

Hudson Reminisce 1930

Waupaca County Post
June 5, 1930

Ripley Hudson Visits This City
Came To Waupaca Village In 1865
Cites many Interesting Facts of Early Days Here

Ripley Hudson and his brother, David Hudson, of Green Bay, were in Waupaca on Memorial day.

The former remained over until Monday and called on several of his old acquaintances. In an interview with the senior editor of the County Post, Mr. Hudson revealed the fact that he first came to Waupaca village via Gills Landing through Weyauwega by stage, in 1865. On the site of Delavan Hotel stood a frame building and the hotel keeper was named Smith. H. Nordvi, for whom Mr. Hudson was to work, occupied a frame building near the spot where the Candy Kitchen now is located.

Only One Brick Store Building

The only brick store in the village stood on the corner now occupied by Old National bank and was owned by R.R. Roberts, father of the late Major R.N. Roberts.

Other village merchants were Richard Lea, Stetson Brothers (Henry and Austin), Beadleston Brothers (Hiram and Henry), and David Parish. "Those were a fine lot of merchants," Mr. Hudson paused to remark.

The courtyard square was over-grown with hazel brush and the white-painted courthouse stood in the center. All around the square, the farmers then parked their wagons or sleds and tied their oxen alongside to eat the hay or cornstalks that was brought along for them.

The First Team and Carriage

"Yes, farmers came to town driving their oxen from "way north of Iola and from Nelsonville and Amherst on the west," Mr. Hudson went on. "Why, the first team of horses that I remember seeing hitched to a carriage was a team belonging to Mr. Beardmore from west of town." (Mr. Hudson did not say whether it was Frank or Thomas Beardmore, The two lived on neighboring farms west of the present John Erickson farm.)

After many years' service in the employ of H. Nordvi, Mr. Hudson in company with the late E.B. Jeffers opened a dry goods store in the building now occupied by Pioneer Hardware. The firm of Jeffers and Hudson later sold out to J.A. Versen, who later closed out the stock of merchandise and removed from the city.