Adams Theater and hire Al Davidson as projectionist.





- The Farmer's Union Cooperative, Adams, is organized; Matt Banovec is the first president; Martin Sheen, the first manager.

- Louis Romell, Adams, is elected to the state assembly; he is elected again in 1961.

- Bad News:** A shotgun-toting thief steals \$101 and two guns from the Gilbert Pease store on Highway 21 and Cty G.

- Bad News:** On one evening, thieves with a decided preference in autos steal three cars in Adams and Friendship--all Buicks.

1948

- The federal government proposes turning the Upper Dells property owned by the Crandall Family and other land in Dell Prairie and Springfield into a national park.

- The White Creek and Five Oaks school districts are consolidated, with

*Above: Starting with a contract to produce aluminum boats for the Navy during the Korean War, "Tex" Reddick's Regal Products was the first industrial plant to use the old Adams railroad yard..*

grades 1-4 at White Creek and 5-8 at Five Oaks.

- The Adams Volunteer Fire Department dedicates a new fire house in Adams and extends protection to Preston, Easton and Adams towns.

- The county board votes to build a

*Below: Conceived as part of a regional hydroelectric system in the 1930s, the Castle Rock Dam was completed in 1951. Along with the Petenwell, it has become equally valuable for recreation and development in the county.*

new grandstand at the fairgrounds on the condition that 50% of all grandstand receipts be used to pay the \$11,500 cost of construction.

- Bad News:** Using rocks and BB-guns "Kid Vandals" break twenty small panes of stained glass at Trinity Lutheran Church, Adams.

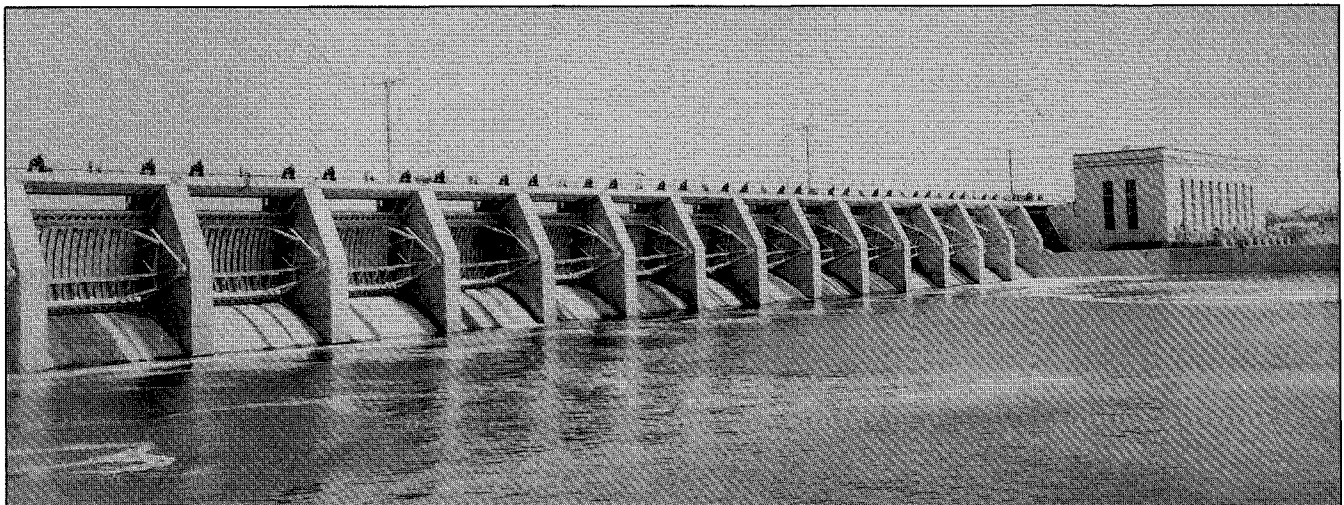
1949

- Citizens organize the Adams County Cooperative Hospital Association to raise funds to remodel and enlarge the hospital in Adams; officers are President I.S. Jones, Vice-President E. W. Bloomquist, Secretary-Treasurer E.A. Roseberry.

