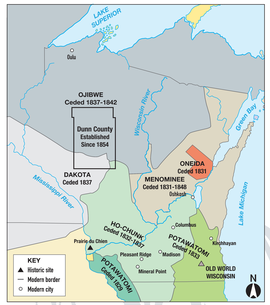
150 YEARS *of* WESTERN WISCONSIN HISTORY



Early Settlers

People have lived almost forever on the land that's now Dunn County. Clovis people lived here 11,000 years ago. Later, people of the Archaic Tradition lived here for thousands of years. Later yet, Woodland Indians and Oneota lived here, Ojibwe and Dakota Indians lived here for hundreds of years, and members of both nations still live here today.

1770 — **1780** — **1790** — **1800** — **1810** — **1820** — **1830** — **1840** — **1850** — **1860** — **1870** — **1880** — **1890** — **1900** — **1910** — **1920**

1763-1815 BRITISH CONTROL OVER GREAT LAKES FRENCH FUR TRADE

1815-1850 U.S. CONTROL OF GREAT LAKES FUR TRADE

1804-1850 TREATIES WITH WISCONSIN INDIAN NATIONS

1891-1908 Stout Manual Training Schools

1908-1955 The Stout Institute

1785 — French-Canadian fur trader and schoolmaster Jean Baptiste Perrault established fur post at mouth of Red Cedar River.

1781 — Traditional date of settlement at Prairie du Chien.

1787-1800 NORTHWEST TERRITORY

1787 — Wisconsin officially became part of the US Northwest Territory, but British fur traders effectively controlled the region until 1816.

1788 — Jean Baptiste Perrault established a trading post and fort on the Red Cedar River very near Menomonie.

1800 — Wisconsin included as part of Indiana Territory.

1800-1809 INDIANA TERRITORY

1802 — Fur posts at Fort Folle Avoine on Yellow River, Burnett Co.

1804 — William Henry Harrison's treaty with Indians at St. Louis. United States extinguished Indian title to lead region (a cause of Black Hawk War).

1809-1818 ILLINOIS TERRITORY

1809 — Wisconsin included in part of Illinois Territory.

1816 — The establishment of Fort Howard at Green Bay and Fort Shelby rebuilt at Prairie du Chien (renamed Fort Crawford) at Prairie du Chien opens the region to settlement.

Astor's American Fur Company began operations in Wisconsin.

1812-1815 — The war of 1812.

1814 — Fort Shelby built at Prairie du Chien. Captured by English and name changed to Fort McKay.

1815 — War with England concluded. Fort McKay abandoned by British.

1818 — Solomon Juneau bought trading post of Jacques Vieau at Milwaukee.

The territorial governor of Michigan created the first two Wisconsin counties, Brown and Crawford.

1818-1836 MICHIGAN TERRITORY

1822 — New York Indians (Oneida, Stockbridge, Munsee and Brothertown) moved to Wisconsin; First mining leases in southwest Wisconsin.

1826-1827 — Winnebago Indian War. Surrender of Chief Red Bird.

1825 — Indian Treaty established tribal boundaries.

1827 — Army officers selected Prescott site for settlement.

1832 — The Black Hawk War ended the last serious Indian threat to white settlements.

1833 — Land treaty with Indians cleared southern Wisconsin land titles. First newspaper, *Green Bay Intelligencer* published.

1836-1848 WISCONSIN TERRITORY

1836 — The creation of Wisconsin Territory. Jean Brunet builds dam and sawmill at Chippewa Falls. First session of legislature. Madison chosen as permanent capital.

1830 — First successful mill in Chippewa Valley at site of Menomonie; James Lockwood and family first settlers in Dunn Co. at the mill site.

1831 — Geographer Henry Schoolcraft canoed down Red Cedar.

1837 — Winnebago Indians ceded all claims to land in Wisconsin; John Fonda and family resided at Menomonie site.

1840 — Many foreigners arrived from Germany and New York.

1842 — Ojibwe land cessions

1845 — Chippewa Co. created from Crawford Co. seat: Dunnville (Samuel Lamb's tavern); Federal survey St. Croix Falls area. Eau Claire is settled.

Swiss colony came to New Glarus.

1846 — Knapp, Stout & Co. formed; settlement of Menomonie began with cabins of Capt. William Wilson, Lorenzo Bullard and others; Perry Curtis established first farm in Dunn Co. near Eau Galle; Simon & George Randall built dam and sawmill at Eau Claire.

1847 — Hudson settled. Wisconsin Census population 210,546.

1848 — Wisconsin became the 30th state Large scale German immigration began; St. Croix River adopted as western border; St. Croix Co. seat moved to Hudson; several Knapp and Stout employees settle in Barron Co. with families; James Huff Stout was born September 25, 1848, in Dubuque, Iowa, the son of Henry L. Stout, soon to be a founder (1853) of the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company lumber empire.

1849 — Prairie du Chien-Hudson & Portage- La Crosse roads helped settlement of west Wisconsin.

1850 — Settlers farming in Eau Claire Co., St. Croix Co. population 248; Population of Menomonie 150.

1854 — Dunn Co. created from Chippewa Co., seat: Dunnville; Chippewa Co. seat moved to Chippewa Falls; Four Ojibwe reservations created;

1855 — Demand for wheat soars due to Crimean War; Population of Dunn Co. 1,796; Paraclete (later Transcript) first newspaper. Logging and milling became important industries.

1856 — Eau Claire Co. created from Chippewa Co., seat: Eau Claire;

New York native Adin Randall platted the area from Grand Avenue south to the. Chippewa River in Eau Claire; built the Eau Claire House hotel, and was elected the first county treasurer.

