

First Baptist Church of West Allis



2016

Introduction

In honor of the 175th anniversary of our founding, the First Baptist Church of West Allis had weekly historical presentations during our normal Sunday Service from January through September, 2016. This document is a modified hard copy of those presentations.

As I started working on these, I realized that we cannot just discuss our Church but must also discuss Honey Creek, North Greenfield, Wauwatosa, Milwaukee, the Territory of Wisconsin, Allis Chalmers, and the State Fair. Everything is related.

This is often a history of township 6 North (Greenfield) shaded in light orange, and in particular the one square mile of section 4, shaded in dark orange, on this modern map of central



Milwaukee County. We are part of the community we are in.

The information has come from multiple sources. Much came from our history room and our published histories. Some came from individual documents. The internet and especially UWM digital files provided maps and pictures. Some information also came from the West Allis Historical Society. Ted Hertel, Jr., Lorna Stoecker, Becky Holl, and Karl Byleen provided some input.

I cannot tell the whole story. Many events and people have been left out. I strove not to offend anyone. Please notify me or the Church of any errors.

John W. Wothe

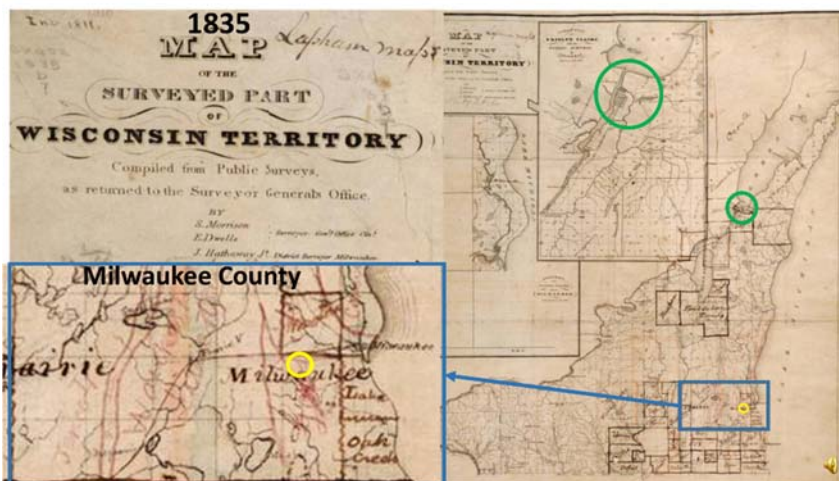
1. Settling in Wisconsin Territory

Eastern Wisconsin Territory in 1830. There were great forests in nature's original beauty, inhabited by abundant game, disturbed only by the occasional visit of Indian tribes. The Indian wars in the area were over by the mid-1830s. Green Bay had some settlers. We were "the west".



This was the United States in 1840. In the Northwest Territory, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan were states; Wisconsin was the only Northwest Territory not yet a state. The solid purple line was the frontier, the far edge of civilization. The settlements were few and far between. Milwaukee was only a tiny hamlet.

Let's concentrate on the North. The arrows show the flow of Eastern folks following their dream. Starting in the mid-1820s, New York's Erie Canal boats moved people to schooners on the Great Lakes to get to the new city of Chicago. Other folks walked or rode horses or oxen across Ohio and Indiana. Some folks started going north of Chicago to small towns on Lake Michigan in Wisconsin Territory.



This 1835 map of surveyed areas shows that the initial surveys were in the larger villages such as Green Bay. The blue rectangle shows the status in Milwaukee County which included the future Waukesha County. The

town of Greenfield had not been surveyed. The future Honey Creek settlement area is in the yellow circle. No survey meant no valid land claim or ownership. Townships usually were six miles square and consisted of 36 sections. Section boundaries tended to be future roads.

This 1836 map reflects the early settler's interest in connecting the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River to New Orleans for transportation of farm products, such as wheat, and delivery of finished goods to the settlers. Canals were the "new thing" in the 1820-1845 period before the development of the "iron horse". Three routes were considered: the Fox and Wisconsin rivers in red; the Milwaukee and Rock Rivers in yellow; and the Chicago and Illinois Rivers in blue. The first and last were actually accomplished.



The canal in our area, as shown here in blue, had some initial construction north of downtown Milwaukee.

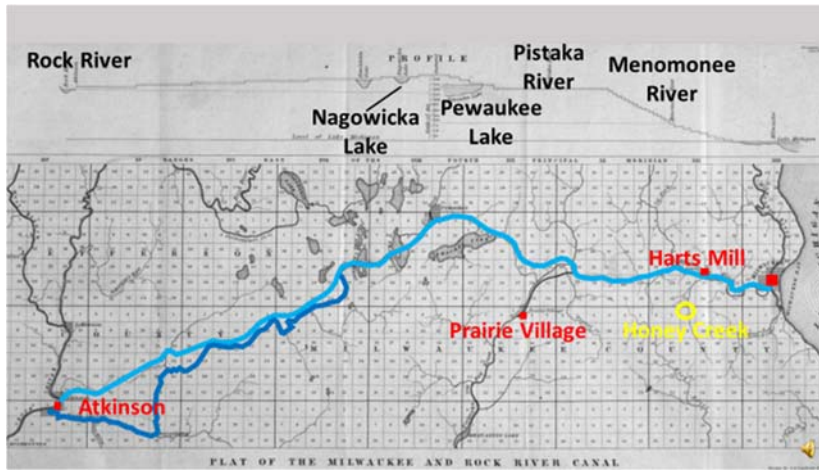


This view is looking northeast towards Humboldt Street. When filled in, the canal became North Commerce Street. The railroad became the beer line. The area



are gone. today. The canal and railroad

By 1838 the canal's concept had changed to follow the Menomonee River, a climb of about 315 feet. State governments paid for development of canals and



railroads, by granting portions of the nearby land which the developers could sell to help cover their costs. This canal project tied up some land in Greenfield Township and, as late as 1846, tied up the nearby sections of land as highlighted in pink.

Why talk about this? Well, this was the US western frontier. Some folks planned on claim jumping on the land cleared by other folks. Existing settlers were in effect part time vigilantes as they banded together to protect their land claims. I.A. Lapham organized the group which set up local precinct clubs with set rules such as to hold a quarter section: build a cabin and cultivate 3 acres. A half section required cultivating 10 acres. A judiciary committee which included some names who had streets named after them acted as an informal court. In Milwaukee, one man, who was about to claim another man's land, was carried against his will to the Milwaukee River and was threatened with a cold swim before he withdrew his claim. The canal lands also slowed development of Walker's



Point.



In the 1842 period, townships were named and organized. Greenfield was bounded by what became 27th Street, College Avenue, the Waukesha boundary at 124th Street and Greenfield Avenue.

2. Early Milwaukie



The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has a memorial outside Lapham Hall to I.A. Lapham. Who was he? He was a young engineer and scientist that helped build the canal system in Ohio and helped build Wisconsin. He later

pushed for the National Weather Service. Ever hear of Lapham Peak or our own Lapham Street?

This early map of Milwaukie's three settlements in red was created by I.A.



Lapham. Identified in yellow are the "western" settlements of Honey Creek and

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF MILWAUKEE (about 1840)
Increase Allen Lapham, 1811-1875

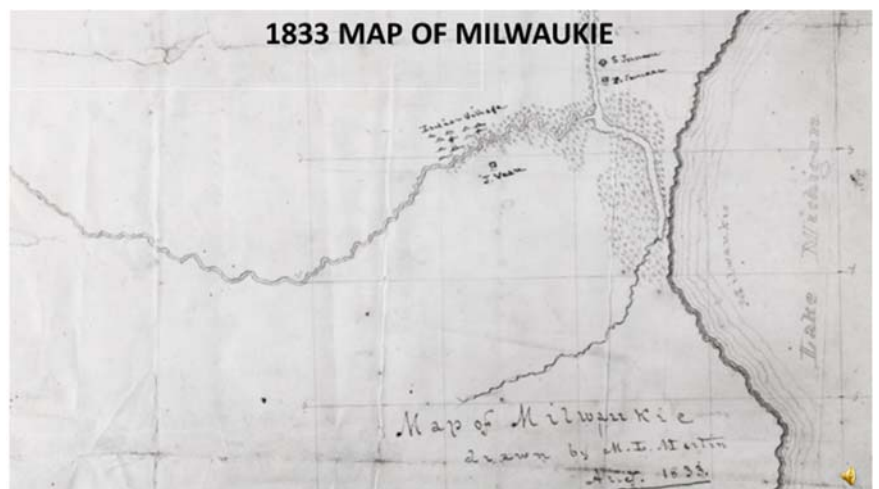


Hart's Mills. I have colored the marsh and wetland areas by the three rivers. One of the first local projects was to get the US Government to open a new harbor entrance through a marsh inside the blue circle. The orange "X" marks the

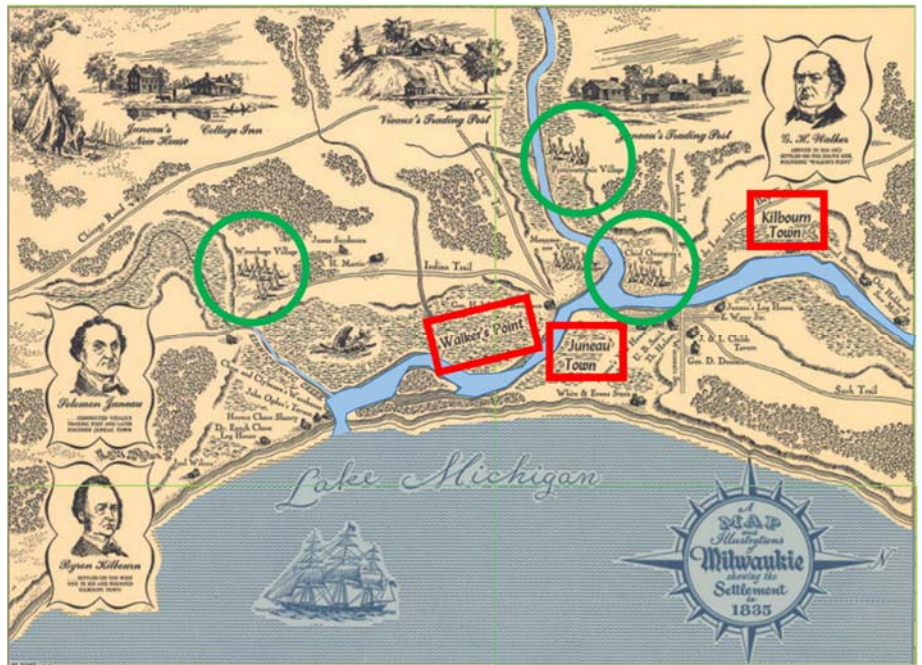
old harbor entrance.

This poor 1833 map shows the initial settlers locations.

The 1970s rendition of 1835 Milwaukie includes Native

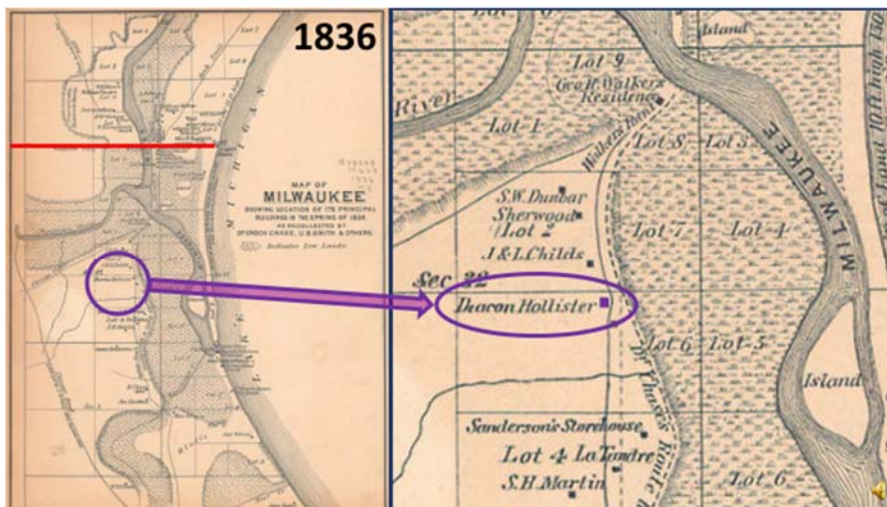
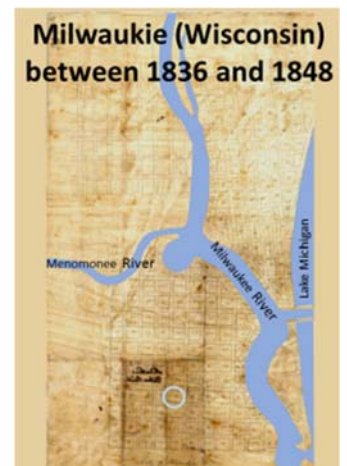


American settlements which are circled in green. The three parts of the town (Juneau town, Kilbourne town, and Walkers Point) in the red rectangles, were fighting each other to be the dominate area. Think streets not meeting and river bridges being burned



The law was a politically appointed marshal, and Milwaukee had an extremely high crime rate, fueled by local gangs, mobs, thieves and robbers. The police department was not founded until 1855. This “badge” is on city police cars.

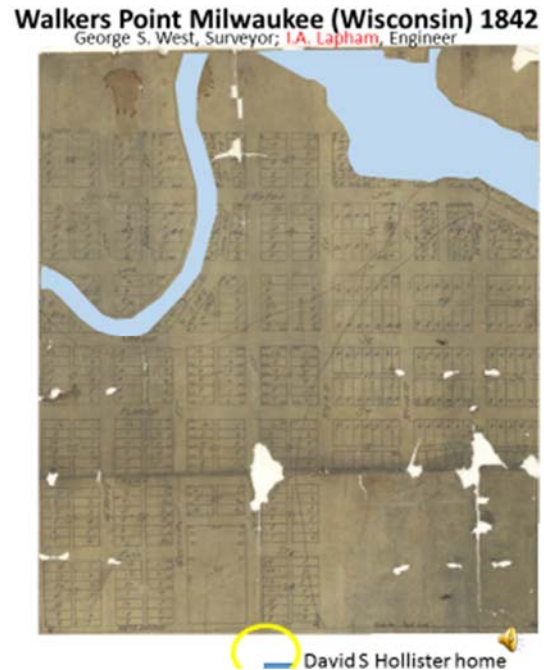
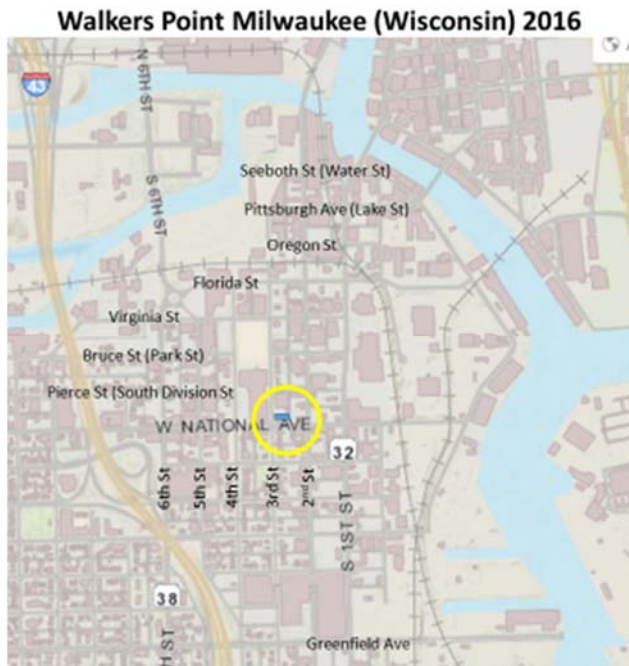
This 1839 to 1848 map of Milwaukee shows the streets that had been planned in Milwaukie. Nothing was planned more than 8 blocks west of the Milwaukee River. We will soon talk about the white circle area.



