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SWAN LAKE TOWN SITES.

BY A. J. T.

The platting of "Oakwood Park" on the northerly side of Swan Lake, near its easterly end, by H. E. Purdy, which has been referred to previously in the columns of the Register, recalls the fact that nearly sixty years ago there were some people who saw the little lake and appreciating its beauties and advantageous location proceeded to take time by the forelock and laid out several town sites of magnificent proportions and much pretensions on its shores, so much so that a suspicion forces itself that the proprietors were banking upon the gullibility of eastern capitalists more than they were upon the immediate prospects of a thronging population for their embryo cities. Be that as it may, their town sites were all well located, and had much to commend them, only they were rather ahead of the procession. It is not probable that any very important villages, or cities, will soon be found on the banks of Swan Lake, but with the constantly increasing demand for summer homes for the families of wealthy people in the cities, Swan Lake is sure to come, at no distant day, into prominence, for its beauty and accessibility are sure to commend it to the public. So Mr. Purdy has builded wisely, we feel certain, in the preparations he is making for the accommodation of those who will be looking for just such a place for a summer home as Oakwood Park will offer.

For the information of the readers of the Register we have been at some pains to look up the location of the town sites platted years ago on Swan Lake. Even some of our "oldest inhabitants" will be surprised to know that there are plats of such towns as "Winnebago City" and "Wisconsinapolis" on file in the office of the Register of Deeds of this county, and that a plat of "Ida" is to be found in the rooms of the State Historical Society, although it does not appear in our county records. The location of these several towns will appear from the following

statement of their contents:

WINNEBAGO CITY.

This plat was executed by Larned B. Harkness, (attorney in fact for Everson P. Maynard), and was recorded in Brown county, October 24, 1836. The plat appears to be on lots 7, 8 and 9 of section 6, and 12 of section 5, town 12, range 10, on the south side of Swan Lake at its easterly end on Meyer's land. The volume of deeds, which was copied from the records of Brown county, shows a large number of conveyances of town lots, in this plat the late Simeon Mills, of Madison, being the purchaser of a considerable number. Some of the conveyances give lots in an "addition to Winnebago City," which shows that the plat was enlarged by an addition on the west, covering probably what is known as the "Wardle farm," but there is no plat on file showing precisely where it was situated. There are public squares on the plat, and all that was needed was a few inhabitants, but if the village was ever occupied by anybody I never heard of it. The streets running north and south complimented the noted men of the nation and were named respectively: Clay, Johnson, Van Buren, Jackson, Adams, Madison, Monroe, Jefferson, Washington, Mineral, Wisconsin, Broadway, Cat Fish, Rock River, Market, North and New York, while those running east and west were Main, Milwaukee, Chicago, Winnebago, Henry, Warren, Green and High, and the name of one is illegible. I find no vacation of this plat.

WISCONSINAPOLIS.

This was the somewhat pretentious name given to a village plat on the north side of Swan Lake, which was executed by Lyman Foot, an army officer, and C. McDougall and was filed Jan. 3, 1837. The plat covered all of section 1, town 12, range 9, north of Swan Lake in Pacific and extended north to Stone Quarry Hill in section 36, town 13, range 9, in the town of Fort Winnebago, joining the "Military Reservation" on the west. A "Public Square" was laid out in about

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the middle of the plat 824 by 912 feet and another a little to the east of the small ponds close by the stone quarry which was 916 by 368 feet. The little lakes are designated "good water." The streets running east and west are numbered First, Second, etc., up to Twenty-First street, First street pointing on Fox river. The streets running north and south were named respectively: Portage, Catlin, Spring, Zard, Dodge, State, Patterson, Cutler, Frazer, Dade and Canal. Why this plat was suffered to lapse into obscurity without any attempt to "boom it" I don't know, for really the scheme was by no means a chimerical one and had many elements to commend it. I do not find that there were every any conveyances of lots in this town plat, or that it was ever formally vacated. The journals of the territorial legislature do show however that when the location of the territorial capital was under consideration in 1836, "Wisconsinapolis" received on one vote 6 of the 13 votes. This was probably more complimentary than in earnest, for "Wisconsin City," in the town of West Point received a like vote as did Portage, and a dozen other points were complimented in a like manner.

IDA.

No plat of this town site appears on the county records although one is to be found in the archives of the State Historical Society from which it appears that the plat was situated at the north side of Swan Lake, to the east of "Wisconsinapolis," probably on the identical spot where "Oakwood Park" is located.

Mr. C. C. Britt informs me that he saw a stack of these plats at Garrett's auction store in Chicago about the year 1837. [Possibly the plats may have been those of one of the other villages on the lake.] There were delineated steamboats on the lakes, public squares, etc., and the location of the churches and other public buildings were all appropriately given. There was a canal running from the outlet of the lake to where Little Duck Creek parts from the main channel on section 22 in Pacific. I think there was a town site called "Baltimore City" laid out at that place.

Pauquette.

The territory now embraced within the limits of the village of Poynette, was originally platted as "Pauquette." The plat was executed March 18, 1837, and

filed April 7, by A. S. Hooe, and Wallis Rowan as proprietors. Ex-Gov. Doty filed at the same time an acknowledgment that he was proprietor of so much of the town as was situated on the west half of the south-east quarter and the south-west quarter of the south-east quarter of section 34, town 11, range 9. The plat covered one square mile and was divided by a north and south line in the center of the section line between sections 34 and 35.

The makers of the plat seemed to have been impressed with the belief that the name of their village should be supplemented with street nomenclature to correspond and, doubtless so inspired by Gov. Doty, who had a fondness for the aborigines, the following names were given to the streets.

Running east and west.—Seminole, Mohican, Chickasaw, Seneca, Saginaw, North Water, South Water, Kansas, Creek, Pottowattamie, Delaware, Beaver, Fox.

Running north and south.—Iowa, Pawnee, Kickapoo, Otoe, Winnebago, Ottawa, Osage, Shawnee, Cherokee, Chipewa, Menomonie, Main, Oneida, Stockbridge, Mohawk.

It does not appear that any lots ever were sold in this plat which seems to have fallen still born, although we cannot but regret that the name of the village and its streets, was not retained for the village of "Poynette" which was platted later.

A CORRECTION.

In chapter VI of my paper on the "early mapping of Columbia County" I referred to "Plover Portage" and stated that I did not know where its eastern terminus was but presumed that it was at or near Berlin, on the Fox river. I now learn it was on the Waupaca river, (formerly called the "Tomorrow River") at or near the present village of Amherst. T.