

## **Juneau County Ag and Natural Resource Chronology**

### **1810**

- Green Bay fur trader Louis Beaupre winters in Juneau County; first recorded contact between Whites and Indians here.

### **1820s**

- Jacques Porlier, of Green Bay, send traders to winter with the Winnebago on the Lemonweir.

### **1826**

- Amable Grignon, of Green Bay, has trading post at Grignon's Bend on the Wisconsin River in future Town of Armenia.

### **1827**

- Daniel Whitney and twenty-two Stockbridge Indians cut logs and make shingles at the mouth of the Yellow River.

### **1828**

- Frank Provonsal, Sr., opens trading post on the Wisconsin North of Petenwell Rock.
- U.S. Army Lieutenant Jefferson Davis cuts timber for Fort Winnebago at the mouth of the Lemonweir River.

### **1836**

- Frank Provonsal, Jr., opens a trading post three miles upstream from the mouth of the Lemonweir.
- Wisconsin Territory formed; Juneau part of Crawford County.

### **1837**

- Winnebago cede last remnants of their land in Wisconsin, including Juneau County.
- Samuel B. Pilkington and John T. Kingston endure bitter winter weather to explore the Lemonweir River Valley.

### **1838**

- Robert V. Allen, Amasa Wilson and C.B. Smith become the first American settlers in Juneau County when they erect a logging shanty at the Big Eddy near Wisconsin Dells.

### **1842**

- Mauston begins when Hiram Elmore, James A. McNeil and W. McAllister build a log dam and sawmill on the south bank of the Lemonweir Rapids.
- Amasa Wilson and C. B. Smith log the Lemonweir Valley in central Juneau County.
- George Willard cuts timber on the Baraboo River near what will become Wonewoc and drives logs downstream to the Wisconsin.

**1843**

- New Lisbon begins when Amasa Wilson and C.B. Smith build a log boom, dam and sawmill on the Lemonweir.
- Esquire Rice and John T. Kingston explore the Yellow River for pine timber.

**1844**

- Abijah Ayers starts Juneau's first farm in the Town of Fountain
- Juneau is part of new county of Sauk with the county seat at Baraboo.

**1848**

- Menominee cede all their land in Wisconsin, including all of Juneau County north of the Lemonweir.
- New county of Adams formed from territory that will become southern Juneau.
- John Werner, John Kingston and Joe Gill explore the Yellow River, claim land and prepare to build a sawmill at what will become Necedah.

**1849**

- Necedah begins when first log drive on the Yellow brings timber to the new mill there.
- Town of Lemonweir organized; includes all of then Adams County.

**1850**

- County population (Adams and Juneau) – 187
- First state-chartered road in Juneau runs from the Dells to New Lisbon and La Crosse.
- E.S. Miner builds first farm house in Juneau County at Necedah
- William Stewart, James Coddington and John Green start Stewart's Settlement south of Mauston
- Suldal community begins when ten Norwegian families settle at Norwegian Gap.

**1851**

- First county school opens in Stewart's Settlement.
- First church holds service at Stewart's Settlement.

**1853**

- Adams County boundaries change; now include all of what will become Juneau and Adams Counties.
- First threshing machine in Juneau used on the farms of John Green and William Stewart in Stewart's Settlement.

**1855**

- First Juneau County Fair held at Mauston

**1857**

- Juneau County formed out of western Adams County
- The La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad crosses Juneau County.

**1858**

- 5,000 workers harvest 28,000 bushels of cranberries in Juneau.

**1860**

- John Werner Jr. empowered to contract for first drainage of marshes in northern Juneau County.
- By 1860 75% of Wonewoc farmers had no more than 22 acres under plow, nearly all kept a cow or two and a couple of pigs.

**1866**

- 92,180 pounds of hops worth \$46,900 shipped from Mauston.

**1869**

- 30,000 bushels of wild cranberries shipped from county marshes.

**1871**

- “Ike” Alsbacher of Mauston harvests 21 acres of tobacco.
- The last great nesting of the passenger pigeon, 136 million estimated birds, covering 850 square miles including parts of Juneau, Sauk, Columbia and virtually all of Adams Co.

**1872**

- First Baraboo Valley wheat crop shipped out of Wonewoc.

**1873**

- Ira H. Stewart, S.W. Smith, George Curtis, William Hale and F. Waldo open Juneau’s first cheese factory in Lindina.

**1881**

- Necedah logging industry at its peak; 65 million board feet cut.

**1884**

- Iron and copper mining on Mile Bluff begins and ends.

**1887**

- Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association organized at New Lisbon.

**1892**

- Lyman Lumber Company runs last log drive on the Yellow.

**1898**

- Closing of last Necedah saw mill ends the pioneer logging era in Juneau County.

**1899**

- Mather ships two carloads of sphagnum moss to South Africa.

**1901**

- Juneau County, Little Yellow, Orange, and Dandy Creek Drainage Districts organized.

**1904**

- I.T. Eakins builds Juneau County's first round barn south of Lyndon Station.

**1907**

- State legislature declares county taxpayers liable for defaulted drainage district bonds.

**1909**

- County Drainage Committee reports that "expense of...Drainage Districts...is too large."

**1910**

- Potato raising and shipping reached it's peak in Necedah between 1910 to 1915.

**1917**

- County Board resolves to hire a County Agricultural Agent.

**1924**

- 515 acres of alfalfa planted in the county.

**1935**

- 150,000 acre game preserve drainage proposed for northwestern Juneau County.

**1936**

- Rural Resettlement Administration purchases farms in northern Juneau.

**1939**

- Necedah National Wildlife Refuge officially created.

**1947**

- Construction of Petenwell Dam begins.

**1948**

- Construction of Castle Rock Dam begins.

**1957**

- Juneau County Hosts "Wisconsin Farm Progress Days"

This chronology has been compiled by Juneau County Extension Agent Craig Saxe. More detailed information is available from a slide presentation and document prepared by Craig Saxe entitled "History of Agriculture In and Around Juneau County". A major reference source was the Juneau County Historical Society's book entitled: "Juneau County, The First 100 years".

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