- The Adams County Memorial Field Committee is organized to build a lighted athletic field in honor of war veterans at the fairgrounds.

- Fran's "400 Restaurant" opens in Adams.

"The Petenwell Dam is completed



and the flowage begins to fill.

- Supervised by Harold Ashworth, a crew of 700 workers begins tree cutting on the Petenwell Flowage.
- The county board votes to install a short-wave system for the Sheriff's department at a cost of \$900.
- Bad News:** A. D. Fuller, director of the county Pension and Welfare Department, is hospitalized after being pushed down the basement stairs of the court house.

1950

- County population: 7,906
- Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud is awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in Korea.
- The Wisconsin Conservation Department purchases Roche-A-Cri Rock and 220 adjoining acres for a sum of \$3,500.
- The Castle Rock dam is completed

thieves who robbed the Clover Farm Store, the Steffen Army Goods Store and the Adams Variety Store.

- Bad News:** Seven year old Loren Roseberry, Friendship, succumbs to polio.

1951

- The Mitchell Red Cloud American Legion Post is dedicated; among those attending are Red Cloud's mother, Nellie, state senator Melvin Laird and U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy.
- With Mildred Solchenberger as first president, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary is organized at Adams.
- E. Tex Reddick's Regal Products begins manufacture of aluminum boats for the U.S. Navy in Adams.
- High school band director Sam Winch organizes a 66-member grade school band with students from 15

left; Arkdale, Monroe and Prairie View schools are consolidated; Twin Valley closes; schools in Springville, Jackson, Dell Prairie and New Haven merge into the Wisconsin Dells system.

- After raising no more than \$4,000, the Adams County Cooperative Hospital Association disbands and returns the money to donors.
- The county board appropriates \$75,000 to build a new jail and home for the sheriff and his family adjacent to the court house; county prisoners are held in the Sauk County jail at Baraboo.

**Bad News:** After a camper is stricken with polio while there, the county 4-H camp is temporarily closed.

1953

- The new county jail and sheriff's residence is open; the jail has separate



*Above: A congregation of Dr. George Treadwell's "children" gathered at the fairgrounds in his honor in 1952.*

and the powerhouse generates its first electricity.

- The A-F high school football team plays its first evening game under the lights at the county fairgrounds.
- A six-classroom plus gym/lunchroom addition is completed at Adams grade school; the old wooden school built in 1912 is sold to Regal Products and moved.
- Friendship improves the village beach with 12 truckloads of sand and a 200 foot long retaining wall.
- Citing the high cost of improving the restaurant to meet state health standards, owner Gertrude Nelson closes The Beanery restaurant in Adams.
- After a 90 MPH chase down Cty M, Sheriff Sam Stone apprehends two

county schools.

- The County Farm, buildings and land, sells for \$27,500.
- With tourism increasing warning signals are erected at the railroad crossing of Hwy Z in Dellwood.

1952

- With funding from the Chamber of Commerce and Donald Hollman, a cross and star are erected on the new sheriff's radio antenna atop Friendship Mound.
- School consolidation accelerates: the county has eleven one room schools

sections for men, women, and juvenile offenders, an office for the sheriff, plus a living room, kitchen and three bedrooms for the sheriff's family; Sheriff Russell Henningsen and his wife Vera will operate the two-way radio in exchange for rent and electricity.

- A gymnasium and stage is built at the Union Free High School in Adams.

"The De George multi-grade school opens in Richfield.

- The county supervisors create a park commission, hires the first dispatcher for the sheriff and establishes a county welfare department with Lloyd Anderson as the first director.
- A record 431 boys and girls are



enrolled in 4-H; Helen Jones attends the National Conference in Washington, D.C.

- The Chamber of Commerce starts to recruit a new doctor for the county.
- Responding to a county board search for a resident veterinarian, Dr. J. A. Hines sets up practice near Oxford to serve Adams and Marquette Counties.

