AN APPRAISAL OF THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI REGION; ILLINOIS, MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA, IOWA, AND INDIANA; IN THE EARLY AND MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY

A Seminar Paper

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of

History and Social Sciences

Wisconsin State University-La Crosse, Wisconsin

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of History and Social Sciences

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by

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July, 1966

WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY-LA CROSSE

GRADUATE SCHOOL

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I recommend acceptance of this seminar paper to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of this candidates requirements for the degree of Master of Science. The candidate has completed his oral seminar report.

July 28, 1966
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August 2, 1966
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this research is to examine and determine the extent of cultural development in the Upper Mississippi Region in the Early and Mid-Nineteenth Century, approximately 1815--1865.

Culture is a word with many diverse meanings; as a result this author feels compelled to provide for the reader a specific definition of the word to be used as a frame of reference. Culture, for the purpose of this research, is defined as "an enlightened or refined condition obtained through education or training."

The topics under consideration in the research are churches and missions, educational institutions (sectarian and non-sectarian), and newspapers and printing offices. A brief resume' of the accomplishments in the area of the fine arts is also included. Information has been included which provides the reader with a certain amount of insight regarding the views concerning cultural development of travelers and settlers in the region during the period of study.

The author is aware that much more research can and should be done in this area of study to warrant the drawing of concrete conclusions. As a result, this

research should be viewed mainly as a survey of the research materials available in the local university library and not a completed study of the subject. In the words of Charles A. Beard, "The following pages are frankly fragmentary."

CHAPTER II

EARLY EVIDENCE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Before an exploration of culture in any region can be undertaken, it is necessary first to examine the background, sensitivities, and values of the people who are included in this general area of consideration.

Elias Ryan Fordham, an Englishman, traveled into the Upper Mississippi Region in 1817 and his observations on his journey prove to be most interesting. In Fordham's opinion the people of this Upper Mississippi Region were coarse, yet polite; hardworking and hard-drinking; proud of their democratic institutions and respecters of knowledge, harboring a universal spirit of inquiry.[1] In a letter to a friend, Fordham wrote, "P. S. Rough and democratic as these backwoodsmen are, they shew great respect to talent, to superior knowledge, to age and to wealth."[2] He also indicated that the people of the eastern part of the United States knew very little about the western region.[3]

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[1]Frederic Austin Ogg (ed.), Personal Narrative of Travels in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky; and of a Residence in the Illinois Territory: 1817-1818 (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1906), p. 129; [2]Ibid., p. 134. [3]Ibid., p. 131.

Fordham's comments on the accomplishments and attitudes of the individual in this early period indicate that he was an astute observer of events and the relevance of these events to the cultural development of the region.

> The shopkeeper sells a yard of tape, and sends shiploads of produce to Orleans; he travels 2,000 miles in a year; he is a good hunter, and has been a soldier; he dresses and talks as well as a London Merchant, and probably has a more extensive range of ideas; at least he has fewer prejudices.[4]

He went on to say, "the most ignorant, compared with men of the same standing in England are well informed."[5] It appears from Fordham's comments that he viewed the western scene as objectively as possible. He certainly did not have any reason to gloss over the facts, to encourage settlement in the region or to enhance his own position in society.

Morris Birkbeck, a countryman of Fordham, traveled into the Upper Mississippi Region during the same years as did Fordham and their accounts of their travels and their observations are complementary. In relating his travels in Indiana, Birkbeck stated,

> I have good authority for contradicting a supposition that I have met with in England, respecting the inhabitants of Indiana;--that they are lawless, semibarbarous vagabonds,

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[4] Ibid., p. 128.

[5] Ibid., p. 129.

> dangerous to live among. On the contrary, the laws are respected, and are effectual; and the manners of the people are kind and gentle, to each other and to strangers.[6]

Birkbeck commented further on the inhabitants of the Upper Mississippi Region.

> The bulk of the inhabitants of the vast wilderness may be fairly considered as of the class of the lowest English peasantry, or just emerging from it. But in their manners and morals, and especially in their knowledge and proud independence of mind, they exhibit a contrast so striking, that he must indeed be a petit maitre traveller, or ill-informed of the character and circumstances of his poor countrymen, or deficient in food and manly sentiments who would not rejoice to transplant, into these boundless regions of freedom, the millions whom he has left behind him, grovelling in ignorance and want.[7]

The greatest criticism Birkbeck had of these early settlers was their apparent lack of cleanliness. This he found revolting, he did say, however, that the inhabitants of Indiana seemed to be more particular regarding cleanliness of the person and dwelling than did the settlers in Ohio.[8] Avery Craven agreed with Birkbeck's observations of the Upper Mississippi Region in regard to social refinement and education and he further considered Birkbeck an intelligent and observing reporter of events of the period.

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[6]Morris Birkbeck, Notes On A Journey in America; From the Coast of Virginia To The Territory of Illinois (London: Severn & Redington, 1818), pp. 75-80.

[7]Ibid., pp. 85-86; [8]Ibid., p. 94, and Dixon Ryan Fox, Sources of Culture In the Middle West (New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1934), pp. 60-61.

It is necessary when considering the cultural development of a region in its formative years to bear in mind the primitive conditions encountered by the early settlers. In order for man to truly develop a culture he must have leisure time, but first, he must overcome the initial obstacle of subsistence. A man must have the finances, time, and desire to search for the refinements of life. The initial obstacles of subsistence then, were the first hurdles the early settlers of the Upper Mississippi had to overcome.[9]

What, then, were the first agents of civilization and culture in the region? Perhaps Craven was correct when he said that Johnny Appleseed or William Woodbridge were equally as important as agents of civilization as were the publishers of the first books, John Scull and John Bradford; or that the blacksmith and miller were more important than were the preacher and teacher as agents of civilization. It was difficult in the Midwest to separate and weigh the positive contribution of spiritual and material accomplishments where "a water system might evidence a cultural advancement."[10]

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[9] Ibid., p. 58.

