

City History 1928

Waupaca County Post
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WM. BENDIXEN RECITES EARLY CITY HISTORY
SUCH LETTERS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED
LET OTHERS FURNISH HISTORICAL FACTS

The following letter from William Bendixen, an early Waupaca settler, is most welcome since it not only corrects an error in our account of the erection of the old tannery but it cites several other very interesting facts on Waupaca's early history. We trust others may favor us with early historical facts relating to any point in Waupaca county.

While Mr. Bendixen indicated that his letter was personal, it contains so many facts that are so well stated that we hope he will forgive us for making his letter public. – (Editor's note)

The Bendixen Letter

Green Bay, Wis., Feb. 25, 1928

Mr. D.F. Burnham
Waupaca, Wis.

Dear Sir:

I am quite interested in reading your account of the old landmarks, but if I am not greatly mistaken the Old Tannery building is not the second oldest. If I am not badly mistaken the original building was destroyed by fire about New Year's time, 1871, at the same time as the old frame grist mill on the other side of the street, but there are three other buildings on Water street that are old landmarks. One is the old cooper shop just north of the city hall which was built by the late Peter Mortensen about 1868-1870, and occupied by him as a cooper shop in front and residence in the rear for a number of years.

Another is the building now occupied as the Riverside Hotel. I don't know who built it but in the early seventies it was used as a tailor shop, by a man by the name of Remington, I think, and later on by the late C. Larsen, also as a tailor shop. And last but not least the building at the west end of the Water street bridge, which originally built and used as a court house until 1882 when the present court house was built and it was bought by the Dane's Home Society and moved to the corner of Main and Granite streets and used as a gathering place of the members of the society until 1894 when it was sold to M.F. Petersen, who moved it to its present location.

One or two of the houses that Silas Miller built are in existence. One forms a part of the house east of the former Danish M.E. church on Mill street and the other built just east of it was moved to a lot on Waupaca street about opposite the E.C. Williams residence.

The Richard Lea block, the Stetson block now occupied by Cristy's store, the Daniel Rice block (part of the Fair Store) were all built before the present tannery building.

With best regards, I am,

Yours truly,

W.J. BENDIXEN