Wisconsin became a separate Territory in 1836. This map of Walker's Point in 1836 was drawn years later after

interviews with old timers. The red line indicates the future Wisconsin Avenue. Note that there are no streets, There were two trails to Chicago, one to Green Bay, and one to Mukwonago. Purple highlights the location of “Deacon” Hollister.

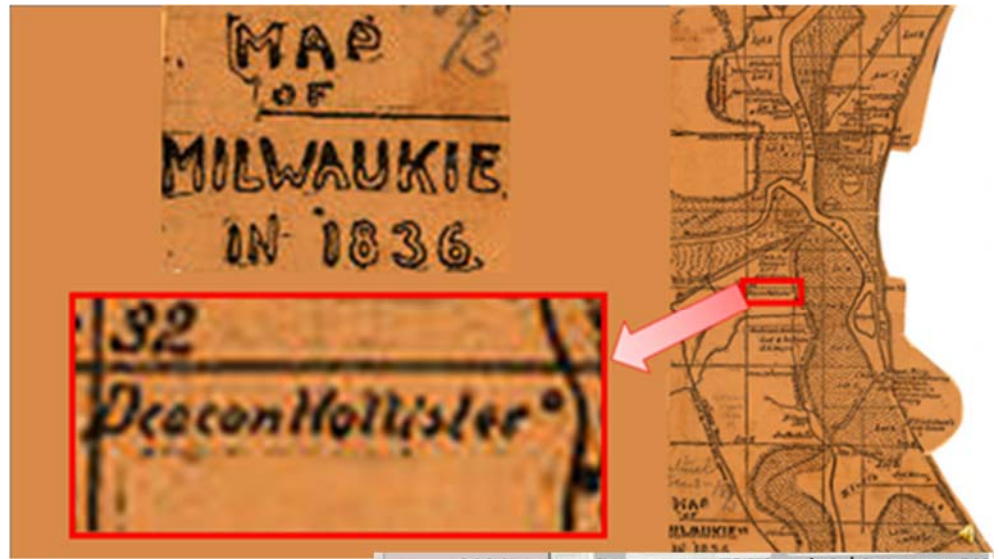
On the right, this old 1842 map of Walker's Point was prepared under the direction of I. A. Lapham. The map on the left identifies the same area in 2016 with current street names. Note the area in the yellow circle and the blue rectangle. This marks the "Deacon" David S Hollister home, "Deacon" Hollister kept a fire in his back yard with a kettle of food for the Native Americans.



3. First Baptist Church of Milwaukee (1836)

A leather map from 1836 showing the "Deacon" David S Hollister home which was located on a trail to Chicago in red.

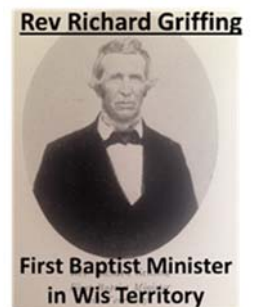
The homes and businesses near what is now National Avenue and 3rd Street. The David S Hollister property is marked in the blue rectangle. The homes across 3rd Street are gone and are replaced by Bradley Tech High School. The home is gone in 2016; it is now a parking lot for Junior House Lofts, as



shown here.

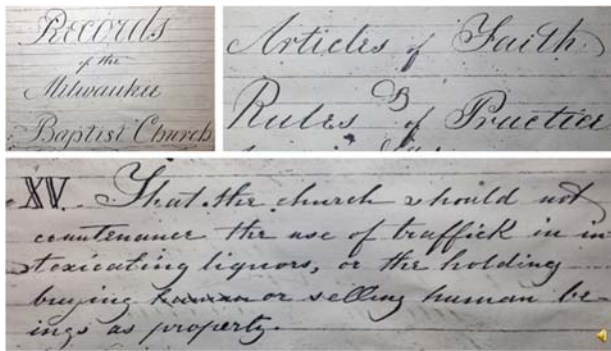


Why look at this location? The Baptist Home Mission Society had sent Elder Richard Griffing to Milwaukee. On November 19, 1836, when the Village of



Milwaukee had about 250 residents, at the home of Deacon David S Hollister, near what is now 3rd and National, fifteen Baptists formed the Milwaukee Baptist Church. Later, they often met in a small school at 1st and Washington which is indicated by the red circle.





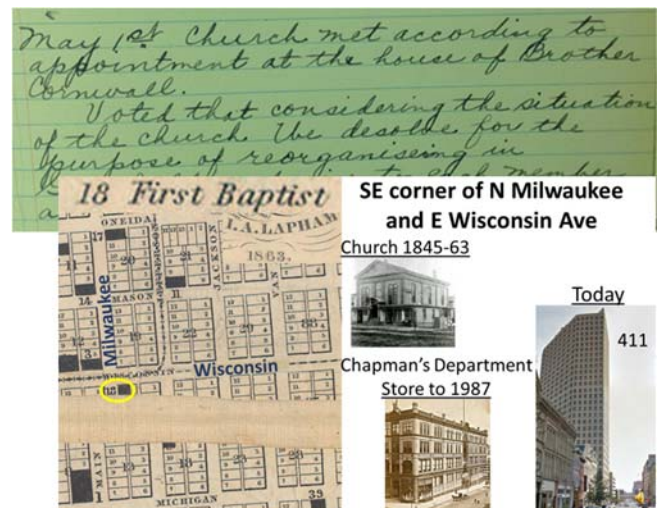
They adopted Articles of Faith and Rules of Conduct which included politically strong issues in Article 15: "That the church should not countenance the use of traffick in intoxicating liquors, or the holding, buying, or selling human beings as property." Some members came from

farms 7-10 miles to the west. The church met in the school, homes and the court house and struggled. Roads were not paved. For some, it took hours to get to a meeting.

Due to excessive drinking in town, temperance was often preached. In fact, the Baptists, Methodists, and Congregationalists decided to meet jointly every other week in 1838 to preach temperance. Also in 1838, the group invited the five other Baptist churches in the state to meet and form an association which happened in 1839.

The small congregation had financial problems, including paying its minister. It seems that most of the members at this time lived a distance away. Five years after its founding, on May 1, 1841, with Rev Richard Griffing again serving, at the home of Eben Cornwall, the Milwaukee Baptist Church, most of the 37 members "....voted that considering the situation of the church, we dissolve for the purpose of reorganizing in Greenfield...."

Several years later some of the members voted to undo the motion to disband. In 1845 they built a church at Milwaukee Street and Wisconsin Street which was used until 1863 when they again dissolved. The site became Chapman's Department store. Today the tall 411 building is there.



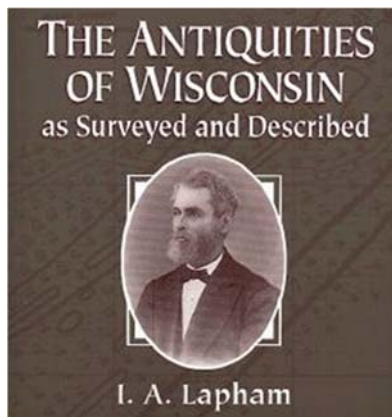
After restarting again, they built anew at Ogden and Marshall. That building burned about forty years ago, and due to declining membership, the fellowship finally disbanded for good.



4. Early Milwaukee County; the Ancient Works

Some of you might be wondering about the title. What are Ancient Works? No, we are going to discuss the Egyptian pyramids or the Roman coliseum; we are discussing Milwaukee. This is a subject most of us know very little about.

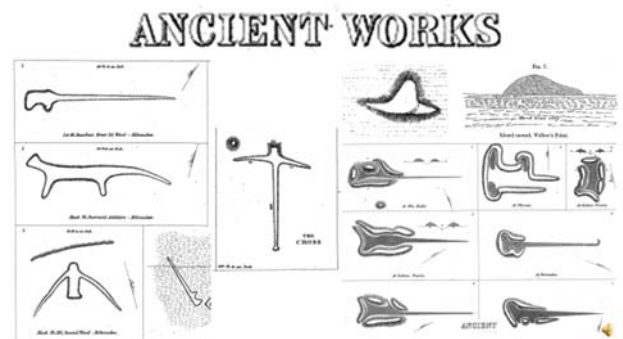
Increase A. Lapham was Wisconsin's pioneer scientist and scholar and a true Renaissance man. He came to Wisconsin in 1836 to serve as chief engineer for the



ill-fated Milwaukee and Rock River canal. He studied the state's effigy mounds and earthworks created by the Woodland Indians starting about 500 BC through 1200 AD, before the Potawatomi, Ho Chunk and Oneida tribes were here. A rich archaeological heritage of mounds and mound groups were created, most of which were later destroyed by farming and urban growth. The location and details of native mounds are in **The Antiquities of Wisconsin**, published in 1855 and

2001, the main source for this discussion.

The works varied in height, length, and design. Some were hundreds of feet long. Some of the shapes in Milwaukee County are shown here. Some were grave sites and some were not. About 300 of the State's 3,000 were in Milwaukee County.

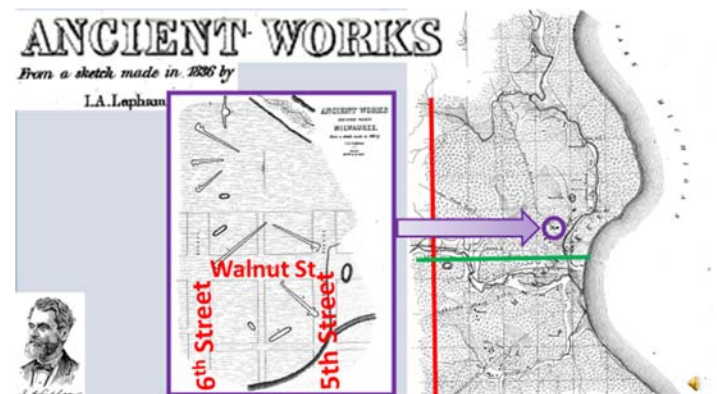


The red line on the left edge of the map is about 60th Street and the green line is Wisconsin Avenue. Lets look at the purple circle area. Mounds between 5th and sixth and Walnut Street are shown here.



The area

today. No mounds, just buildings, parking, and some leveled grass.



The Ancient works were most numerous in the Milwaukee area south and west of Forest Home Cemetery, which is south and east of 27th and Janesville Plank Road or Forest Home Avenue as we know it today.



The Cemetery is marked by the brown lines.

The area in the middle had been an Indian farming village with security provided by marshland in green and the Kinnickinnic Creek.



The locations of the Works with an example of what may have been the base of a structure.

The area today.

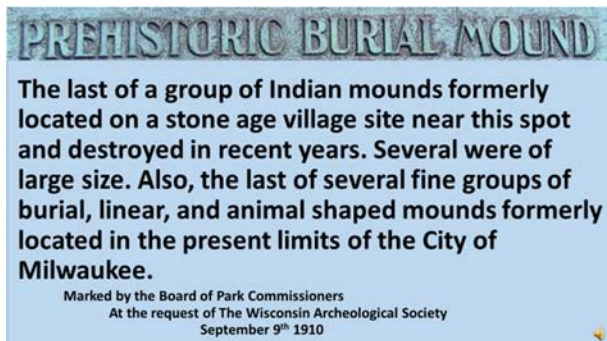


Lapham wrote: "We have thus traced four probable epochs in the history of this interesting locality. 1st. The period of the mound-builders, who, perhaps, selected it on account of its naturally secure position. 2d. That of the "garden-bed" cultivators. 3d. That of occupancy by the modern race of Indians. 4th. The present period, when their descendants continue to visit it, and to bring hither the remains of their departed friends." I would add a 5th epoch where we have destroyed the Ancient Works.

Only two mounds remain in Milwaukee County. Where Locust Avenue abuts Lake Park, there is a large, earthen swell. This ancient conical mound—40 feet across and 2 feet high evokes the world of those who came before us.

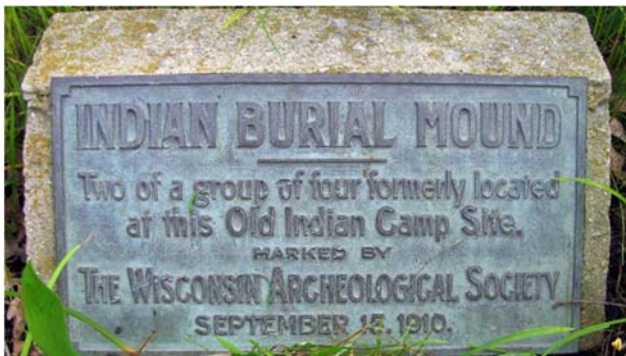


A marker tells us similar mounds clustered nearby in a “Stone Age village”. In case you cannot read this century old marker, try this “translation.”



In the 1890s, the landscaping of Lake Park leveled all but one of the remaining mounds. The mound today.

The second remaining mound is on the DNR grounds at the State Fair Park.



A marker notes that there was a village and four similar conical mounds once stood. This grassy spot, an island amid concrete, conjures up a vanished world. In



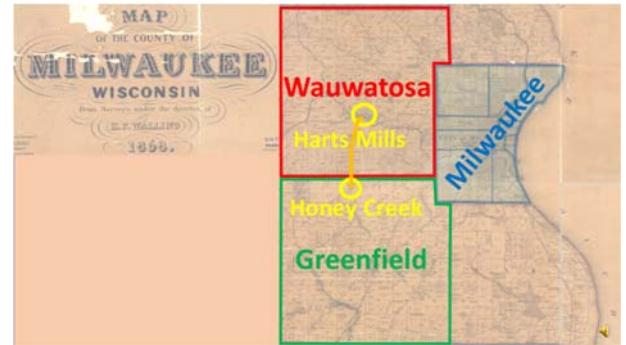
The mound behind this table, the last remaining mound of a group of four Indian Mounds that once existed here, is probably hundreds of years old, and is one of only two Indian Mounds remaining in Milwaukee County. The Mounds were located at the edge of an Indian Village that stretched 300' south to the HoneyCreek now under ground.

1910 there were two mounds; Only one remains today. The sign.

Recently, there has been discussion in the Madison area concerning a stone quarry wanting to expand where there currently is an ancient work. A recent Journal Sentinel article's headline is to the right. Ho Chunk Folks protested at the Wisconsin Capitol and assembled at the Lake Park mound calling it a "sacred site". Today, 80% of the ancient works in Wisconsin are "gone."

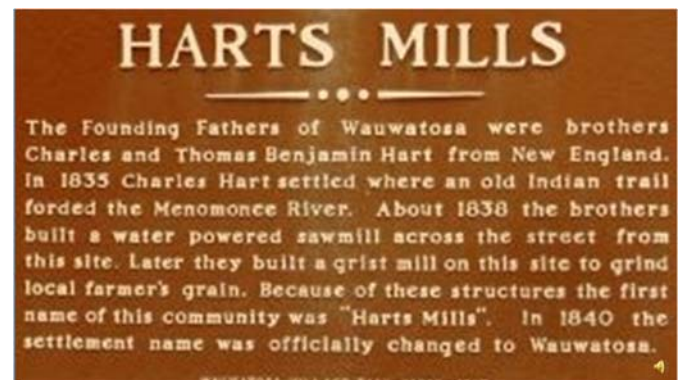
5. Early Milwaukee County; Harts Mills

This 1858 map of central Milwaukee County shows Wauwatosa and Greenfield Townships which were separated by Greenfield Avenue. Note that Milwaukee had annexed land between the present 27th and 35th Streets.