[10] Ibid., p. 51.

The role which religion and churches played in the cultural development of the Upper Mississippi Region has been one of controversy. Hofstadter is very critical of the role of religion and its ministers in this region and feels that religion acted as a brake, rather than an accelerator on cultural development.[11] The evidence uncovered during the course of this research seems to indicate that the opposite is true. In this finding Craven concurs:

> But regardless of the quality of those who preached, their churches formed the center about which the social structure arose, the one place of intellectual stimulation for adults, the one point of emotional outlet. No other agent did so much for the mid-western civilization.[12]

Religion played an important role in establishing missions, schools, and centers of social activity, each in its own way, producing certain cultural attributes.

Information concerning the "broad" topic of cultural refinement was available for a number of the states included in the Upper Mississippi Region. The following is a compilation of that material evidencing a strong gravitation toward cultural refinement in the early years.

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[11]Richard Hofstadter, Anti-intellectualism in American Life (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1963), p. 55-80.

[12]Fox, op. cit., pp. 60-61.

Group migration into the Upper Mississippi Region included not only doctors, lawyers, and clergymen, but also teachers.[13] This occurred even before the population could give permanent support to these people. "The teacher was often the first specialist in the West. Regardless of origins, the Western American had a deep faith in education as the guardian of democracy."[14] Evidence of this can be seen in the caliber of educators, scientists, and artists who appeared on the scene in the early establishment of New Harmony, Indiana, in 1825.[15]

An account by a stage traveler passing through Illinois in 1830 gives this report concerning a stage stop:

> The room we entered was plainly furnished, but I remarked a pile of books upon a bureau among which were the life of General Harrison--Rollins Ancient History--Vicar of Wakefield and several religious works.[16]

A traveler through Peoria in the 1830's remarked about a collection of books at the Clinton Hotel written by some of the best authors.[17]

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[13] Ibid., p. 53.

[14] Ibid.

[15] Ibid.

[16] Eliza R. Steele, Summer Journey In The West (New York: John S. Taylor, and Co., 1841), p. 127.

[17] Ibid., p. 150.

A Chicagoan said in the 1830's about the city, "it is a remarkable thing to meet such an assemblage of educated, refined and wealthy persons as may be found there living in small inconvenient houses on the edge of a wild prairie."[18] By the time the 1850's had rolled around, Chicago had a full orchestra, a Philharmonic Society and a season of grand opera, and by 1859, had planned a formal art exhibition and a free art gallery.[19]

Wisconsin seems to have fared equally as well as Illinois with the pen of the traveler. In 1837 William R. Smith wrote about Wisconsin:

> It is worthy of remark that in all places where I have been in Wisconsin--in the comfortable dwelling-house in the town--in the log cabin, I have always found books and newspapers--of books, many standard and historical works, together with the new novels--of newspapers, those of New York, Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia were common, and generally the State papers of the former home of the Wisconsin emigrant. Amongst the literary papers I often found the excellent publications of our friends Godey and Alexander of Philadelphia; the Saturday News is much liked.[20]

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[18]Roscoe Carlyle Buley, The Old Northwest Pioneer Period: 1815-1840 (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1950), I, 350.

[19]Fox, op. cit., p. 64.

[20]William Randolph Smith, Observations On The Wisconsin Territory; Chiefly On That Part Called The Wisconsin Land District (Philadelphia: E. L. Corey and A. Hart, 1838), pp. 99-100.

Smith made an observation similar to the preceding in regard to Mineral Point and Prairie du Chien.[21]

In reference to Milwaukee in 1842, "there is a lyceum also, which attracts the attention of the young men who engage in the public discussion of questions."[22] Comment was made in 1845 of a piano that had been transported 1,000 miles being played well in Watertown. La Crosse credited itself with one artist in 1854; Milwaukee claimed four portrait painters and Watertown, one, in 1856. Also, in 1858, there were two landscape painters in the state.[23] An article appeared in the New York Weekly Tribune in May, 1855, written by Bayard Taylor of Madison, which complimented the city on its display of architectural taste.[24]

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[21]Ibid., pp. 42, 99.

[22]Donald McLeond, History of Wiskonsan (Buffalo: Steele's Press, 1846), p. 118.

[23]I. A. Hopkins (ed.), Sketches of The West, Or The Home of the Badgers: Comprising An Early History of Wisconsin With A Series of Familiar Letters and Remarks on Territorial Character and Characteristics, etc. (Milwaukee: I. A. Hopkins, 1847), pp. 22-23; and Benjamin F. Bryant (ed.), Memoirs of La Crosse County (Madison: Western Historical Association, 1907), p. 38; and Smith, Du Moulin & Co., The Wisconsin State Directory 1857 and 8 (Milwaukee: Stickland & Co., 1858), p. 203.

[24]James S. Ritchie, Wisconsin and Its Resources (Philadelphia: Charles Desilver, 1857), p. 106.

Throughout the Upper Mississippi Region literary societies were founded, such as the Philolethean, Philomathean, Adelphian, and Ciceronian.[25] Many of these literary societies had their beginnings in the early colleges of the region.

The first county court in Wisconsin was the Territorial County Court established in Crawford County in 1819. Later, in 1823, James D. Doty was appointed judge of Crawford, Brown, and Michilimackinac Counties at the tender age of twenty-three. Judge Doty presided over this circuit from 1824 to 1832 and produced for Wisconsin its first taste of law and order. "It was then, for the first time, that the citizen regarded himself as really under the protecting arm of the law and in the full enjoyment of his liberty and prosperity.[26]

Perhaps John W. Monette did as good a job as can be done summarizing this general area of cultural development in the region with which we are concerned when he said:

> At the close of the year 1845 such had been the general increase of inhabitants in the states and territories comprised within the limits of the original "Northwest Territory" as organized in 1787, that the regions which, fifty years before, had been occupied as the abodes

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[25]John J. Murray (ed.), The Heritage Of The Middle West (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1958), p. 251.