1954

- Voters pass a referendum pledging the county to commit \$100,000 in tax money to match a federal grant to build a \$180,000 hospital in the county; the county board later votes against the appropriation, in part because no group exists to receive and manage the funds.
- The Adams County Memorial Hospital Association is incorporated with Leonard Picus as chair; four proposals for hospital funding are placed before the county board, all are defeated.
- Virgil Tobin purchases the *Adams County Times/Friendship Reporter*.
- Ivan Morrow begins his thirty years of service as the county 4-H and Youth Agent.
- The first classes are conducted at the Roche-A-Cri School; it is a grade 1-8 school formed by the consolidation of local schools in Monroe and Strong's Prairie; the first principal is Nina Preston.
- The school milk program begins in county schools.

1955

- Voters defeat a referendum to use county tax money to build a new hospital.
- The county board hires the county's first child welfare worker and appropriates \$5,000 to hire a county nurse.
- The city of Adams installs a short-wave radio in Police Chief Glen Manthey's patrol car.
- The Badger Beef Breeders sponsor the first of their auction sales at the new livestock barn at the county fairgrounds.
- The Adams County Industrial Development Committee is organized.
- The county park system begins when the county purchases the "old Hays farm" for a county park on Petenwell Lake and the "old Klein

farm" for a county park and swimming beach on Castle Rock Lake.

- The state highway bridge over the Wisconsin at Point Bluff is completed at a cost of \$2 million.
- 175 first and second grade students are the first local children to receive the new Salk polio vaccine.
- Martin Hansen, Adams depot agent for 42 years, retires; he is succeeded by Arthur Keach.

1956

- Dr. B.P. Ingersoll offers to sell his hospital in Adams and volunteers revive the Memorial Hospital



*Above: The thermometer rose along with contributions to the Adams County Memorial Hospital fund in the 1950s. The sign itself was made by Archie Davis, whose work would be a familiar sight in the county for four decades.*

Association; George and Mary Polivka offer land along the Roche-A-Cri in Friendship as a site for a new hospital building.

- Additional classrooms and a band-room are built at the Adams school.
- The county board authorizes that Sheriff Frank Serles "be on 24 hour duty and will provide 24 hour service;" with dial phones now in use

throughout the county, all police and fire calls will go to the sheriff or his wife, Lillian, who will contact the local fire department; since Frank and Lil will be on phone duty 24-hours-a-day, Serles receives a raise in pay from \$201.66 to \$326.66 per month.

1957

- The Adams County Memorial Hospital Association votes to build a new \$185,000 hospital on the Polivka site; a 15-member board is elected; officers are President Robert Roseberry, Vice-President Leonard Picus, Secretary Irene Hardin, Treasurer Harold Ashworth.
- Dr. Arthur Weihe purchases the Ingersoll facility and begins to practice medicine in Adams County.
- Fund-raising to match a 40% federal grant for the hospital begins, with 612 individuals joining the "Century Club" by donating \$100 each.
- Friendship celebrates its centennial with a festival and a parade; proceeds from the event are donated to the new county hospital.
- The state reroutes the "scenic part" of Highway 13 and it becomes River Road in Dell Prairie.

**"Bad News:** The murders committed by Ed Gein, Plainfield, are discovered; Sheriff Serles interviews Gein in connection with unsolved Adams county murders.

**"Bad News:** Fire destroys 2,500 acres of trees, on Nekoosa-Edwards land in Monroe and Rome.

1958

- The Adams County Hospital Association accepts bids on a 25-bed hospital costing \$280,000, with \$168,000 to be raised locally; construction begins on the new hospital.
- The county board passes a resolution asking the state to build a new bridge at Petenwell Rock with Frank Lloyd Wright as the architect.
- The Wisconsin River Power Company installs a "tube" beneath Highway Z to allow boats to enter Castle Rock Lake from Hap Day's Landing on Klein Creek.
- Succeeding her husband Frank, who cannot run again, Lil Serles is elected Sheriff of Adams County; she is the first woman to hold the position.
- "Bad News:** A 16-year-old boy dies after falling while trying to descend the south face of Roche-A-Cri Rock.