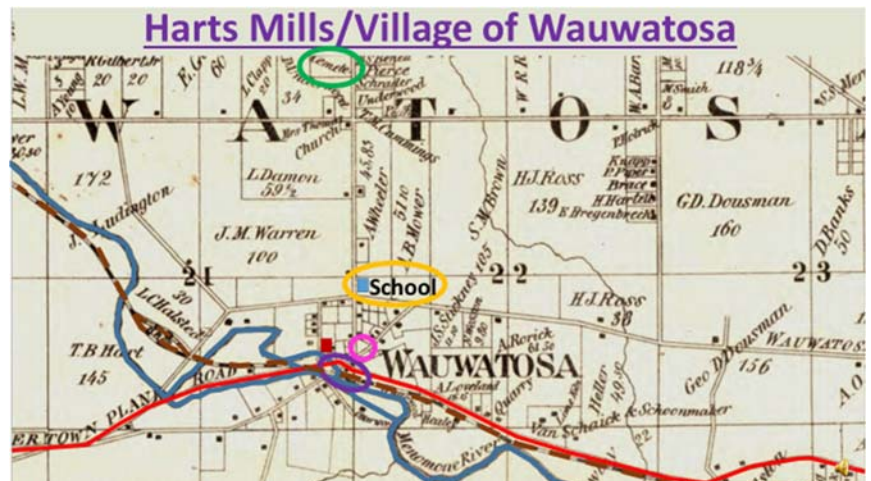


We will be looking at the settlements of Harts Mills and Honey Creek along with the Harts Mills Road, in orange, which connected the two settlements.

Charles and Thomas Hart from Connecticut arrived in the Wauwatosa Township in 1833. They built a sawmill in 1837, and the first grist mill in Milwaukee County in 1840. Settlers from throughout the county brought their wheat to this mill.



The mills were in the area of the purple oval. The Menomonee River, in blue, provided the power. It was Hart who, through his mills, attracted settlers, and, incidentally, gave the settlement its first name, 'Harts Mills'; it was Hart's generous grants of various plots of ground — the Wauwatosa Cemetery, see the green



oval, and the Oliver Root Common, pink circle, — that proved a boon to the people of the community.

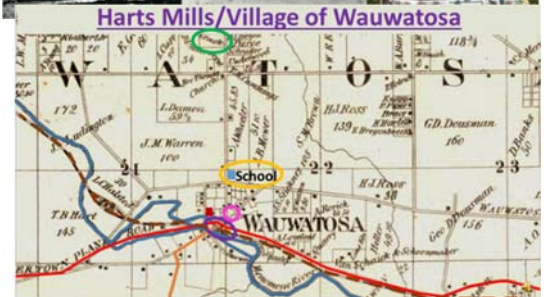
It was Hart, who as first chairman of the Board of Supervisors, guided the affairs of the village. 18 settlers arrived in Harts Mills in 1835. In addition to the Mill, the settlement had a wagon shop, blacksmith shop, and two taverns. Enoch Underwood, whose family arrived about 1836, taught in the first school, highlighted in gold, where Wauwatosa East High School is today.

An old Indian trail was improved into Watertown Plank Road, is highlighted in red, and had toll stations every 3 miles. The 3/8 inch planks were 8 feet long across the road. The Railroad, brown dashed line, came to Wauwatosa in 1850; that and later streetcars helped the community grow.

The initial train station in 1854, the maroon square, is now the Little Red Store. Wauwatosa incorporated as a village in 1892 with a population of 2,248.

Harts Mills Road, the orange line, is fairly level once you leave the Menomonee River Valley in Wauwatosa and travel southward.

The road was parallel to Honey Creek and crossed the creek twice near what is now Interstate 94 and the Pettit Center, see the green circle. Continuing on southward we cross the Town Line road, or Greenfield Avenue, and reach the intersection of Harts Mills Road and Mukwonago Road, the yellow circle, where the creek again crosses the road twice. Thirteen



bee hives, like these, were in the fruit trees lining the rapidly flowing Honey Creek.

This was the Honey Creek settlement area which was a densely wooded area containing many fresh water springs. Through this wooded area ran the stream from which this settlement later took its name.

The Honey Creek settlement's story is the next chapter.

6. Early Honey Creek Settlement

In 1835, two courageous men, Ebenezer Cornwall and Peter Marlett left New York State and ventured thru Ohio, pushed on to Chicago, and then "Milwaukie." The beauty of the rural district west of "Milwaukie" caused them to feel they had found a paradise! They decided their locations, placed their landmarks, returned to New York to get their families, then returned with their families the next Spring of 1836.

In July 1835, twenty year old Ruben Strong married Pamela, the sister of his father's second wife. They departed Vesper, New York for the west in October 1836 with their seven month old daughter. Their 170 mile trip on a mule pulled canal boat took five days.

In Buffalo, they boarded a sailing schooner for the remainder of their month long trip to Milwaukee.



New York's Erie Canal

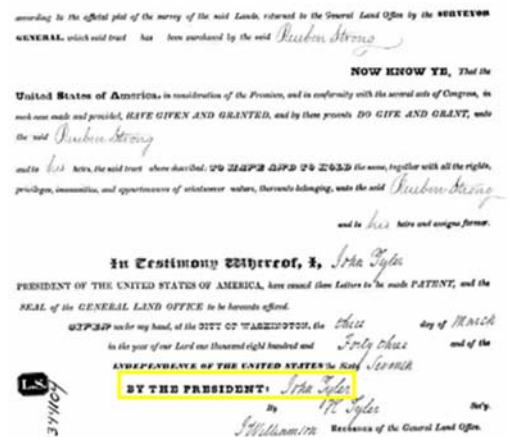
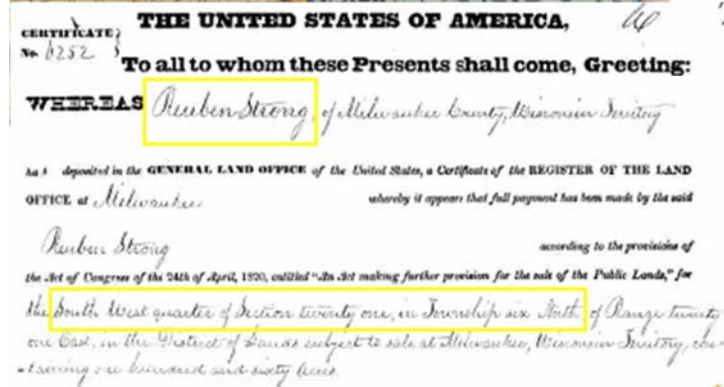


While leaving the boat in Milwaukee, Ruben lost his axe, a most critical tool, but was able to buy another settler's extra axe. At the time, were only three other families and three single men in the entire Greenfield Township.

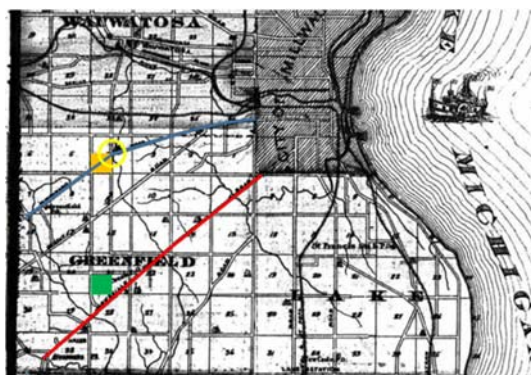
Pamelia's brother had already settled on Lake Muskego and had marked land near his for Ruben.



Ruben Strong went to the federal land office and registered the property in the Southwest quarter of section 21 of Township 6 North



As certified on March 3, 1843 on behalf of President John Tyler.



The quarter section marked in green is what Ruben claimed. This is just off of Janesville road, in red, which is Forest Home Avenue today. The 160 acres are bounded by Howard, Layton, 84th and 92nd.

Land ownership by 1858 had changed as shown on the left. Today, I-894 and I-41 run right through the property. As shown on the right.

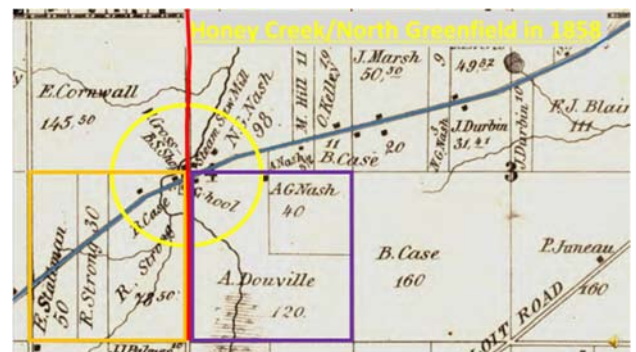


Ira Blood initially bought the southwest quarter section of section 4 in 1843 shown in gold from the government. Ruben Strong then bought it and developed it.

The property, which is bounded by today's Burnham, Lincoln, 84th and 92nd streets, is in the heart of the Honey Creek settlement. The red line is Hart's Mills Road while the blue line is Mukwonago Road now National Avenue. The first task of the early settlers was to clear their lands of the walnut, oak and maple trees. The fertile soil raised produce to market in the growing Milwaukee area. They built crude homes which they improved, enlarged, and/or replaced.



The pioneers found well-traveled Indian trails which soon became muddy wagon roads. The Mukwonago Plank Road crossed several other minor trails at what is now known as South 61st Street and West National Avenue, as marked with a green circle. Some folks settled here.



Anthony Douville came to Honey Creek, claimed the quarter SE section across Hart's Mills road from Strong's as highlighted in purple, established a lumber business, and eventually built a mansion at the light blue square, which is a large building that still is standing.



A blacksmith shop opened at the purple square. At the red square, Spencer Case built the first sawmill in 1855, which was powered by steam.

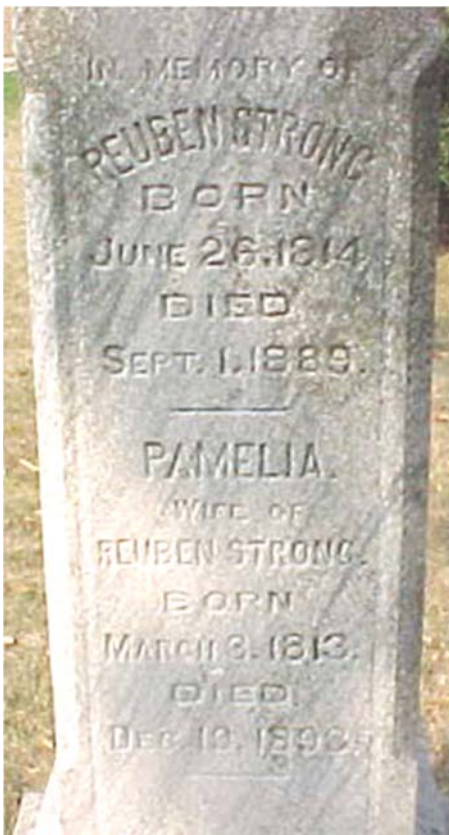


Today, that area is a skate park. This sign is enlarged on the next page. In 1839 Ruben Strong and Eben Cornwall were among those elected as election judges.

Strong signed a 99 year lease for a piece of land, shown in gold, to the town for a schoolhouse. This is a replica of the initial school which opened in December 1843 and had 38 students in 1845.

Eventually, Strong sold some of his land, as highlighted in brown, for a cemetery where he and Pamela are buried.

This was the start of the



community.

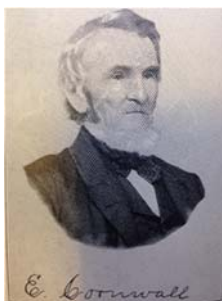
7. Greenfield Baptist Church Begins (1841)

The first religious service in the Greenfield township was conducted by Rev J. Ash in January 1837.

Eben Cornwall bought his land within the orange square,, which was north of Strong's property, after Jesse Leavenworth from Illinois had claimed it and bought it from the land office in 1843. The boundary was town line road, now Greenfield Avenue, Hart Mills Road, now 84th Street, the Strong property, and the eventual 92nd Street. The quarter section then and now.



The Cornwall ¼ Section in 1850 and Today



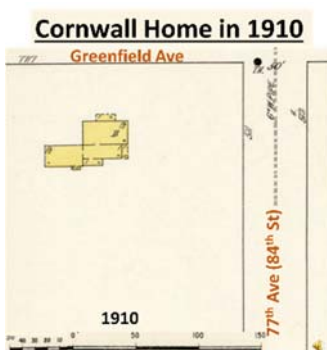
Eber Cornwall was a religious person and believed that a home should be

large enough to provide ample room for guests. Thus his home

grew at the location shown in dark red, at the corner of Greenfield and what is now 84th Street, until it looked like this. His last child, Bushua, who was an active member of our church until 1923 when she passed away at the age



of 103, is on the porch.



The home in 1910 from an insurance map. It was 80 feet west of the eventual 94th Street and 40feet south of Greenfield Avenue.

This is what that corner looks like today. The insert in light blue shows

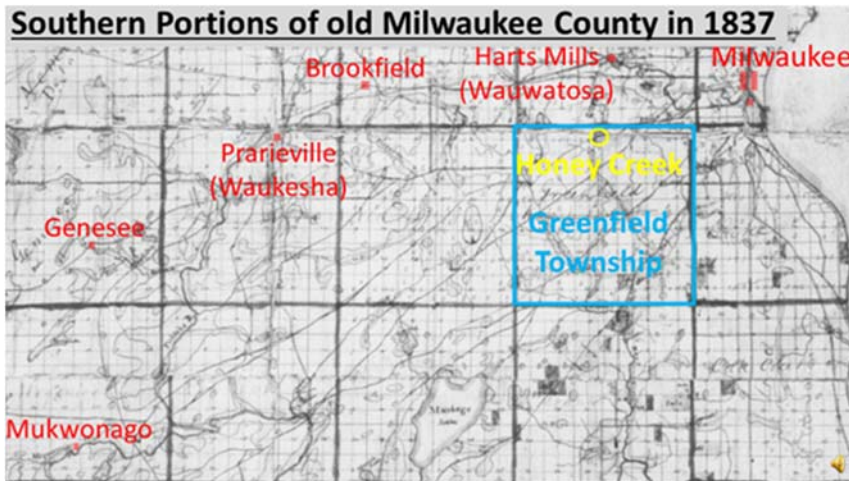
about where the home was located.



Cornwall provided a meeting place for the Milwaukee Baptist Church's "final" meeting in May 1841 when that church "....voted that considering the situation of the church, we dissolve for the

*May 1st Church met according to appointment at the house of Brother Cornwall.
Voted that considering the situation of the church. We dissolve for the purpose of reorganising in Greenfield and give to each member a letter of dismission.*

purpose of reorganizing in Greenfield...." Folks in Honey Creek and Hart's Mills had a two hours walk to get to a church service in Walkers Point and much longer to go



churches in Mukwonago or Prairieville (Waukesha). It was natural that the group of people without a church home when the Milwaukee congregation dissolved should meet at the hospitable home of Eber Cornwall.