[26]Milo Milton Quaife, Wisconsin Its History and Its People: 1634-1924 (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1924), I, 401.

> and hunting grounds of a few naked roving bands of savages, were now inhabited by three millions and a half of the most active enterprising, and commercial people in the world, producing and enjoying all the luxuries and comforts of civilized life, with the improvements, refinements and intelligence of the oldest nations in the world.[27]

After this general consideration of culture of the region, a more detailed study of the individual elements which went into the structure of this culture is in order.

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[27]John W. Monette, History of the Discovery and Settlement of The Valley of The Mississippi by the Three Great European Powers, Spain, France and Great Britain, The Subsequent Occupation, Settlement, and Extension of Civil Government by The United States Until the Year 1846 (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1846), p. 541.

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Educational institutions are very important elements in the cultural growth of a region. It is for this reason that a considerable portion of this paper is devoted to the growth of these institutions. The initiation of colleges, academies, preparatory schools and mission schools provides evidence of a recognition by the early settlers of the upper Mississippi of the important contributions these institutions could make to their well-being and the development of the region.

College founding during the nineteenth century was undertaken with a great spirit and zeal. There were nine colleges in America at the outbreak of the American Revolution, but by the time of the Civil War the number had grown to two hundred and fifty.[28] One hundred and fifty colleges were founded during the first sixty years of the nineteenth century; nearly all were sectarian.[29] A large number of these colleges were located in the East; but even

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[28]Frederick Rudolph, The American College and University (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1962), p. 47.

[29]Murray, op. cit., p. 235.

then, ". . . by 1850 there was one college student to every 2,800 people in the North Central region."[30]

Protestantism was largely responsible for the growth of colleges in the Upper Mississippi Region. "The Presbyterians were very much concerned with fostering an instrumental form of higher education and using it for their sectarian interests."[31] The Baptists' motto in the 1830's was "every state its own Baptist College."[32] Any consideration of educational institutions in the early Upper Mississippi Region must reflect Protestant influence, but this in no way colors the ultimate cultural development of the region.

Early colleges offered courses in Bible, the classics, physiology, phrenology, personal hygiene, gymnastics, oratory and debate.[33] The extent of the curriculum depended on the size and financial ability of the institution.

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[30]Fox, op. cit., p. 34.

[31]Hofstadter, op. cit., p. 90.

[32]Fox, op. cit., p. 63.

[33]Murray, op. cit., p. 251.

Daniel S. Curtiss expressed his opinion of Western education when he wrote, "and to those who have children to rear and educate, the West presents transcendent facilities."[34] Curtiss advocated, also, that Eastern families with limited funds should consider moving to the West where they could provide their families with a good education at a cost much less than that in the East.[35] In reference specifically to Wisconsin and the upper Mississippi states in the 1840's, he said,

> And where it is needed--where advanced years have more matured the child's mind--and where mental tuition becomes the first and leading object, with parents, who wish the educational efforts of their children directed to the acquisition of higher branches of knowledge, they will find in all of these States, colleges well endowed, under the control of accomplished and competent professors, with spacious and convenient buildings occupying pleasant and healthful locations; and in all essentials holding a favorable comparison with similar institutions in the East.[36]

Comments made by Curtiss regarding primary schools and seminaries of learning complement his statement regarding colleges.[37] Curtiss may have been a little over-

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[34]Daniel S. Curtiss, Western Portraiture and Emigrants' Guide (New York: J. H. Colton, 1852), p. 138.

[35]Ibid., p. 140.

[36]Ibid., pp. 139-140.

[37]Ibid., p. 139.

zealous in his comments; nevertheless, the schools of the Upper Mississippi Region did appear to have been managed by competent staffs. Another attraction to Western colleges, other than the physical attributes, was the fact that social position was not considered for admission purposes.[38]

After this brief consideration of the importance of educational institutions in the Upper Mississippi Region in general, a closer look at this development in the various states is in order.

I. WISCONSIN

The earliest record of a formal educational situation encountered in this research was a Methodist mission and school begun at Green Bay in 1829.[39] Many such missions were established throughout Wisconsin in this early period. The Methodists also established a school among the Kickapoo Indians in 1830; and by 1834 had twenty-four children

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[38]Murray, op. cit., pp. 248-249.

[39]George Gale, Upper Mississippi, or Historical Sketches of the Mound Builders, The Indian Tribes and The Progress of Civilization in the North-West: From A.D. 1600 to the Present Time (Chicago: Clarke and Company, 1867), p. 148.

enrolled.[40] A mission school among the Chippewas at Lapoint, Lake Superior under the supervision of Frederic Ayer was opened at approximately the same time. After 1825, much of the support for these Indian missions was borne by the federal government under an act of Congress of 1819.

The first school in Wisconsin was located in Milwaukee in 1834 and was taught by a man named Heth. The first building erected solely for the purpose of education was erected in Milwaukee in 1836.[41] The first school district was organized in Wisconsin by 1839 and this was also in Milwaukee. This district was responsible for establishing the first public school under the direction of a Mr. West. The first seminary in the state was established in Beloit in 1837 under the sponsorship of the Congregational Church.

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[40] Ibid, 149 and 153.

[41] William W. Wight, Annals of Milwaukee College 1848-1891 (Milwaukee: Cramer, Aikens, & Cramer, Engravers & Printers, 1891), p. 1; Charles R. Tuttle, An Illustrated History of The State of Wisconsin (Madison: B. B. Russell & Co., 1875), p. 206; and Increase Allen Lapham, A Geographical and Topographical Description of Wisconsin (first edition: Milwaukee: P. C. Hale, 1844), p. 175. The sources do not give surnames for Heth and West.