1857 — St. Croix Co. courthouse built in Hudson; Hudson expanded to outstrip St. Paul; New Richmond platted by Henry Russell; Village of North Eau Claire laid out; *Eau Claire Free Press* founded; Panic of 1857; Federal land office established at Eau Claire.

1859 — Dallas Co. (later Barron Co.) created from Polk Co. seat: Village of Manhattan. Village of Menomonie platted.

1860 — St. Croix Co. population 5,394; Pepin Co. seat moved to Durand; *Dunn Co. Lumberman* founded.

1861 — Civil War broke out; Pierce Co. seat moved to Ellsworth; Dunn Co. seat moved to Menomone.

1862 — Homestead Act

1858 — Pepin County created from Dunn Col, seat: Pepin; Dunn Co. courthouse at Dunnville burns.

1853 — Pierce Co. formed, set: Prescott; Ferry licensed across St. Croix River at Prescott; Isaac Ingalls, Melvin Mills build first gristmill in Pepin Co. on Roaring Creek

1852 — Wisconsin Commissioner of Emigration, First Dunn Co. school at millsite in Menomonie First sawmill Pepin Co. at Arkansaw; First settlers in New Richmond.

1865 — 96,000 Wisconsin soldiers served in Civil War; losses were 12,216.

1864 — Railroad facilities in New Richmond.

1869 — Wisconsin was the fourth in national lumber production.

1870-71 — West Wisconsin Railroad reaches Eau Claire and Menomonie.

1870-80 — A shift from wheat to dairy farming.

1880 — First services held in the new First Congregational Church building on the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Wilson Avenue.

First hydroelectric plant, built by Knapp, Stout & Company on Wilson Creek.

Menomonie population is 2,589

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1882 — William Wilson, founder of the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company, became the first mayor of Menomonie; Menomonie was incorporated as a city.

1885 — City water works extended, 110 fire hydrants installed.

The Royal Hotel (Manor Hotel in later years) was built by Menomonie Hotel Company.

New Roman Catholic Church dedicated.

1886 — The Knapp-Stout lumber company moved its company headquarters to Menomonie.

1887 — A weekly German-language newspaper, the *Menomonie Nordstern* began publication.

1888 — The Standard Pressed Brick Company was organized; A temperance newspaper, the *Dunn County Herald*, began publication.

1889 — James H. Stout, son of Henry, came to join the Knapp, Stout and Co. Company in Menomonie.

The Louis Smith Tainter House was built, designed by architect Harvey Ellis.

Third Stout Manual Training School building was dedicated on April 9.

1890 — Designed by Harvey Ellis, the Mabel Tainter Memorial building opened.

Menomonie population is 5,491.

1891 — Wisconsin State Senator James Huff Stout, founded a manual training school, the first of several educational enterprises he launched in Menomonie.

1893 — James H. Stout built a new, larger Manual Training and Domestic Science building; Stout Constructs Manual Training Building, the second Stout Training School building opened. It costs James Stout about $50,000 was 10 times larger than the first one.

1896 — Fifty years of operation celebrated by the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company in a day-long event at the home of James H. Stout on August 12th and featured Native American lumber workers from Lac Courte Oreilles and their wives with tipi and canoe; The net worth of the Knapp-Stout lumber company was around $11 million, compared to the $2 million it was at when Stout entered the company.

1897 — A fire destroyed the second Stout Training School building and adjacent city school; construction begins in July on new building.

Knapp, Stout & Co. Company organized the Menomonie Electric Light and Power Company to provide electrical power and lights for city residents.

1898 — The third generation of James Stout's school completed. It was renamed Bowman Hall in 1952.

1900 — The State of Wisconsin population topped 2,333,000. The draw was in agricultural farming and work in the lumber industry. With the passage of The Homestead and the Agricultural-College Acts, the stage was set for the continued influx of thousands of new citizens into the State for years to come.

Stout opened kindergarten training school, the kindergarten teacher training students took such classes as child psychology, history of education, kindergarten theory, voice cultivation, and drawing.

Menomonie population is 5, 655.

1901 — After a continuous cutting of logs into lumber for 70 years, the lumber company of Knapp, Stout and Co. Company closed, the last raft being sent down the river on August 12; The Wisconsin Power Company and Submerged Electric Motor Co. acquired some of the company's facilities, the latter to house the world's first outboard motor factory.

1904 — In St.Louis, Stout Wins Grand prize at World's Fair.

1908 — These educational programs were combined into the Stout Institute, and still stand as the University of Wisconsin–Stout, the newly named Stout Institute had 199 students studying to become teachers, including 121 in domestic science, 41 in manual training, and 37 in kindergarten teacher training.

1910 — On Dec. 8, lumberman, businessman, politician, educator and philanthropist James Huff Stout died at his residence in Menomonie.

1920 — Menomonie population is 5,104.

1774 — Quebec Act made Wisconsin a part of Province of Quebec.

1783 — Following the Treaty of Paris, the United States took ownership of the Wisconsin Region.

1791 — Two free African Americans set up fur trading post among Menominee at present day Marinette.

TURNING POINTS IN WISCONSIN HISTORY

First Nations
- First Nations People
- Treaty
- Settlement

Economic Growth
- Agriculture
- Dairy Farming
- Logging
- Mining

Immigration & Settlement
- Immigration
- Railroads
- Steamships
- UW-Stout

Early Explorers, Traders & Settlers
- Colonialism
- Fur Trade
- War