They discussed ways and means of establishing a Baptist church in the Greenfield community. A council composed of delegates from the Prairieville (Waukesha) and Mukwonago churches along with Brother R.R. Dyer met on June 2, 1841 at the

*Names
of the members (individually)
of
The Baptist Church
of Greenfield
formed June 2nd
1841*

Eber Cornwall, Cynthia Cornwall, Mary Cornwall, Bathua Cornwall, Seth Landon, Stephen Hollister, Anna Hollister, Peter Marlett, Susan Marlett, Saml B.M. Hollister, Sarah A. Hollister, Jonathan Judd, Almon Hollister, Emery D. Clark, Katherine C. Herbert

Cornwall home.

The Greenfield Baptist church was organized with 16 members; The initial 16 members were from 7 families.

Brother R. Griffing, the Baptist Home Missions representative, gave the

CHARTER MEMBERS

Eber Cornwall
Cynthia Cornwall
Mary Cornwall
Bathua Cornwall
Seth Landon
Abigail Landon
Stephen Hollister
Anna Hollister
Peter Marlett
Samuel B. Hollister
Sarah A. Hollister
Jonathan Judd
Almon Hollister
Emery D. Clark
Katherine C. Herbert
Susan Marlett

right hand of fellowship. Yes, we were a mission church.

The new church initially met in homes, barns, and the school. Eventually, a log



chapel was used by both Baptists and Episcopalians. Pastors often stayed in people's homes. The total 1840 population of the 36 square miles of the township of Greenfield was 404; most were children.

Laura and Dr. Rev. Richard Freeman, ABC-USA associate missionaries to Turkey, attended our normal service on July 10, 2016. They had attended meetings at Green Lake and were visiting the Milwaukee area. Their intent was just to worship with other American Baptists so they searched on the internet and found us.



Rev. Freeman used the facilities in the lower level of the south wing and noticed a picture on the wall. Then, they wanted to worship and later get information. Here is “the rest of the story.”



The picture was a drawing of our second pastor, Rev, Paul Conrad, who was our Pastor from 1841 to 1842. Shortly after the Milwaukee Baptist Church disbanded and Greenfield Baptist Church was established, the American Baptist Home Mission sent Rev. Conrad to re-establish the Milwaukee Church. Meanwhile, he served as our pastor until the Milwaukee Baptist Church undid their 1841 disbandment.

Several members transferred back to that church which was more convenient for them.



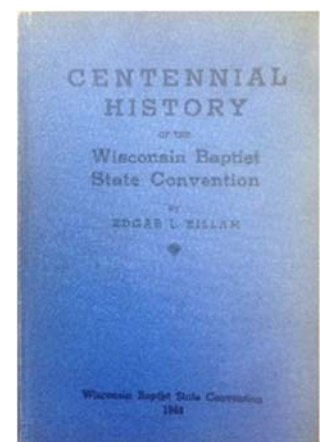
Rev. Freeman just happens to be the great-great-grandson of Rev. Paul Conrad and has been trying to research him on the internet. Rev. Freeman knew that Rev. Conrad had been in Wisconsin “somewhere and in multiple locations” about 1850.

Feb 19th A number of the members of the church being at the Milwaukee at the organization of the church & Br & Sister Landon requesting letters to unite with them. The Brethren voted to grant their request & give them Letters of Dismissions.

April 23rd. Church met for Covenant meeting. Voted to authorize the clerk to write an expression to Sec. of the Am. Missionary Board of the manner the Church receive the labours of Elder Conrad.

Our records shown that our church was concerned with trying to pay Rev. Conrad. In 1842 we sought financial assistance from the Home Missions Board.

We took the Freemans to our history room and shared a 1944 book published by our Region’s Convention concerning the first 100 years of Baptists in Wisconsin. There were six references to Rev, Conrad, including this one:



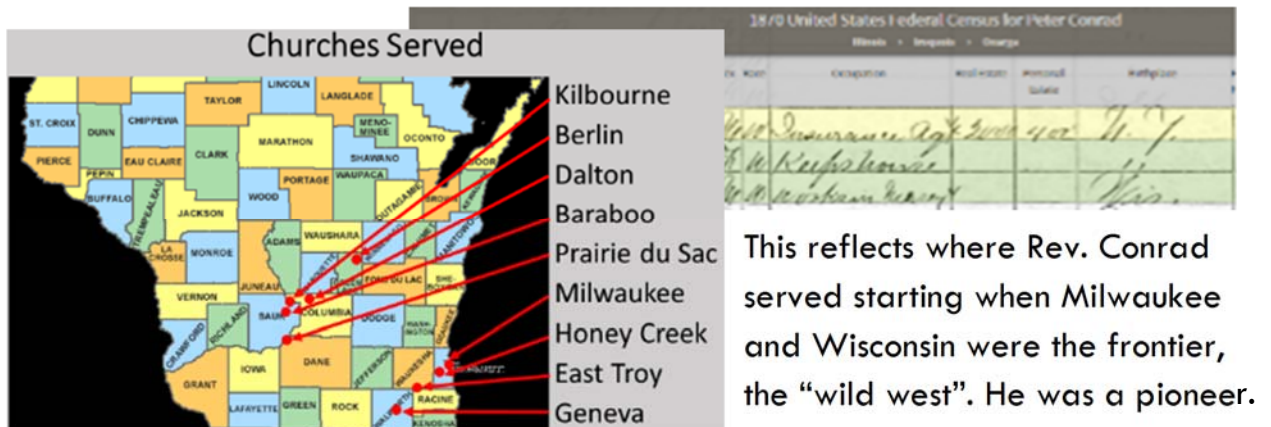
“Rev. Peter Conrad deserves a place high on this roll of honor. He was born in New York State, worked his way through Hamilton College and Seminary, and came to Wisconsin in 1842. {NOTE: he initially was at the Greenfield church in 1841.} He labored for a year in the reorganization of the church in Milwaukee, which met for a time in Walker’s Point. This church became the First Baptist Church of Milwaukee. Mr. Conrad then spent a year at Geneva and held a pastorate at Prairie du Sac, [See the 1850 Census.]

He became itinerate missionary and labored for years at Baraboo, Kilbourne, Dalton, and throughout that wilderness

20th United States Federal Census for Peter Conrad

Serial	Name	Sex	Age	Occupation	Marital Status	Children
1	Peter Conrad	M	38	Baptist Ministry	Mar	3
2	Eliza	F	22		Mar	
3	Emily	F	2		Mar	
4	Barbara	F	1		Mar	
5	Stephen	M	15		Mar	
6	Constance	F	11		Mar	

country. He then became general missionary of the Home Mission Society and the Convention. When the burden became too heavy, he became pastor to the churches at Berlin and East Troy. Worn out, he sought rest in the milder climate of California, [See the 1870 Census] where he passed away November 1, 1875.”



8. The Early Years of Greenfield Baptist Church

There was no local law enforcement. The County sheriff was downtown and there were no phones, radios, or internet.

Churches took care of their own. The Milwaukee Baptist Church, for example, disciplined a member who refused to return borrowed property and worked on the Sabbath.

Records
of the
Milwaukee
Baptist Church

11/2/1839

Voted that for a refusal to regard his relationship with the church & to return borrowed property to the owner & working on the Sabbath the right hand of fellowship be withdrawn.

A man who broke the 7th commandment was excluded.

1/12/1839

Voted to exclude Br. [redacted] for openly breaking the 7th Commandment.

VII THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Not all were excluded when they did wrong. Some asked for forgiveness and were forgiven for actions such as

trading and laboring on the Sabbath..

But some were excluded.

Sept. 30, 1838. Sabbath Elder [redacted] came before the church and confessed that he had done wrong in trading and labouring on the Sabbath. The church voted themselves satisfied.

Our Church had hard working and relatively poor members. Remember, they were pioneers on the frontier. Other new churches had similar problems and they tried to work together. None of them

The moderator then declared Br. [redacted] excluded from the Greenfield Baptist Church.

had a church building. In 1843 some members from Harts Mills broke off to form their own congregation closer to home in the more populous and

prosperous Hart's Mills.

May 29, 1843. Met for Covenant Meeting. Br. Gregg with brethren from Granville and Brookfield to consider the propriety of uniting and forming a circle at Harts Mills and trying to procure and sustain preaching within the circle of Greenfield Granville Brookfield and Harts Mills.

As early as 1843, the struggling Greenfield Baptists formed a circuit with the churches of Brookfield, Granville, and Hart's Mills (Wauwatosa).

One pastor served the four churches. Hart's Mills became the church center where baptism was administered, covenant meetings were held, and business transactions were completed. The pastor basically preached at each church every fourth week. Laymen handled the business and administration.

1844 Milwaukee County Plus Brookfield Township

Baptist "Church" Locations

Granville

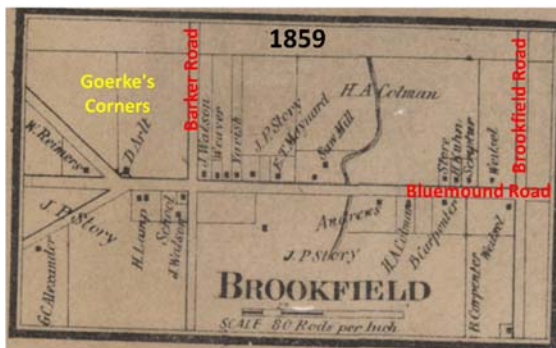
Wauwatosa

Brookfield

Greenfield

Milwaukee

The Brookfield Baptists were probably centered in that we now know as Goerke's Corners on Bluemound Road.



The churches further organized in 1844 and made resolutions as shown below

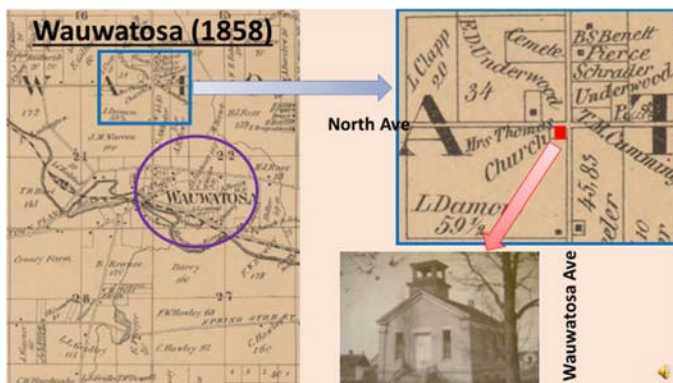
11/24/1844 Resolutions

1. Name: Baptist Church of Greenfield and Brookfield.
2. Harts Mills is the center for all covenant meetings.
3. Brethren may hold as many prayer experiences, communications, and conference meetings as they choose and as many places as deemed proper.
4. Preaching is proportioned based on wants and funding.
5. Building committee named to purchase or build a parsonage.

The union lasted until April 1847.

On October 11, 1845 the Wauwatosa Baptists became an independent church. A church was soon constructed in 1853 at the southwest corner of Wauwatosa Avenue and North Avenue as shown at the red square, The name

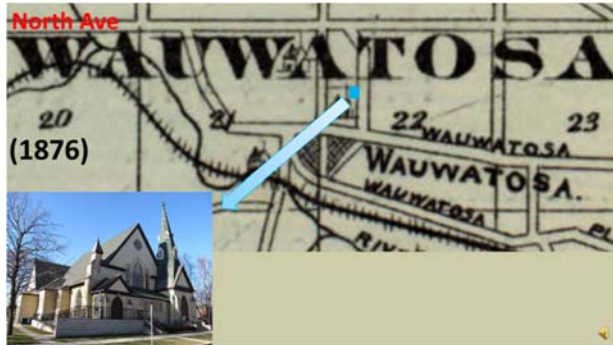
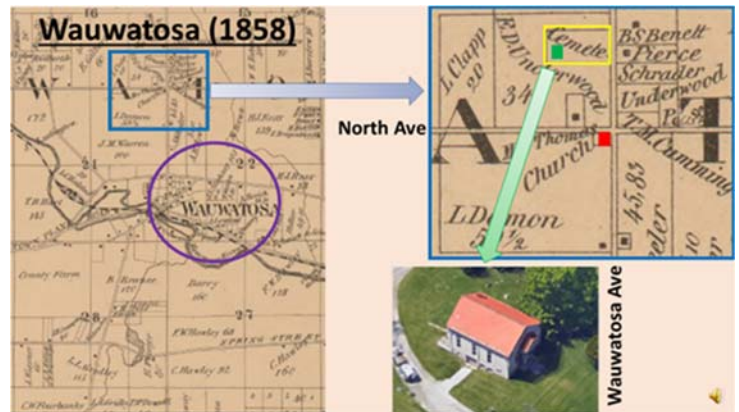
was changed to the First Baptist Church of Wauwatosa.



On the bottom left is a different view of the church in 1870.

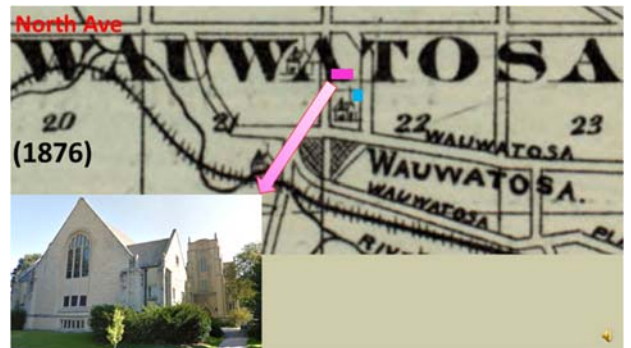


In the Wauwatosa Cemetery, within the **yellow** rectangle, the green square became the location of the original church building, as seen today, after this Victorian Gothic Church was built in 1888 where the light blue square is.



In 1906 the church changed the name to honor Rev Underwood.

In 1954 where the pink rectangle is, they built the modern faculty of today.



The early years were hard for our church; members were few and were not wealthy.

9. Hard Times: Rev Clack (1850)

Our early pastors are shown here. Note that our early historians included the pastors from before our Church's founding. I believe that is because the Milwaukee Baptists closed their church to facilitate its move to the west, and because the Clerk's memo book was kept and then described events at the Greenfield Baptist church.

Pastors of Greenfield Baptist Church

Rev R. Griffing	1836-1838
Rev E Matthews	1838-1840
Rev R. Griffing	1840-1841
Rev Conrad	1841-1842
Rev J Murphy	1842-1843
Rev W. R Manning	1843-1847
Rev Raymond	1847-1850
Rev W. Clack	1850-1850

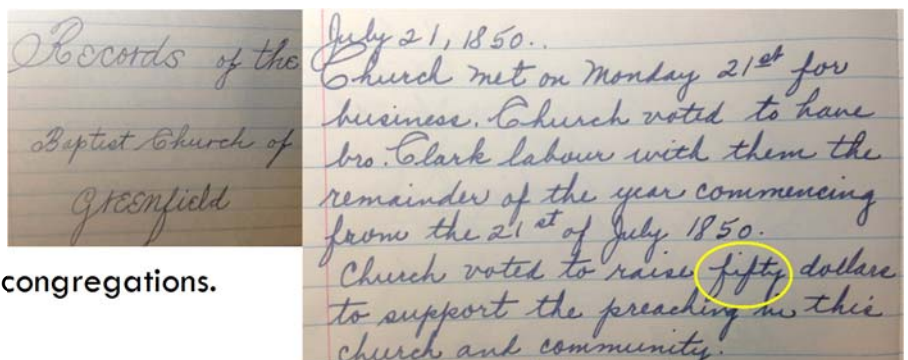
The source of most of the rest of the information in this chapter is primarily from a biography of William Clack, who lived from 1819 to 1901. Remember, this was a world very different from today. He was born in Alvescot, England. the 7th of 11 children. He had no formal schooling. He worked on a farm and advanced as a butcher's apprentice. He was in the British military in 1841 where he excessively drank alcohol and boxed. He attended revival meetings and switched from the Church of England to Methodist and became a minister, possibly because he was a very good orator. He ran a butcher shop until it failed in 1846 during a bad economic period.