In the year 1836, a Winnebago mission school was established at Prairie du Chien under the tutelage of Rev. D. Loury;[42] and in the same year the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature provided for the establishment of a university at Belmont. One year later an academy was established at Platteville.[43] These early efforts at education in Wisconsin were, to be sure, a very feeble beginning; nevertheless, they reflect a sincere effort on the part of the residents of this area of the Upper Mississippi Region to improve the quality of their citizenry.

In the following decade, 1840, education showed appreciable gains in the newly established Wisconsin Territory. In 1840 Wisconsin took advantage of the provisions of the Ordinance of 1785 and used some of the land provided by the ordinance for public education. "Education is not neglected; the legislature has appropriated 1,200,000 acres of land as a school fund, which, as the land is rapidly rising, will be of great value."[44] Brown County had 1,701 persons over the age of twenty years

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[42] Smith, op. cit., p. 38.

[43] Ibid., p. 32; and Lapham, op. cit., p. 242.

[44] Steele, op. cit., p. 119.

who could neither read nor write in 1840; but it also had 1,937 students enrolled in Common Schools. At about the same time the Methodists established mission schools at Whitefish Lake and Fond du Lac and had thirty students attending.[45] It was, also, during the 1840's that Platteville with its fifteen hundred population incorporated and founded an academy. A college was erected by the Episcopal Church twenty-seven miles west of Milwaukee on Twin Lakes in 1840. Plans for two colleges were drawn in 1840 under the sponsorship of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches. One of these two colleges later became Beloit College, the other, Carrol College. Milwaukee had established two female and four male schools by 1842. The Wisconsin Territorial Legislature, in 1843, petitioned Congress for land to be used to establish an institution for the instruction and care of the deaf, dumb, and blind and an asylum for the insane.[46]

Geneva, Wisconsin, noted several Sabbath schools in 1845, and Prairieville, sixteen miles from Milwaukee on the Fox River, claimed an academy. A female seminary was established at Rock Prairie.[47]

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[45]Lapham, op. cit., p. 42; and Gale, op. cit., p. 134.

[46]Curtiss, op. cit., p. 151; and Increase Allen Lapham, Wisconsin: Its Geography and Topography (second edition; Milwaukee: I. A. Lapham, 1846), p. 39; and Ibid., p. 40; and McLeod, op. cit., p. 115; and Lapham, op. cit., (second edition), p. 36.

[47]Kapelus, op. cit., pp. 33-35.

Lawrence College was chartered by the Territorial Legislature in 1847 as a coeducational institution sponsored by the Methodist Episcopal Church.[48] September 14, 1848, was the official opening of Milwaukee College under the direction of Mrs. R. L. Parsons, wife of the preacher. In 1849, one year after Wisconsin became a state, the University of Wisconsin at Madison was established. Also, in 1849, the number of children between the ages of four and eighteen enrolled in Wisconsin schools was 32,147 out of a possible 70,457. These figures included those children who attended part-time and full-time. The school attendance figure had increased markedly by 1859 to 188,477 children out of a possible 278,871 of school age.[49]

Eight pupils were enrolled in the school for the blind at Janesville in 1850. The Episcopal Church was responsible for the establishment and incorporation of Racine College in 1851. Milwaukee saw the University of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Female College go into operation

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[48]Smith, Du Moulin & Co., op. cit., p. 373.

[49]Wight, op. cit., p. 2; and Richard S. Fisher and Charles Colby, Colton's Western Tourist and Emigrant's Guide (New York: J. H. Colton and Company, 1854), p. 47; and Gale, op. cit., p. 363.

in 1852. La Crosse had its first schoolhouse in 1853,[50] and by 1856 had erected a new $10,000 structure for school purposes. Education in Wisconsin grew rapidly and by 1854, thirty-two hundred school districts were operating in the state.[51]

The year 1855 found the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in full operation; Beloit College was flourishing; Brockway College at Ripon was still in its infancy; Lawrence College, Appleton, was booming; and Carroll College, Waukesha, was well under way. Also, 1855 found the Baptists arranging for a college at Beaver Dam; and Sinsinewa Mound College, Grant County, was getting under way under Catholic sponsorship. Downer College appeared in Fox Lake in 1856 and was originally called the Wisconsin Female Seminary.[52]

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[50] Ibid., p. 364; and Smith, Du Moulin & Co., op. cit., pp. 375-376; and Ibid., p. 376; and Bryant, op. cit., p. 37.

[51] Ritchie, op. cit., p. 118; and Joseph Hutchins Cotton, The Western Tourist and Emigrant's Guide Through the States of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin, and The Territories of Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska (New York: J. H. Colton and Company, 1854), p. 47.

[52] Silas Chapman, Hand Book of Wisconsin (Milwaukee: S. Chapman, 1855), pp. 19-20; and Ibid., p. 20; and Smith, Du Moulin & Co., op. cit., pp. 371-376.

The year 1858 seemed to be a good year for colleges and seminaries in Wisconsin. The Oconomowoc Seminary for Young Ladies, the Richland City Institute, The Columbia County Female Institute, located at Portage; the Hazel Green Collegiate Institute, and Nashotah Theological Seminary were all in operation that year.[53] The Wisconsin Directory of 1858 states:

> In towns which have been settled eight or ten years the traveller will discover a far greater number of neat and valuable schoolhouses, with pleasant play grounds, in Wisconsin, than among an equal number of inhabitants of the old and long settled states.[54]

During the 1850's, Madison claimed a State University, a Commercial College, two Female Seminaries and Musical Academies, four public schools, the State Historical Society, and the Madison Institute. Milwaukee, at the same time, had seven public schools, a university, one Female College and one Commercial College.[55]

By the end of the decade of the 1850's, many of the present-day Wisconsin institutions had been founded and each

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[53]Wight, op. cit., Inside book cover (unidentifiable newspaper clipping), Area Research Center.