1959

- The new Adams County Memorial Hospital opens; in addition to improved health care, the hospital creates 25 full time and 8 part time jobs with a total monthly payroll of \$5,000.
- The Cole and Crogan Red Owl supermarket opens in Adams.
- The state builds a new bridge across the Wisconsin at Petenwell Rock.
- The Town of Rome schools are closed and students attend the consolidated Nekoosa system.
- A total of 943 acres of farmland in the county is irrigated.
- Thirty union employees at Nor-Land boats strike for an increase in pay from \$1.30 to \$1.60 an hour.
- Bad News:** An explosion and fire damages the building and injures two employees at the Nor-Land fiberglass boat factory in Adams.
- Bad News:** A two-day March storm dumps 20 inches of snow and "paralyzes" everything in the county.
- Bad News:** Fire ravages 1,200 acres in the Town of Adams, including the 4-H and American Legion Memorial Forests where an estimated 100,000 pines are lost.

1960

- County population: 7,566
- The old railroad roundhouse is demolished.
- Dr. Martin Janssen begins his practice of medicine in the county.
- Bad News:** In one week in May nearly five inches of precipitation in rain and snow closes roads in Quincy and washes out bridges in Preston.
- Bad News:** Burglars steal \$53 in cash, butter and cheese from the Adams County Dairy Cooperative on Hwy J west of Friendship.

1961

- The Pine land school opens.
- Gordon Sardeson is named administrator of the Adams -Friendship school district.
- Bad News:** A stolen Mercedes-Benz sports car, with Illinois plates is discovered in five feet of water off the east side of the Hwy 82 bridge.
- Bad News:** County officers take part in a three-day, five county, manhunt

after two police men are slain in Lake Delton.

1962

- Legion Field, the Adams County Airport, built on land ravaged by fire in 1959, is dedicated with an air show.
- The Langer Hardware Store building on Third and Main, is demolished to build a new Friendship post office.
- In Adams, August Walczyk sells his photo studio and the former Eaton and Rosypal funeral home is demolished to make way for the new Adams County Bank building.
- Lucille and Marvin Morgenstern purchase the *Times/Reporter*.
- 125 railroad workers in Adams go on strike.
- Bad News:** Fire destroys "the biggest building in the county"-- William Suhr's 32,000 square foot chicken barn in Rome.



*Above: Judge Fulton Collipp swearing in Lillian Serles as Sheriff and Pat Jorgenseon as County Clerk in 1959.*

1963

- County employees organize unions.
- The C & NW discontinues passenger service to Adams.
- Bad News:** Fire inflicts \$50,000 in damage to Gary's Hide-A-Way Restaurant on Lake Petenwell in Monroe.

1964

- After hearing an address by Dr. Arthur Weihe, the county board authorizes the construction of a nursing home wing at the hospital.
- With labor donated by teachers and parents, plus a \$500 grant from the county, the Niebull School is restored and moved onto a new foundation at the fairgrounds.
- Bad News:** A tornado whips

through the county from Point Bluff to Grand Marsh, destroying trees, powerlines and buildings.

- Bad News:** A fire on cutover land southwest of Adams threatens the city but is brought under control after burning about 80 acres.

1965

- With consolidation of country schools complete, the office of County Superintendent of Schools is abolished.
- Alex Richter begins his long career as county agricultural agent.
- Bad News:** Sounding "like a sonic boom" the Arkdale dam washes out; the lake is completely drained in about three hours.

1966

- Assembly candidate Tommy Thompson asks the county board for its endorsement in his race to fill the seat of retiring assemblyman Louis Romell.
- The county welfare department takes part in the new federal food stamp program.
- With Clara Kirkwood as director, the Community Action Program begins to supervise Head Start, Neighborhood Youth Corps and other federal programs in the county.

- County 4-H clubs stop using the Camp at Patrick's Lake.
- Wisconsin Gas Company begins work on a pipeline through the county.
- Farm Progress Days bring hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of visitors to the site in New Chester.
- Bad News:** Fire destroys the North Western Railroad depot in Adams; with the railroad reducing service, it is not rebuilt.

1967

- Responding to changes in the state law, Roseberry's gives up its ambulance service.
- With the hospital and doctors building the new Roche-A-Cri Clinic, the county purchases Dr. Weihe's Clinic in Adams for use as a social services office building.
- Air-conditioning is installed at the county courthouse.
- The Chicago Pickle Company leases the former 4-H camp to house its

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