Trying to better himself, he went to New York City in 1847 and brought his wife and three children there in 1848. Shortly thereafter, all 3 children died of cholera because of unsanitary conditions. William and his wife moved to cleaner Philadelphia where he worked on maps. He switched from Methodist to Baptist in 1850 and became a minister. He moved to Wisconsin and met Rev Griffing who worked with him to fill open positions in the Baptist churches in Oak Creek in Waukesha County and Greenfield.



Both were small groups. He accepted an ordination call and a council examined him and he served both congregations.



I believe the Oak Creek church was not in Waukesha County as there is no Oak Creek there. There was a Baptist Church at Oak Creek settlement of Oak Creek Township starting in 1841 according to the City of South Milwaukee history. That Oak Creek became South Milwaukee.

Rev Clack lived in Oak Creek and, maybe on the 15 mile route in purple, “walk on Saturday to Brother Williams in the forenoon. Then walk to Greenfield in



the afternoon, conduct in the service on Sunday and

reverse the walk on Monday. Shoot my own squirrels or go without meat.”



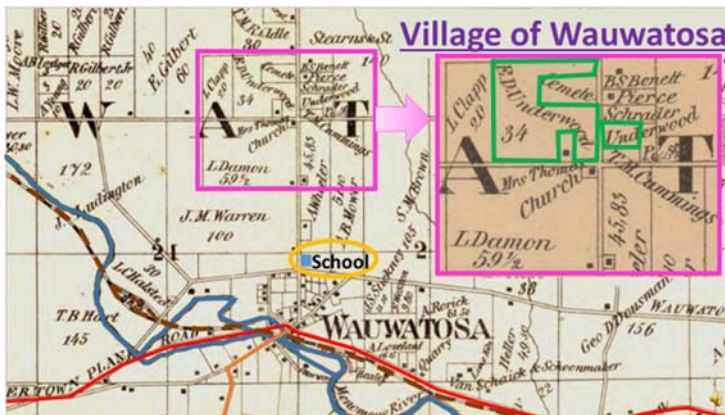
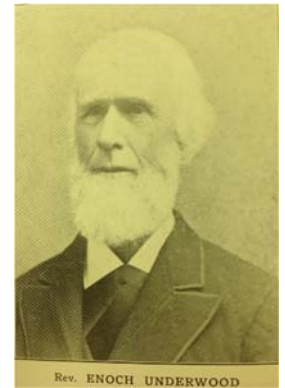
“My success at Oak Creek was only partial, it was interrupted and I may say terminated by a district school quarrel. The church was divided. I stood neutral but each side thought I was against them because I was not for them.” He decided to move on to Iowa and later western Wisconsin. He pastored elsewhere. He moved when churches could not pay. He preached at train stations. He found that working in the ministry in that era could not support the additional 9 children he fathered, and eventually was an auctioneer for 21 years before he pastored at Pewaukee.

The Oak Creek Baptist church folded that same year of 1850. That community became South Milwaukee in 1859. Meanwhile, most small churches had problems raising the money to pay their pastors. Our church was **not** an exception. Rev Clack was the second of three pastors our church had in 1850. The third pastor will be covered in the next chapter.

10. Rev Enoch Underwood

Closely associated with the Baptist activities during these early years was a young man named Enoch Underwood, whose father's farm was in the northern part of Hart's Mills.

The farm's location is the area in green within the pink square. A very earnest Christian, Enoch became a well-known advocate of



the abolition of slavery and a champion of the cause of temperance. In 1842, the year Harriet married Enoch Underwood, her mother and step-father, Lucinda and Samuel Dougherty, hid Caroline Quarelles for several weeks on

their farm in Pewaukee. Caroline had fled slavery in St. Louis and was the first person conducted by the Underground Railroad through southeastern Wisconsin to freedom in Canada. Harriet and Enoch also kept a station of the Underground Railroad in their house in Wauwatosa to shelter fugitive slaves. Full of zeal, he decided to enter the ministry. He had been active in the Brookfield and Greenfield Baptist Church.

9/15/1849

In September 1849 we checked with him to see if he could preach to the Greenfield Church on a half time basis. The answer must have been a "no".

Voted Br. E. Cornwall a committee to see Br. Underwood and ascertain if he could be got to preach to us one half of the time.

Dec 3, 1849

By request, made by Br Underwood & Howard that the Church of Greenfield send delegates to meet the Church of Brookfield at the ordination of Br. Underwood on Saturday the 7th of Dec. 1849. Church voted to send Br. Cornwall, Strong, Sheldon & Br. Marlett.

Two months later, he requested our church send representatives to the Pewaukee Church for his ordination. On December 9, 1849, we dispatched as delegates Brothers Cornwall, Strong, Sheldon and Marlett to meet at the

Brookfield Church for the ordination of Elder Enoch Underwood. He started working full time for the Wauwatosa Church.

Pastors of Greenfield Baptist Church	
Rev Conrad	1841-1842
Rev J Murphy	1842-1843
Rev W. R Manning	1843-1847
Rev Raymond	1847-1850
Rev W. Clack	1850
Rev E Underwood	1850-1873

After Rev Clack departed in 1850, Underwood became our pastor. For 23 years he served both our church and the Wauwatosa church, a remarkable span.



Rev Enoch Underwood

Pastor, Greenfield Baptist Church, 1850-1873

Pastor, First Baptist Church of Wauwatosa, 1849-1887

His tenure in Wauwatosa lasted 38 years. His son gave this painting to our church. It is in the history room.

The

author does not have any details but the official record says that in 1852 the people voted to dissolve, In 1864 they must have decided to take a “do over” and voted to rescind the dissolution. There are no entries in the clerk’s book between these dates. I assume the 20 or so members continued to worship together, and/or worshiped in other Honey Creek churches and/or the most probable, they went to the First Baptist of Wauwatosa which had a building starting in 1853.

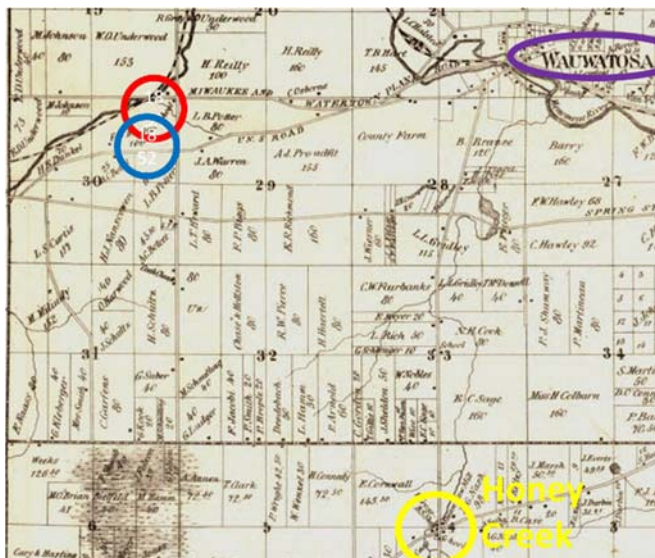
Church met November 6th 1852 and voted to dissolve and give letters of dismission to all of the members when called for

*Church met according to previous appointment and voted to Rescind the previous vote of the dissolving of the Church. Done by order of the Church this 26th of March 1864—
Peter Mark Church Clerk.*

In 1872, Underwood felt his health was failing. In 1873 he resigned as our pastor but continued in Wauwatosa for another 14 years.

Jan. 12, 1872. Church met in Covenant meeting. Elder Underwood present. On account of poor health thinks he shall not be able to preach at present. Brother Underwood preaches tomorrow it well enough.

By-the-way, the author attended this Wauwatosa School as have other children from members of our church. Note the name,



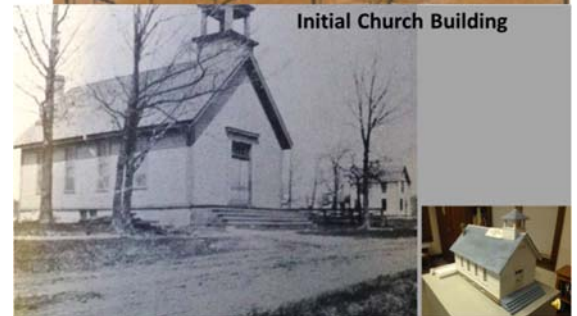
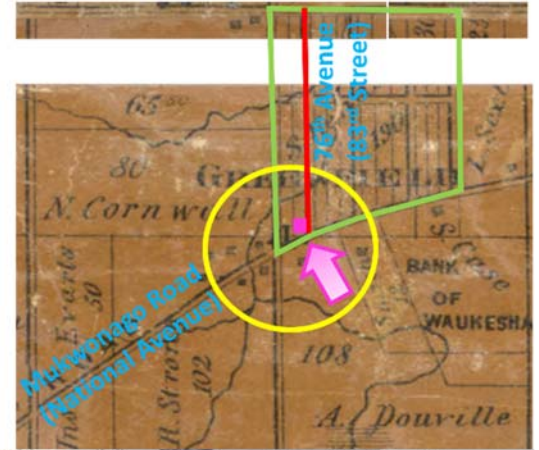
Underwood, and that the school was founded in 1852. That was a small school at the red circle at the current Mayfair Road and Watertown Plank Road. Later, a new school was built at its current location in blue at 11132 Potter Road.

11. Constructing a church building (1869)

Rev Underwood served our church for 23 years. The first building committee was appointed in 1844 to buy or build a parsonage. That was not done. We might assume there was a lack of money. Finally, after 28 years of meeting in homes, barns, schools, and a shared log cabin, our Church built its own building in 1869.

The location is the pink square. Note the area enclosed in light green. This is an area that was just platted for lots to build homes. Thus a street was laid out called 76th Avenue. See the red line. The Church was at the northwest corner of the future National and 83rd Street.

Note the poor quality of the Mukwonago Road. This sturdy wood structure remains today as our south wing, but not at this location. We will discuss that at another time. The model of the Church, created by Charles Nobles, shown on the bottom right corner can be seen in the history room on the 2nd floor.



Note the article in the Milwaukee Sentinel announcing the dedication at 11:00 am on a Thursday.

Milwaukee Sentinel 1/29/1869

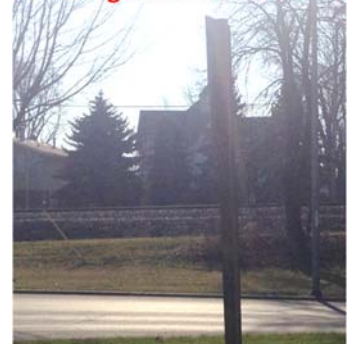
CHURCH DEDICATION.—The Baptist Church in the Town of Greenfield will be dedicated on Thursday next. The services will take place at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Looking SW at pine trees on spur railroad bed



This is an aerial view of the area today. If you were coming out of the church's main door, if the church was still there, the picture would be your view of National Avenue and the railroad tracks.

Looking out the front door



The picture on the next page is looking west towards the skate park. The pines are on the old roadbed of the spur

that later forced our church to move. In back of the church was Honey Creek and the Saw Mill.

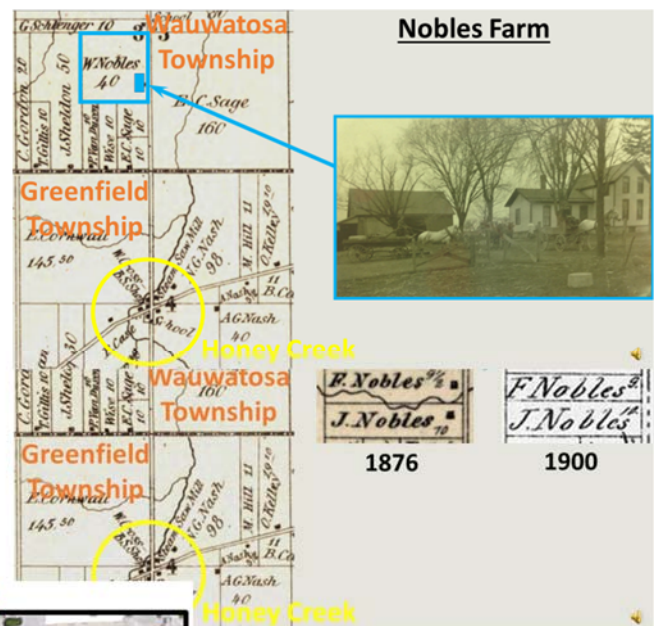
An update on our pastors. We got who we could when they were available. Like other churches, we had problems properly paying our pastors. As the years progressed, the turbulence in our pastoral leadership did not contribute as much as we would have wanted to our success.

Pastors of Greenfield Baptist Church	
Rev Conrad	1841-1842
Rev J Murphy	1842-1843
Rev W. R Manning	1843-1847
Rev Raymond	1847-1850
Rev W. Clack	1850
Rev E Underwood	1850-1873
Rev W Fenton	1873-1891 (supplies)
Rev Caldwell	
Rev E. O. Smith	
Rev D. W. Hulburt	

Charles Nobles, who made the model of our church, was a member of a family that was an early feature in nearby Wauwatosa Township as shown in light blue just down the later 84th Street from the Honey Creek Settlement.

As was common, as time passed, the land was split within the family with some being sold. Over half a century, 40 acres became only 19 in the family.

Today, the 40 acres is within the pink square. None of the Nobles homes marked by the red squares from the

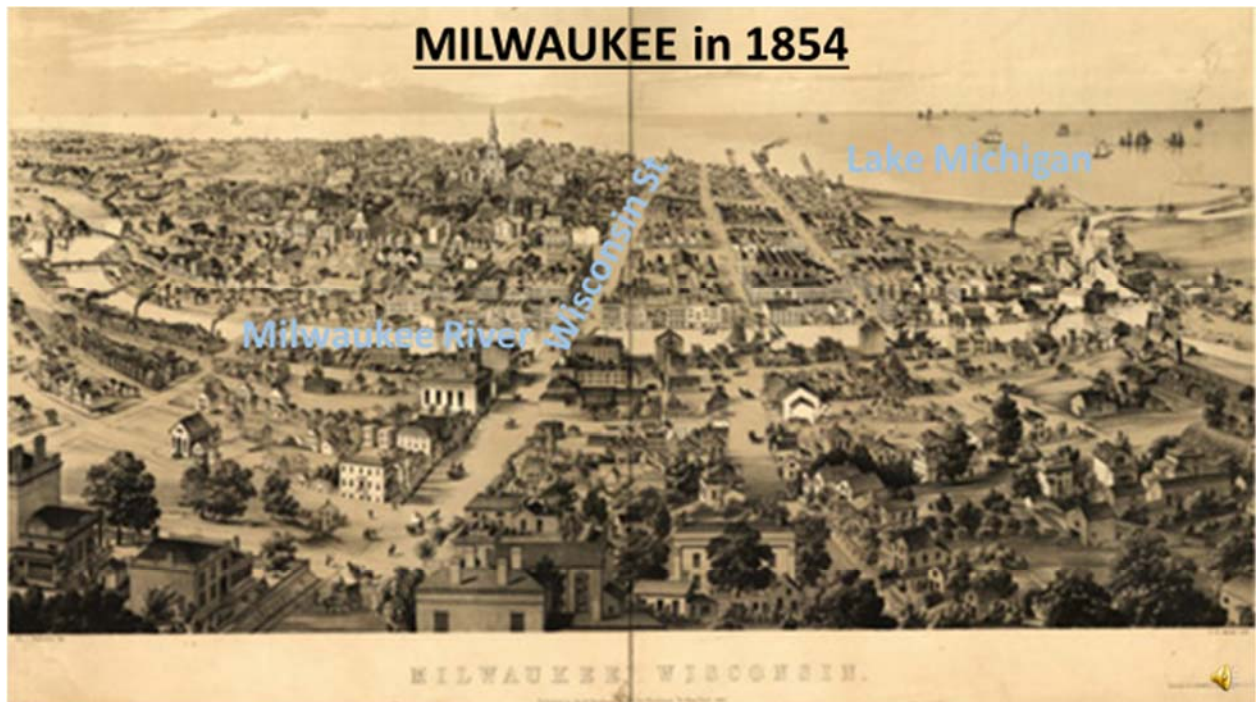


previous maps exist today.