[54]Ibid., p. 360.

[55]Ritchie, op. cit., pp. 115-116; and Ibid., p. 85.

one contributed some small part to the general cultural development of the state and the Upper Mississippi Region.

There was a continuous growth in educational institutions and enrollment in the state schools. Wisconsin had 223,067 children attending public schools in 1865 out of a possible 335,582 school age children. In addition, there were 220 private schools with an enrollment of 7,986 students and nine colleges and universities with an enrollment of 1,449 students.[56]

II. IOWA

The early beginning of education in Iowa found some roots in the efforts of Presbyterian mission work among the Iowa and Sac Indians in 1835. The earliest non-sectarian school recorded in Iowa was at Burlington, Des Moines County, in 1837. During the mid-1840's, the University of Iowa was founded. It was known at that time as the Iowa City University and Seminary of Learning. The University of Iowa led the upper Mississippi states in becoming the first coeducational institution in 1855.[57]

Education in Iowa was highly regarded, even during its territorial period. "The General Assembly shall

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[56]Gale, op. cit., pp. 363-364.

[57]Ibid., p. 151; Smith, op. cit., p. 133; Murray, op. cit., p. 241; and Rudolph, op. cit., p. 314.

encourage by all suitable means, the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral and agricultural improvements... ."[58] In addition, the General Assembly agreed to take public funds away from any common school not functioning for at least three months of the year.[59]

The Mount Pleasant Literary Institute was founded in 1842; it later became Iowa Wesleyan. Yellow Springs, Des Moines County, became the site of a university in 1844. Iowa City College was founded by the Methodist-Episcopal Church in the mid-1840's. In 1848 Iowa City claimed a college, an academy, and an excellent school system. The circuit rider George Bowman was responsible for establishing the Iowa Conference Male and Female Seminary at Mt. Vernon in the early 1850's. The name was later changed to Cornell. Coe College at Cedar Rapids was started in 1851 as an academy by the Presbyterian Church.[60]

Before 1854, Iowa had a university and well organized school districts established. Lennox College was founded in 1859 as Bowen Collegiate Institute. Parsons College at Fairfield was conceived before the Civil War and was in operation by 1870. Luther at Decorah and Central College

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[58]Bradford, op. cit., p. 143.

[59]Ibid.,

[60]Murray, op. cit., p. 239; and Ibid., pp. 240-241, and Curtiss, op. cit., p. 189.

at Pella were founded by the Norwegian Lutheran Church and the Dutch Reformed Church prior to the Civil War.[61]

The development of educational institutions in Iowa, once again, reflects the firm desire on behalf of its own residents to provide an enlightened and informed populace.

III. INDIANA

Indiana approached maturity in an earlier year than did her western sister states; as a result, one can see a correspondingly earlier growth of educational institutions.

The Reverend Andrey Wylie arrived at Bloomington in 1830 to assume his duties as president of Indiana College, later to become the University of Indiana. On November 22, 1832, five young Presbyterian ministers established Wabash College at Crawfordsville, Indiana. Hanover and Vincennes Colleges were established before 1832. Indiana Asbury was founded in 1837.[62] Eight French priests arrived in Northern Indiana in 1842 and established what was later to become Notre Dame University.[63]

IV. MICHIGAN

Of the states considered in the Upper Mississippi

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[61] Ibid.

[62] Rudolph, op. cit., p. 46; and Ibid., p. 52; and Murray, op. cit., p. 239.

Region. Michigan was the most advanced in regard to the establishment of educational facilities. Most of the Michigan settlers came from New England and upper New York State and reflected the cultural development of their former homes.[64]

The first efforts to establish a university between 1817 and 1821 failed. However, by 1835, the early forerunner of the University of Michigan, the Bates Street School in Detroit was established and started operations in 1836 with a faculty of two. The Bates Street School had matured into the University of Michigan located at Ann Arbor by 1841. It had its first commencement exercises in 1845 and granted eight bachelor degrees.[65]

As early as 1827, a Michigan legislative act established schools of various standards in townships according to population. This action culminated in a state school system, the third such system in the nation.

The Baptists established a mission at Sault St. Marie under the guidance of Reverend Abel Bingham in 1828. By 1854, this mission, which served both whites and Chippewa Indians, had one boarding school with six pupils and two

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[64]Kent Sagendorph, Michigan The Story of The University (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., Publishers, 1948), p. 40.

[65]Ibid.; and Rudolph, op. cit., p. 47.

day schools with seventy-four pupils.[67]

Timothy Flint relates that, by 1830, Detroit already had a very respectable school system.[68] Ann Arbor, early in Michigan history, became noted for its educational institutions. By 1832 Ann Arbor had opened a private academy for secondary education.[69]

The year 1833 saw the Baptist Church start Kalamazoo College. The Presbyterian Church was responsible for establishing a mission school among the Chippewas and Ottowas at Grand Traverse Bay in 1838.[70]

The Michigan Common School system had 66,818 pupils enrolled by 1844. During the same year, five academies were also in operation.[71] In a period of six years, the number of pupils in common schools between the ages of four and eighteen had doubled to 132,233; and in addition, there were 2,056 pupils under the age of four attending school and 8,346 over the age of eighteen in attendance in 3,097

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[67]Gale, op. cit., p. 153.

[68]Timothy Flint, The History and Geography of The Mississippi Valley (Cincinnati: E. H. Flint and L. R. Lincoln, 1832), p. 437.

[69]Sagendorph, op. cit., p. 47.

[70]Gale, op. cit., p. 338; and Ibid., p. 151.

