

## [Florence Maloney]

Mrs. Moran

[April?] 17, 1936

Miss Florence Maloney

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

Miss Florence Maloney was born in Sun Prairie [?] about 1875, and has lived there ever since. Her father was one of the early settlers, coming there in 1859. He conducted a general store in Sun Prairie for several years. Miss Maloney has written articles on the history of Sun Prairie and is very well posted on that subject. history??

The Winnebagos were the first tribe in the [?] [village?] when the [? first?] [tribe in the village when the?] first white settlers came. Although but a small tribe to begin with, they later became very bold and warlike and fought with the British against us in the war of 1812. When they occupied Dane County, they had several villages on the lake shore in Madison and at the mouth of Token Creek. In 1837, with exception of one or two families, the entire white population of the county lived in Madison.

When the Indians sold their land and left on their march to the west, they passed the old Bird home, just out of the village. In the center of the procession was a wagon and white men carrying a white flag. On each side of the wagon rode the Indians with their ponies and the squaws with papooses strapped to their backs.

An ox team hitched to a cumbersome wagon called the "Prairie Schooner" furnished practically the only means of transportation for early settlers. The wheel of this "schooner"

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were made of sections cut from logs, the axles were made from trees,—small trees with holes cut in the center.

In the spring of 1840 the first election took place at the home of Chas. Bird, nine votes being the total number cast.

In 1842 the first marriage ceremony took place with Charles Bird as justice of peace.

James Bird, son of Charles and Lovina Bird was first white child born in Sun Prairie.