12. Growth in the area

Milwaukee was growing in size as shown by this 1854 map. The slashed lines reflect the growing railroad network.

This map of Milwaukee in 1853 and a drawing of Milwaukee show a dynamically growing city.

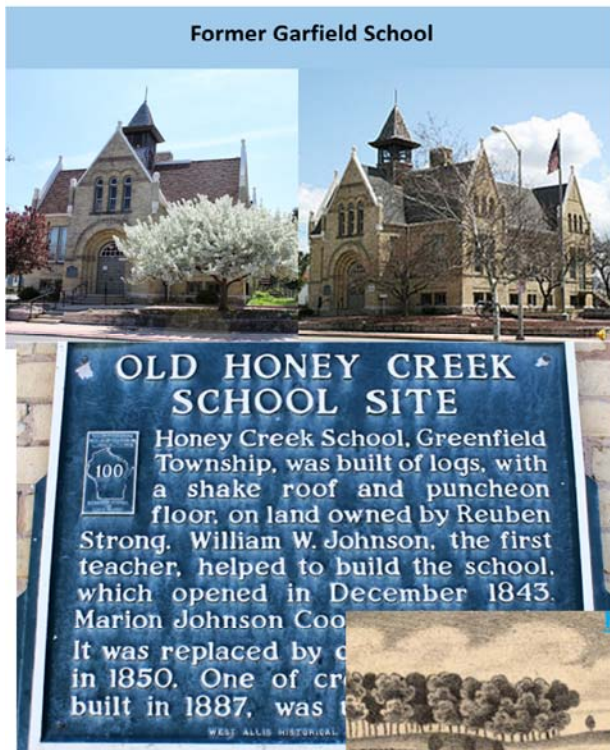


German-born Franz Neukirch, arrived in the Milwaukee region in 1839 and sent for his family to follow in 1840. He sent letters describing the area to his friends in Germany. An excerpt:

"Most fruits grown here are indigenous. Wild apples, cherries and plums are found in abundance. There is plenty of hunting and fishing. The Indians are peaceful and the character of the white settlers is above reproach. Nothing is ever stolen and everything is left wide open. Envy is unknown. Work alone commands respect. The inhabitants are all hard working people and help each other as much as they can. There are no beggars. Every male inhabitant is obliged to work two days a year on the streets, which are in bad condition. Canals and railroads are projected to form a direct

communication with New Orleans. I think that Wisconsin will some day be one of the wealthiest and best states in the Union."

Would you like to visit this Milwaukee? Anyway, many Germans, and others, came to Milwaukee, In the Honey Creek community, in the orange area, fire destroyed the log cabin school. It was rebuilt as a clapboard building and, in 1850, as a red brick school until the current building was constructed in 1887 and opened as Garfield School.



This monument on the building provides the site's early history. The Garfield building currently houses the West Allis Historical Society.

The small Honey Creek settlement slowly grew. Some folks sold part of their land to survive. Log cabins were expanded into larger and larger farmhouses.

The yellow circle is Honey Creek settlement; black squares indicate buildings; the red circle identifies the location of our church; the green circle was Ruben Strong's home; the green line to the green box



is an expanded view with a blue arrow showing the perspective of this drawing from a 1876 history of Milwaukee County. This is what National Avenue once looked

like. Notice the Strong home on the right which seems to have been enlarged several times.

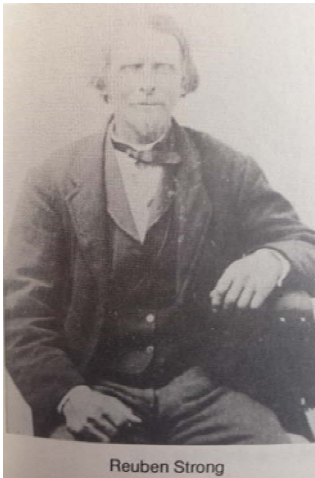
This is the current view down National Avenue today.



A recent aerial view of Strong's 160 acres, the area within the green box.



13. The Strong Family connection 15th to 19th Centuries

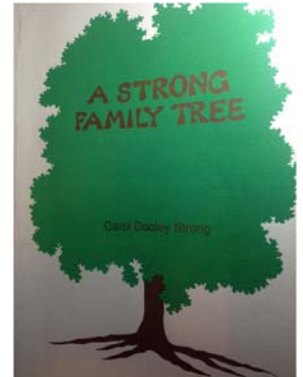


Reuben Strong



Pamela Fuller Strong

Thus far, we have talked about Ruben and Pamela Strong, their trip west, Rubens creating his farm, and both being buried in the Honey Creek Cemetery on Strong's 160 acres. Let us place them into their family ancestry. Much of today's information comes from this thick book, a labor of love by Carol Dooley



Carol Dooley high school graduation portrait

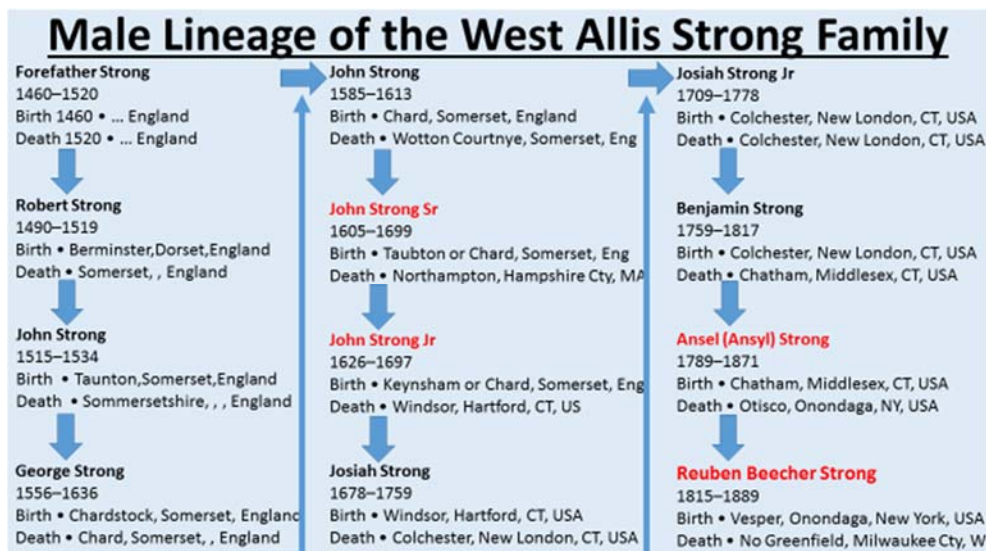
Strong, wife of George Strong. They were long time members of our church family.

Back in 1460 a boy with a last name of Strong was born in England. A chain of son and grandsons follows in Berminster and Somerset, England. John Strong Sr and Jr, red names in the middle column, moved to Connecticut on the ship Hopewell in May 1635.

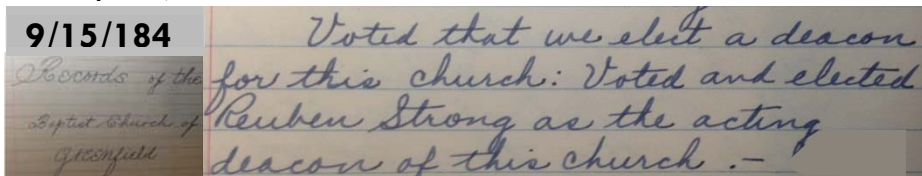
John Strong Sr helped found and was active in the First Church of Christ in Northampton, MA. He served as the Ruling Elder or sort of vice-executive officer of the church for 36 years.

Ansel Strong, the top red name in the right column, moved "out west" to New York.

His eldest son was Ruben, who moved further west to Honey Creek, Wisconsin. Ruben Strong joined the Greenfield Baptist Church on March 10, 1849.



On July 21, 1850 he was elected as the initial deacon of this church. The deacon



took on the church's administrative functions.

North Greenfield, Wis. — There seems to be an unusual scarcity of birds here, tho I have not been able to be out in the field much. The usual flocks of Nighthawks and Whippoorwills went thru in August. Bluebirds seem to be common. A few Bob-whites are reported now. There is a close season for a few years, and sportsmen have been "planting" them in this vicinity and out thru the state. They were practically extinct here a few years ago.

Later in life, Ruben paid much more attention to nature. He wrote to a bird magazine and this was published and is available on the internet; google "north greenfield, wis".

REUBEN M. STRONG, *North Greenfield*

Dividing the SW 1/4 of Section 4 (Strong's 160 Acres)

In 1844, Ruben sold his western 50 acres to his brother Benjamin Strong, who soon sold out and moved north to Winnebago County where he farmed and became a preacher.



Ruben sold 3 acres to the Cross family in the northeast corner. That minus the land for the school and cemetery left, 106 1/2 acres.

Ruben and Pamela had 7 children. 5 were alive when Ruben died in 1889. Following Ruben's will and an agreement with Pamela, they split the remaining acres along current 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, and 89th streets and provided funds to support their mother until she died in 1898. The Strong siblings tried to sell lots on their properties. It was a slow process as this was the far west side of the new, evolving West Allis. Building basically stopped during the 1929 depression. Back taxes plus money sold the high school land for Nathan Hale Junior High. No lots were sold 1941-45 due to no building during the war. Peace and a booming economy brought land sales and homes; everything was sold by 1952. The area today. We will cover more "Strong family" information in another chapter.



14. The CNW Railroad Spur Track Forces the Church to Move (1886)

This colored 1880 map of Milwaukee has an 1853 map of the city placed on top. Note that the city was going in all directions. It was becoming more civilized.

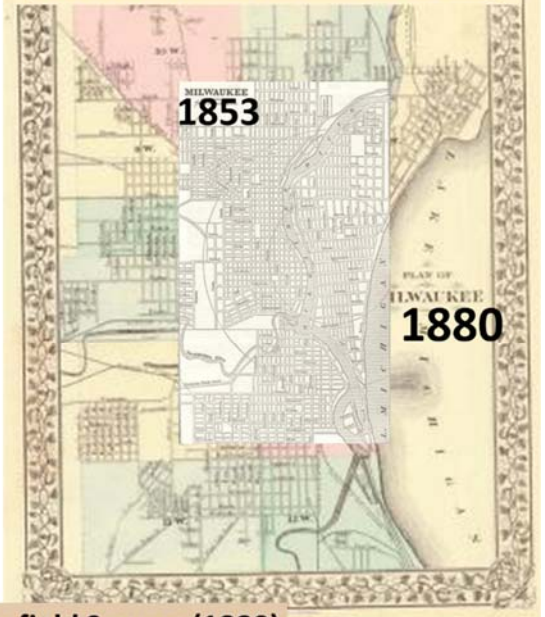


The darker lines indicate the location of the Milwaukee sewers.

This shows the location

sewers.

Milwaukee is Growing



North Greenfield Sewers (1880)

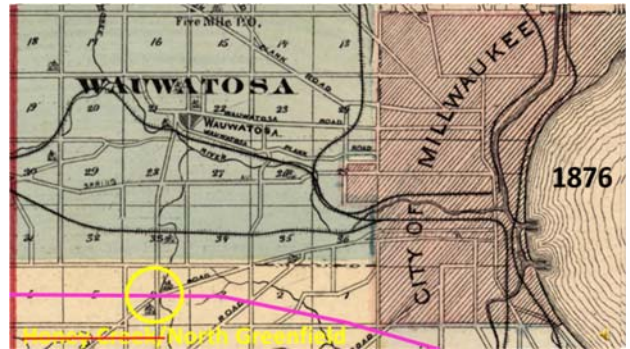
of all the North Greenfield



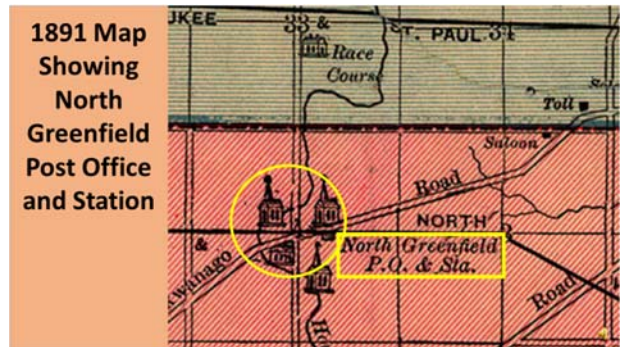
wheat fields to the harbor.

Milwaukee was perfectly situated as a port city, a center for collecting and distributing produce. Many of the new immigrants who were pouring into the new state of Wisconsin during the middle of the 19th century were wheat farmers. By 1860, Wisconsin was the second ranked wheat-growing state in the country and Milwaukee shipped more wheat than any place in the world. Railroads expedited the movement of grain from the

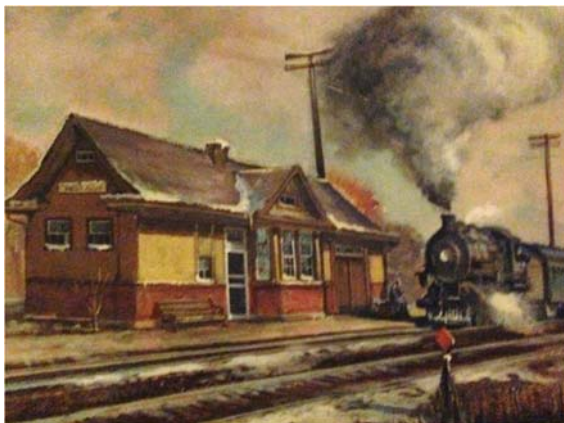
The railroads were spreading out from Milwaukee as shown on this 1876 map. The little Honey Creek settlement saw its first bit of industrial progress in 1880 when the Chicago Northwestern Railway built its line, shown in pink, through the heart of the Honey Creek to Madison. The railway company called its station “North Greenfield” because there already was a Honey Creek station on another Honey Creek towards the southwest in Wisconsin.



This map displays the name of North Greenfield. In 1887 some area was platted and the village of “North Greenfield” started.



A West Allis Historical Society painting of the station.