[71]Monette, op. cit., p. 540.

common schools. During this same year of 1850, Michigan spent $194,330.78 on schools; $42,794.44 was the distributed school fund; plus $81,392.44 spent on teachers' salaries; the balance was used for building purposes.[72]

The years 1852 and 1853 found the Presbyterians establishing mission schools at Little Traverse and Middle Village. The mission at Little Traverse had two teachers with forty students; the one at Middle Village, two teachers with thirty students.[73]

The Free Will Baptists established Hillsdale College in 1853. Also, in 1853, a State Normal School was established at Ypsilanti. The University of Michigan added a medical department in 1850 and a law department in 1859. A State Agricultural College was established at Lansing in 1857; and Albion College was founded by the Methodist-Episcopal Church in 1862.[74]

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[72]Gale, op. cit., pp. 337-338.

[73]Ibid., p. 151.

[74]Ibid., pp. 338-339; and Ibid., p. 338; and Ibid., 338-339.

V. MINNESOTA

The first school on record in Minnesota was due to the efforts of a Methodist mission established in 1837 at Kaposia, three miles south of St. Paul. Another Methodist mission was constructed in 1839 at Elk River, three hundred miles north of St. Paul, by B. T. Kavanaugh. By 1840, the Methodists had established a mission and school at Sandy Lake, Minnesota, under the direction of Rev. Spates. St. Paul had one school in 1849, and in that same year, the Minnesota Territorial Legislature established schools throughout the territory.[75]

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions founded missions at Lake Harriet, six miles west of Ft. Snelling, and Lacqui, near the headwaters of the Minnesota River in 1850. Sarah Poage served as teacher and Lucy C. Stevens as assistant teacher in these two schools. The two schools had an average attendance of twenty-seven pupils. S. R. Rigga, later added to the staff, was responsible for having compiled a Dakota Dictionary and also, for translating the Bible into the Dakota language.[76]

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[75] Ibid., pp. 143-145; and Cotton, op. cit., p. 52; and Fisher, op. cit., p. 51.

[76] Cole, op. cit., pp. 149-150.

A Minnesota newspaper, in 1851, encouraged the founding of a university so the youth of Minnesota would not have to go elsewhere to secure an education. By 1859, the University of Minnesota was established, and in the early 1860's a normal school was established at Winona. By 1865, the Methodist Episcopal Church had established Hamline University at Red Wing; the Baptists had established a college at Hastings; the Free Will Baptists had established Northwestern University at Wasioga; and in addition, a number of academies had been set up.[77]

VI. ILLINOIS

McKendree College, founded by the Methodists in 1828 and located in Lebanon, was one of the first colleges in Illinois. Illinois College, founded in 1829, was situated at Jacksonville. Between twenty and Thirty students were enrolled at Illinois College during its early years.[78] By 1837 the college was flourishing on a three hundred acre farm. It had a library of fifteen hundred volumes and two twenty week terms with an enrollment of forty-two students. The faculty in 1850 consisted of a

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[77] Ibid., pp. 277-78.

[78] Murray, op. cit., p. 240; and Flint, op. cit., p. 329.

Professor of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy and Political Economy; Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy and Chemistry lecturer; Professor of Greek and Latin; Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres; and, also, instructors in the preparatory department.[79]

Rock Springs Theological School, founded by the Baptist Church, was flourishing in 1830. It consisted of a high school, academy, and Theological Department and had an enrollment of fifty students at a cost of fifty dollars per student per year.[80]

The following comment describes Peoria in the early 1830's. "Its situation, its excellent society, religious privileges, and its good schools must certainly make it a desirable place of residence, or of trade." Pekin, Illinois, established an academy during the later 1830's.[81]

Alton, Illinois became the site of Shurtleff College in 1832. The preparatory school of Shurtleff was operating on a three hundred sixty acre tract of land by 1837; but the college was not yet in operation.[82]

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[79]Illinois in 1837 & 8 (Philadelphia: August Mitchell, and by Grigg & Elliot, 1838), p. 61.

[80]Flint, op. cit., pp. 328-329.

[81]Steele, op. cit., p. 155.

[82]Illinois in 1837 & 8, pp. 61-62.

School districts were first organized in Illinois in 1837. In that year, the state earmarked three million dollars for the purpose of education. Ebenezer Seminary was founded in 1837 by the Methodists at Jacksonville. Seven or eight students were attending the Alton Theological Seminary, established by the Baptists, in 1838. By the end of the 1830's, M'Donough College at Macomb was established by "Old School" Presbyterians; Canton College in Fulton County was operational; Belvidere College in Winnebago County; and a number of teacher's colleges and academies were all in operation.[83] Robert Baird tried to encourage teachers to come to Illinois.

> There is a great demand in this state for good teachers of every gradation from infant school instructor, to the teacher of an academy or high school. And although their wages may not be as high as in the East, yet it is to be considered that their expenses are far less.[84]

By 1850, the permanent school fund in Illinois amounted to $790,120; the Seminary fund, $58,788; and the State University Fund, $90,889.[85]

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[83]Gale, op. cit., p. 143; and Illinois in 1837 & 8, p. 62.

[84]Robert Baird, Emigrant's and Traveller's Guide Through The Valley of The Mississippi (Philadelphia: H. S. Tanner, 1834), p. 233.

[85]Gale, op. cit., p. 335.

CHAPTER IV

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF MISSIONS AND CHURCHES

Mission work in the Upper Mississippi Region started in the late seventeenth century. The first mission in the area that is now Wisconsin was founded in 1669 by Father Allouez at Green Bay and was called St. Francis Xavier Mission.[86]

The Methodists established a mission among the Potowatomies near Fort Clark on the Fox River, Illinois, in 1823 and by 1837 had over one hundred converts. In 1825 the Episcopal Church established a Mission at Green Bay.[87]

The Reverend Father De Jean was director of a Catholic mission located at Arbre Croche in 1827. Father De Jean received six hundred into the church in 1830. "As a consequence, intoxication was banished from the village."[88] This mission had previously been founded in 1826 by Father Richard.