In 1882, the Chicago and North Western decided to place a rail spur, indicated in purple, between 77th Avenue and 76th Avenue, now 84th and 83rd Streets, to support new industry. This was to run to Greenfield Avenue. In 1886 this forced our Church, the small pink rectangle, to move to land donated by Eben Cornwall at the

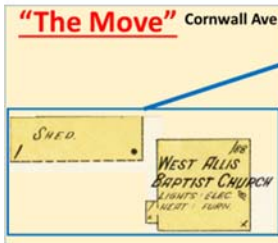
southwest corner of 77th Avenue and Cornwall Street. If you owned a quarter section of 140 acres or so, you could name the streets you started.



Basically, it was a two block move to what is now the corner of 84th Street and Mitchell. Eventually a shed was built to shelter horses in the cold winters.

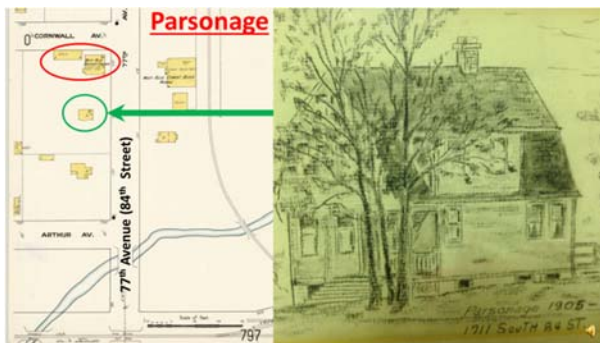
Our pastors from 1891 to 1904. None stayed too long. The turbulence in leadership was partially a result of our problems properly paying our pastors. During the last 30 years of the 19th century, our church had about 25 members.

In 1890 our church incorporated as society for religious, charitable, and educational purposes under the name of First

"The Move" Cornwall Ave (Pastors of Greenfield Baptist Church	
	Rev W Fenton	}	1873-1891	(supplies)
	Rev Caldwell			
	Rev E. O. Smith			
	Rev D. W. Hulburt			
	Rev H. E. Hoare	}	1891-1892	
	Rev G. H. Ferris		1892-1892	
	Rev D. W. Hulbert		1892-1896	
	Rev C. B. Williams		1896-1897	
	Rev A. Goodwin		1897-1899	
	Rev James Blake		1899-1904	

Baptist Church of Greenfield. In 1899 Rev James Blake, used his carpentry skills to help build a prayer room addition to the Church. This includes what today is Mary Schecher's office. Yes, in the background is the 1905 parsonage they wanted to build back in 1844, some 71 years earlier.

Here is a better view of the parsonage. Ann Cornwall's gift paid for 56% of the parsonage.



As constructed, Mary's office area was a raised platform.

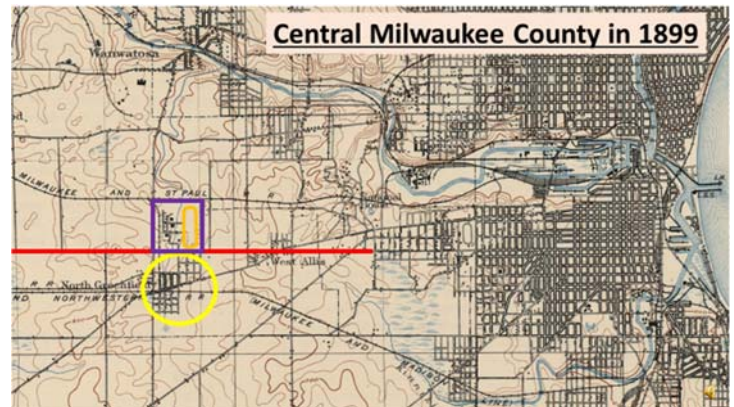


Here is that area today. The former parsonage still stands. By the way, in 1895 the entire population of North Greenfield totaled: 185.



15. Growth in Milwaukee County; State Fair in Town of Wauwatosa (1892)

The old Honey Creek Settlement, now called North Greenfield, is within the yellow circle, had more streets being planned. In 1891, the Wisconsin Agricultural Society purchased almost 100 acres in the area in the purple square from George Stevens' large dairy farm in Wauwatosa Township, bounded



on one side by the Milwaukee Railroad, the future 84th Street, and Greenfield Avenue, the red line, which was the border between Greenfield and Wauwatosa townships. The farm had an existing race track, highlighted in orange. An 1876 map shows a previous race track.



Previously, the Fair had moved between cities. This



purchase secured a permanent site for the

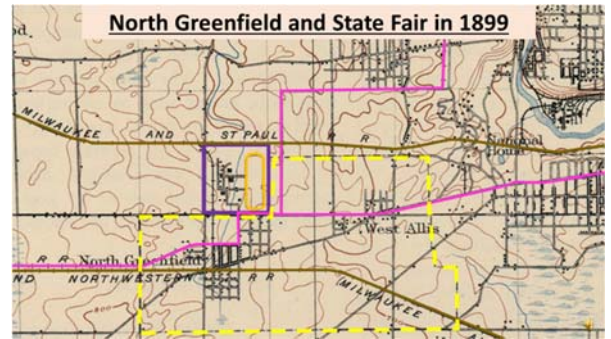
Wisconsin State Fair which has been there since 1892.

The old Honey Creek area in the **yellow** circle, had a larger population and more planned streets than the area near the eventual 60th Street and Hawley. North Greenfield, designated by the dashed yellow line, was still basically farmland.

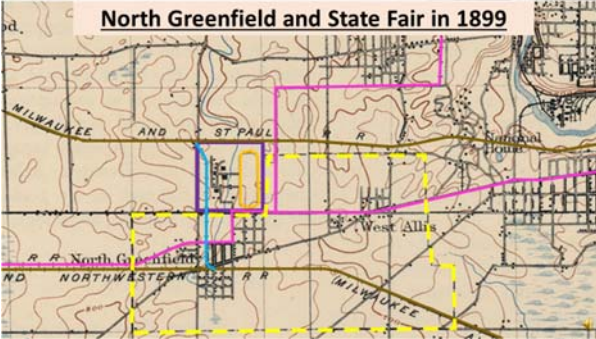


The Milwaukee Road and Chicago and North Western were on either side of the Fair as indicated in brown. Residential, industrial, and commercial progress was stimulated by the decision to locate the state fair at the new location

The establishment of the fair grounds made it necessary to provide public transportation facilities from Milwaukee to this area. In 1894, the Milwaukee Street Car Company extended its lines, shown in pink, all the way to the Fair grounds.

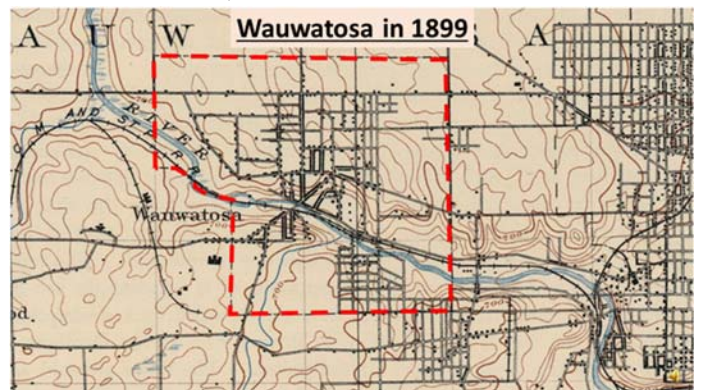


Streetcars marked “FAIR” dropping people off. Note the different style of clothing for going to the fair. The Chicago & North Western Railroad’s new spur, which caused our Church’s relocation, as shown in bright blue. was extended to the Fair Grounds. With the establishment of these transportation facilities, the growth of North Greenfield was very rapid and its future assured. Therefore, it can be said that the location of the State Fair grounds and the securing of the street car lines constituted the real foundation for



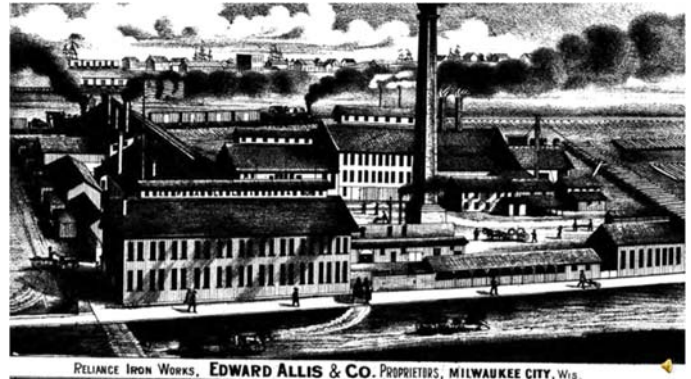
North Greenfield’s growth and development.

Meanwhile, Wauwatosa, in the dashed red line area, had evolved as a bed room community and had a much larger population of 2,248 when it became a village in 1892. It became a city in 1897 with 2,842 people in 1900.

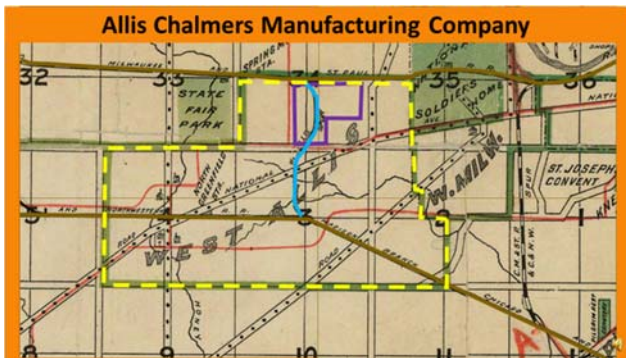


16. Allis Chalmers needs a new home (1901)

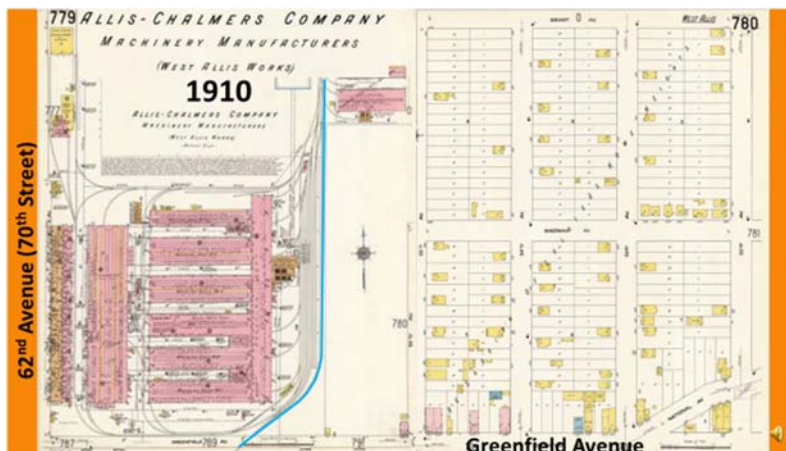
Sunday, November 25th 1900, is a significant date in the history of West Allis. On that day, Stutley I. Henderson, whose family was one of the area's original settlers, called upon Charles Allis of the Edward P. Allis Company (later named the Allis Chalmers Manufacturing Company) for the purpose of selling him property for the location of Allis' new plant. The original Allis factory was located in Milwaukee and had no expansion room.



One hundred acres of land in Wauwatosa Township (northeast of present day South 70th Street and W. Greenfield Avenue) highlighted in purple, were sold to the Allis Company at a cost of \$25,000. Construction of the huge plant was then started on the location to be served by rail, as shown in light blue, from both the Milwaukee Road Railroad and the Chicago Northwestern Railroad with a spur line running through the property joining the two railways. The streetcar lines, marked in red pencil, which were built to support the State Fair, would bring an ample labor supply from Milwaukee. By 1902, the Allis Company has started its factory.



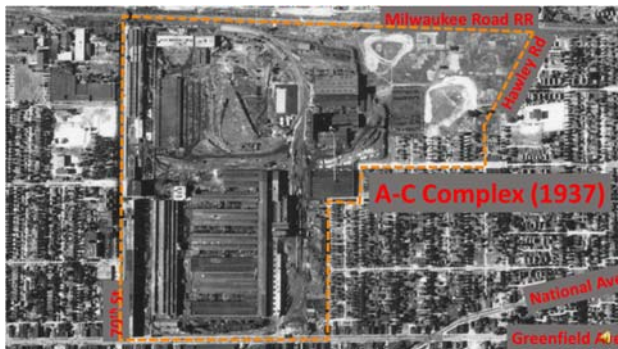
An insurance map prepared in 1910 shows the initial building project. Notice the abundance of rail sidings and the yellow rectangles to the right on residential streets



reflect wood frame homes. The new construction shifted from old Honey Creek area to this more eastern area and the business area developed and grew westward from 70th and Greenfield.

This 1910 or so post card shows the factory complex.

A 1937 aerial view of the Allis-Chalmers complex.



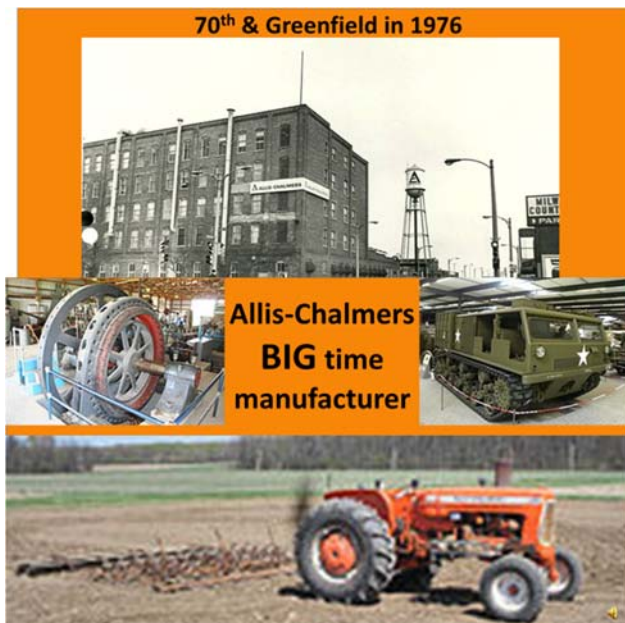
A 1966 view.

A 1+76 view.

The same area today.



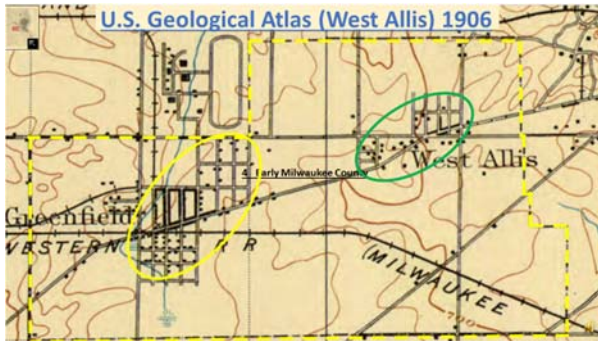
By-the-way, what did Allis Chalmers make? Lots of stuff, big stuff. These are



examples of big industrial equipment, military gear and vehicles, and farm implements. With no Allis Chalmers, this area would probably be another bedroom community, a small village like West Milwaukee, or a small

neighborhood in the City of Milwaukee.