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[86] Ibid., p. 351

[87] Ibid., p. 145; and Ibid., p. 153.

[88] Ibid., pp. 133-134.

The Baptists founded a mission at Sault St. Marie in 1828 under the direction of Abel Bingham. By 1832 this mission had baptized forty persons, eleven of whom were Indians.[89]

As an example of the seriousness with which these early settlers regarded religion, it should be noted that Peoria, Illinois, alone, contributed $23,000 for the support of charitable and religious institutions in the late 1830's.[90]

By July of 1835, Reverend Alfred Brunson was appointed Superintendent of Missions on the upper Mississippi. In November of that year, he arrived at Prairie du Chien and in May of 1837 went up the Mississippi to Kaposia where he established a mission.[91]

Under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church a mission was established at Yellow River, Iowa, nine miles above Prairie du Chien, under the direction of Reverend David Lowry. Dubuque became the site of a stone Catholic church and a stone Presbyterian meeting house and also a Methodist meeting house in 1837.[92]

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[89] Ibid., p. 134.

[90] Steele, op. cit., p. 155.

[91] Gale, op. cit., p. 143.

[92] Ibid., pp. 151-152; and Smith, op. cit., p. 129.

The first sermon preached in Madison was delivered by Reverend Stebbins, a Methodist, in September of 1837. The Oneida Indians were responsible for building a church at Duck Creek in 1838.[93] There was a church and mission house on Mackinac Island in 1840 along with the Indian Agency of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft. The Methodists claimed thirteen missions, twenty-eight missionaries, 1,232 members, thirty-five churches and thirty-four Sabbath schools in the Upper Mississippi Region in 1834. La Crosse had five churches of various denominations in 1856.[94]

[93]Ritchie, op. cit., p. 109; and Gale, op. cit., p. 153.

[94]Steele, op. cit., p. 107; and Gale, op. cit., p. 146; and Ritchie, op. cit., p. 118.

CHAPTER V

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

The amount and type of printing carried on is an integral part of the consideration of cultural development of any region. Newspaper printing in the Upper Mississippi Region began early in the nineteenth century. In addition to local papers, one could find the circulation of both Eastern and Southern papers.

E. P. Fordham found during his travels in 1817, newspapers from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Kentucky, and St. Louis in the Indiana and Illinois Territories. Illinois did not have any newspapers in circulation in 1810, but by 1824, four weekly papers were being published. A great boom occurred in newspaper publication in Illinois in 1840 with the publication of three dailies, two semi-weeklies, thirty-eight weeklies, and nine periodicals. Eight dailies, four tri-weekly, eighty-four weekly, three semi-monthly, one monthly, and one quarterly newspaper were published in Illinois in 1850.[95]

Only two newspapers were published in Michigan in 1820, but by 1840, there were six dailies and twenty-six

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[95]Ogg, op. cit., p. 129; and Gale, op. cit., pp. 335-336.

weeklies. The year 1850 saw a drop in the number of dailies published, but an increase in weekly papers. In 1850, three dailies, two tri-weekly, forty-seven weekly, three semi-monthly, and three monthly newspapers were published. Eight daily papers and ninety-six weekly papers were published in 1860. Detroit had one daily paper in the 1830's.[96]

The first Iowa newspaper appeared three years after the early settlement by the whites. In 1836, the Iowa News was published in Dubuque. The Territorial Gazette was published in Burlington, Des Moines County, one year later.[97]

The first record of newspapers published in Minnesota comes from two published in St. Paul in 1849. The St. Paul Pioneer published by a Mr. Goodhue, a former resident of Grant County, Wisconsin, appeared April 28, 1849, and was the first Minnesota newspaper. The Register appeared in July of 1849. There were four dailies, forty-three weeklies, and one religious weekly with a total aggregate annual circulation in 1860 of 2,334,000.[98]

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[96]Ibid., p. 339; and Flint, op. cit., p. 437.

[97]Smith, op. cit., p. 129; and Ibid., p. 132.

[98]Fisher, op. cit., p. 51; and Gale, op. cit., p. 378. No surname given for Goodhue.

The Green Bay Intelligencer was Wisconsin's first newspaper. It was first published December 11, 1833, and appeared as a four column semi-monthly. In 1835, the Wisconsin Free Press, also published at Green Bay, became the second Wisconsin paper. The third paper in Wisconsin was The Advertiser published in Milwaukee in July of 1836. The Belmont Gazette published at Belmont in the fall of 1836 became the fourth Wisconsin newspaper. The Milwaukee Sentinel, a six column Whig weekly appearing in June of 1837, became the first daily paper in Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Journal was first published in 1841.[99]

A number of weekly papers appeared in Wisconsin in 1838. From Dubuque, Wisconsin Territory, came the Iowa News; Mineral Point published the Miner's Free Press; Green Bay published the Wisconsin Democrat; and the Western Adventurer was published at Montrose.[100]

The Fourierist Community of Carescco published a newspaper during the 1840's. In June of 1846, Prairieville, sixteen miles from Milwaukee on the Fox River, published a newspaper under the auspices of the Liberty Party.[101]

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[99]Ibid., p. 365; and Tuttle, op. cit., p. 198; and Gale, op. cit., pp. 365-366.

[100]Smith, op. cit., p. 109.

[101]Curtiss, op. cit., p. 167; and Hopkins, op. cit., p. 35.

By the time 1850 rolled around, Wisconsin had six dailies, four tri-weeklies, thirty-five weeklies, and one monthly newspaper. These newspapers produced an aggregate annual circulation of 2,665,487.[102]

A number of new newspapers appeared in Wisconsin during the 1850's. Included were the Argus and Democrat and Patriot--Democratic; State Journal--Republican; Norske American--Democratic; Staats Zeitung--Democratic; Madison Zeitung--Republican; and the Western Fireside, a weekly literary and family paper. In addition to the preceding, Janesville published five newspapers. La Crosse's first newspaper, The Spirit of the Times, first appeared in 1852. Prairie du Chien laid claim to three newspapers; and Kenosha, one, in 1856.[103]

In 1858, Wisconsin claimed nineteen daily papers, ten of which were published in Milwaukee; eleven tri-weekly and one hundred and seven weekly papers. By 1860 Wisconsin had fourteen daily, eight tri-weekly, 130 weekly, and three monthly newspapers in circulation with an annual aggregate circulation of 10,798,670.[104]

A consideration of the number of newspapers in the Mid-West as a whole in 1850 shows over five hundred weekly

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[102]Gale, op. cit., p. 366.

[103]Ritchie, op. cit., pp. 115-116; and Bryant, op. cit., p. 37; and Ritchie, op. cit., pp. 117-120.

[104]Gale, op. cit., p. 366.

papers being published. This averaged from one paper to every 8,400 persons in Michigan to one paper to every 10,400 people in Indiana.[105]

James Hall published the first periodical, an annual called the Western Souvenir, west of the Ohio River in 1828 in Illinois. In 1830 Hall published the Illinois Monthly Magazine in Vandalia for two years and edited it for four years as the Western Monthly Magazine.[106]

The following magazines were in print in Wisconsin by 1850; the Family Friend, published in Beaver Dam; the College Monthly published by Beloit College; the Phonetic Pantagraph published in Fox Lake; the North Star in Madison; the Students Miscellany published by the University of Wisconsin; Posers and Skinner's the Wisconsin Farmer; the Education Journal published by the Wisconsin State Teacher's Association; and Carroll College, Waukesha, published the Philomathean.[107] This brief sketch of periodical and newspaper publications in Illinois and Wisconsin provides a peek at the diverse interests entertained by the people of the Upper Mississippi Region in the middle nineteenth century.

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[105]Fox, op. cit., p. 63.

[106]Murray, op. cit., p. 203.

[107]Smith, Du Moulin & Co., op. cit., p. 379.

CHAPTER VI

BOOK PUBLICATION AND LIBRARIES

Basically, three types of books were published in the early period in the Upper Mississippi Region, histories, guide books, and gazeteers of the states. In reading any type of the three early publications, one must bear in mind that many authors were trying to "sell the state" to any prospective settler. These early sources, however, provide definite insight into the functioning of the state and the thinking of the people. It is for this reason that these publications are important.

Gazeteers, very popular during this early period, were eagerly sought by settlers and prospective settlers. In 1838, John T. Blois published a Gazeteer of the State of Michigan and Increase Lapham published one for Wisconsin in 1844. Dr. Lewis Beck published a Gazeteer of the States of Illinois and Missouri in 1837.[108]

John Mason Peck, a Baptist Minister from Illinois, tried to raise the cultural level of the people of the state by publishing a guide book in 1834. Nathan H. Parker published handbooks for Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri about 1850.[109]

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[108]Murray, op. cit., p. 204.

[109]Ibid.

Thomas Ford and John Reynolds, two former governors of Illinois, published early histories of that state. Two years after statehood was granted to Michigan, James H. Larrman published the History of Michigan. Perhaps, one of the most valuable of middle western historical works is James W. Monnette's History of the Discovery and Settlement of the Valley of the Mississippi published in 1846. Another good, early state history was Edward Duffield Neill's History of Minnesota published in 1858.[110]

The establishment of libraries in any region usually denotes a considerable degree of cultural sophistication. Nearly all the early colleges, academies, and seminaries were equipped with a library of sorts. In addition to these, other libraries were available to the people of the Upper Mississippi Region. A sample of the type of libraries available during this early period is presented here.

The Fourierist Community of Caresco, Wisconsin, was equipped with a library in the 1840's. The University of Michigan had a four thousand volume library at its disposal in 1840. Burlington, Iowa Territory, was the center of the Territorial Library in the 1840's.[111] In the State Library,

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[110]Ibid., pp. 205-206.

[111]Curtiss, op. cit., p. 167; and Monette, op. cit., p. 540; and Smith, op. cit., pp. 133-134.

State Superintendent's Library, Executive Library, State Historical Society Library, State University Library, Lyman C. Draper Library, Madison Female Seminary Library, Madison Institute Library, J. W. Hunt's Statistical Collection Library, State Agricultural Society Library, High School Library and Sabbath School Libraries in Madison in the 1850's, 18,100 volumes were housed.[112]

[112]Ritchie, op. cit., p. 115.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

The establishment of the early churches and missions proved to be the cornerstone of the early educational movement. With the founding of non-sectarian colleges and universities a second giant step was taken toward the development of an enlightened citizenry.

It follows, quite naturally, that without this literate and knowledgeable populace, there would not have been a need or a demand for newspapers and magazines. Printing and newspaper publication performed an important function in the dissemination of information and the continued enlightenment of the population.

Another important factor concerning the cultural growth of the Upper Mississippi Region is in evidence in the regional initiation of most of the tools used in acquiring early cultural attributes. All of the non-sectarian contributions to the cultural development originated within the region, fostered by the desire and interest of the residents. Many of the sectarian contributions also, had their roots within the region; but many of these contributions were encouraged and accomplished by Eastern missionary societies.

The comments made by early travelers and settlers in the region indicate that an awareness, even at this time, of the need for a cultured society did exist. Perhaps, the culture of this region assumed a complexion at variance with that of the much older Eastern Seaboard, nevertheless, it was a young culture assuming the characteristics of its own physical and psychological environment and destined to become an integral part of the American scene.

The examination of evidence relating to the cultural development of the Upper Mississippi Region is not complete and much work remains to be done on the subject, but the evidence presented has proved that a definite, intelligent effort was made to develop a cultivated and enlightened society very early in the life of the region.

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