17. Surge in growth; North Greenfield becomes West Allis



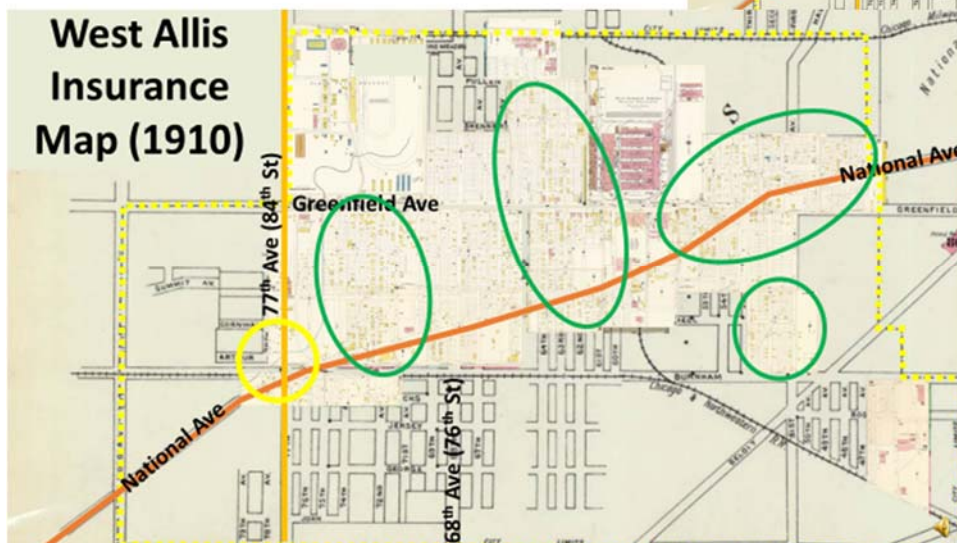
Although dated 1906, this map probably reflected the situation in 1900, before Allis started construction. More homes are in the **yellow** circle than the green circle.

The Rosenthal Corn Huskers, the Kearney and Trecker Company, the Fred Prescott Company, and the Kemp Smith Company

followed soon after the construction of the Allis Complex. The industrial boom gave impetus to the building of homes for the owners and employees of the factories with the result that hundreds of residences sprung up in the area that was still principally meadows and woodlands. However, this immediate growth was further east close to Allis Chalmers, streets with available lots in the old Honey Creek area mostly remained unsold.



This is an index map for the detailed 1910 Sanborn insurance maps. Each color is a

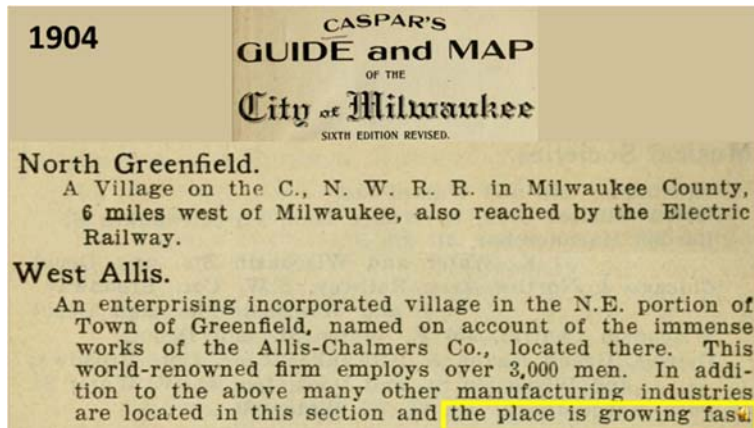


separate map. Each detailed map has been placed in its appropriate spot on this view. Where there is no detailed map, the area does not have many buildings. The yellow indicates wood

frame buildings while the red buildings are brick or concrete. The green ovals indicate clusters of homes.

Much residential growth had taken place in the east part of the town, west of the boundary, which now is South 56th Street, and south of the Milwaukee Road tracks. North Greenfield was the focal shopping area at the west limits of the town, and the area formerly lying in both the towns of Greenfield and Wauwatosa had two locations where there was a concentration of residences. Civic leaders felt that it would be well to incorporate the entire area so that it could have a village form of government. The name of "West Allis" was adopted for the village at a meeting that started right on time and within the first five minutes had completed its actions. The folks from the Honey Creek area arrived late, just after the name was decided. No one who voted for the name would ask for another vote.

West Allis was incorporated on May 31, 1902 with a census of 1,018. On April 2, 1906, West Allis became a city of the fourth class with a population of 2,306. By



1919 the population was 16,500.

The name "West Allis" did not take hold right away in Milwaukee. The 1904 version of Casper's Guide still identified the area of North Greenfield as a separate entity two years after it became West

Allis. Of course, West Allis was listed. No mention was made that the toe villages were the same community. There was one key phrase about West Allis, "the place is growing fast". They were correct on that.

Pastors of Greenfield Baptist Church	
Rev H. E. Hoare	1891-1892
Rev George H. Ferris	1892-1892
Rev D. W. Hulbert	1892-1896
Rev C. B. Williams	1896-1897
Rev A. Goodwin	1897-1899
Rev James Blake	1899-1904
Rev Henry Dee Brown	1904-1905
Rev R. E. Cody	1905-1906
Rev W. E. Risinger	1907-1908
Rev David B. Cheney	1909-1912

Our pastors through most of the early days of the 20th Century.

Pastor
Brown

Harvey Dee Brown, Ph. D.
West Allis, Wisconsin.

Dec. 25, 1904

In taking up the work of this pastorate, it was with the hope of leading the church in a forward movement which would put it in a position of a large spiritual influence and serving in this growing community. There seems to be need for some church to take a decided forward step in full recognition of the new forces and opportunities which have in the last few years come to West Allis. I have however become convinced that the large vision and spiritual power necessary to such a forward movement is not in the church. I therefore resign the pastorate....

decided to resign. He saw the growth changes in the community but felt that our members lacked a vision of the future.

Four years later, the chair of the pulpit committee resigned.

Meanwhile, our church was growing. In 1906, 29 men plus 55 women equaled 84 members.

In 1907 the total was 106. A mixture of old and new, farmers, blue collar factory workers, and business men.

Dear Brethren and Sisters
I have tried to serve you as chairman of your Pulpit Committee for some weeks past. The time, anxiety, and prayerful labor I have experienced in this service you will never know, but as differences among us have multiplied and misunderstanding – even misinterpretation has become general, I herewith definitely and finally resign.....
Dec 30th 1908
Very Fraternally,

Dr. Henry F. Strong,
1234 Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee.

Report of the Clerk - 1906 -

Your clerk reports the membership of the church at the last Annual Meeting to have been as follows:

Resident Male Members	22	Resident Female Members	47
Non " " "	7	Non " " "	6
Total	29	Total	55
Total Membership 84			

H. F. STRONG, D. D. S.
DENTIST
412 CAMP BUILDING

MILWAUKEE December 11, 1907

REPORT OF THE CLERK, FOR 1907.

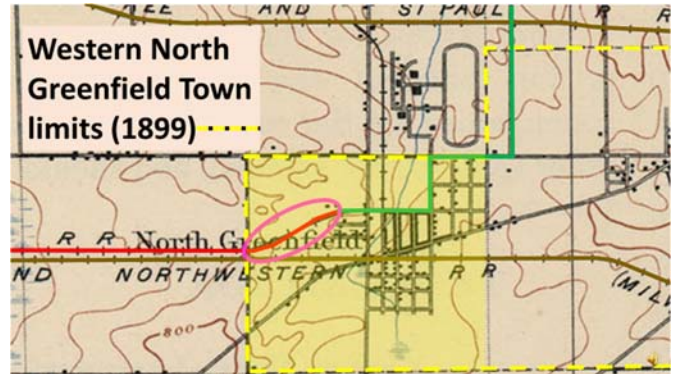
During the year, there have been received into membership by baptism 19, and by letter 4. We have lost one of our members by death and one has been dismissed by letter. Of those reported non-resident, one year ago, we report 1 now as resident, and of those reported resident one year ago, we now report 5 as non-resident, which leaves our membership as follows:

Resident Male Members	27	Resident Female Members	50
Non " " "	10	Non " " "	13
Total	37	Total	60
Making a total membership of 106, 66 of whom are resident, and 40 non-resident.			

18. Transportation's Impact on West Allis

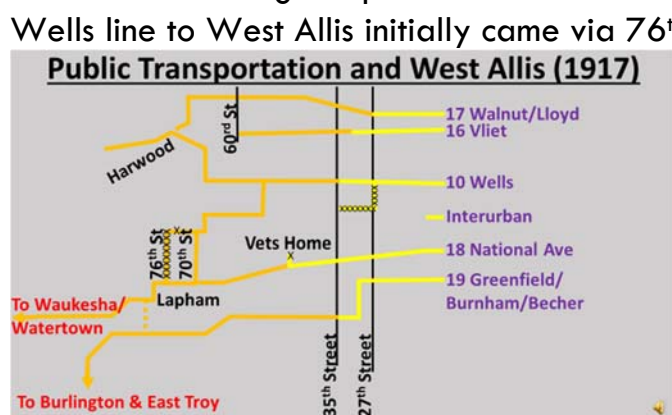
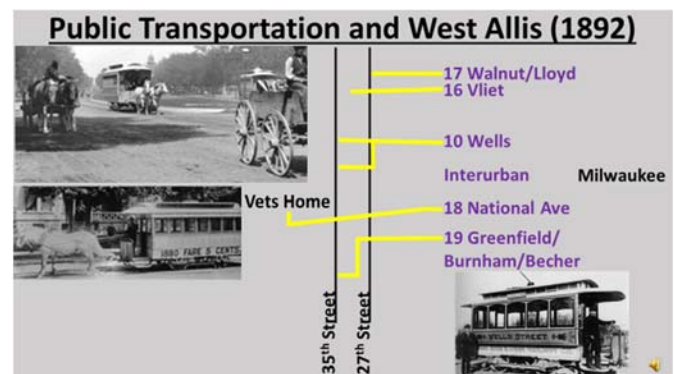
We have mentioned public transportation helping the development of West Allis. Now, some details.

The area highlighted in light yellow, is our Section 4 of Greenfield Township. Shortly after the decision to move the State Fair to our area, the Wells Streetcar was extended to North Greenfield by operating on streets, see the green line. Mr. Cornwall sold land for a private right-of-way in the pink oval area. This allowed the streetcar to get to Waukesha by traveling next to the Chicago & Northwestern railroad on a private right-of-way, the red line. When the Cornwall subdivision expanded, the future Lapham Street curved next to the street car line.



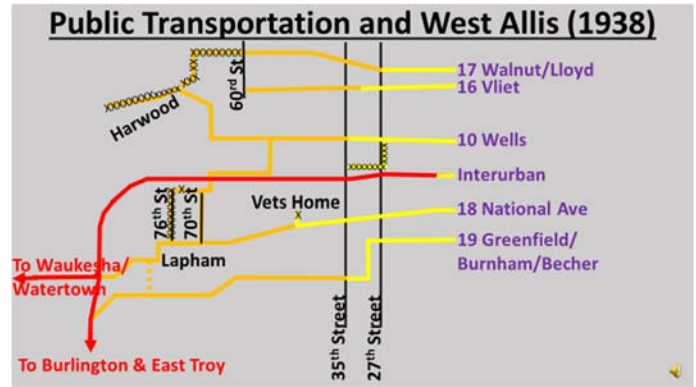
The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company consolidated five different street car. Five lines in Central Milwaukee went west and terminated about the city limits at 27th or 35th Streets with the National Avenue line going to Wood, the Soldier's home. Electrified service started in 1890.

A quarter of a century later, in 1917 we see a significantly different picture with gold lines indicating new construction. The Milwaukee limits were now 60th Street so the Vliet line was extended to there. The main expansion in our area was a desire to serve the State Fair Park and the Allis Manufacturing complex. The Wells line to West Allis initially came via 76th Street but was soon rerouted to 70th Street to service the Allis complex.



Interurban service began via right-of-ways beginning at 100th Street to Hales corners, Burlington, and East Troy with another route to Waukesha, Oconomowoc, and Watertown.

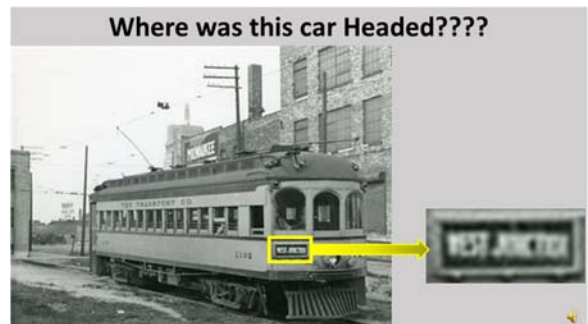
Two decades later, we see that the interurban lines had a new dedicated right-of-way except for 1/2 mile of street car tracks in downtown. In fact, construction had started on a subway to get to the Public Service Building, but the Depression halted that work. This right-of-way is now I-94/794.



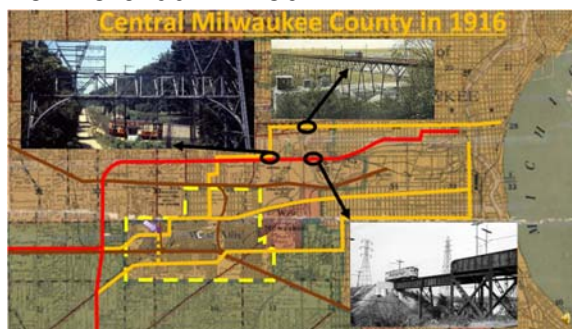
The western interurban routes all started at 4th and Michigan at the inside ground level of the 1905 Public Service building.



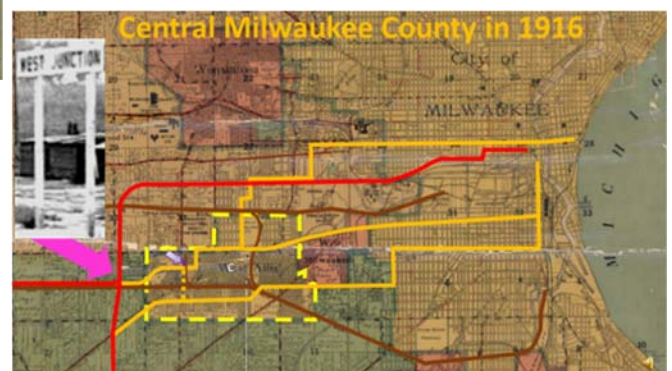
This car was headed to West Junction. What was "West Junction"?



This shows the 3 street car lines in gold and the interurban in red.



The pink arrow points to "West Junction" where the Rapid Transit routes split and connected to the Wells Street car and later the National street car.





This 1937 aerial photo shows it being south of Greenfield Avenue, the purple line, and just north of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad, the east-west brown line, at about where 100th Street would be today

The waiting area.



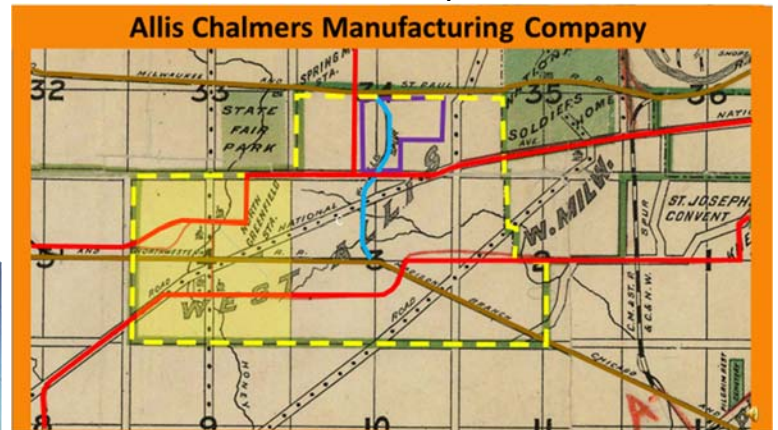
The location today, in yellow, next to I-41/894.



We saw this map recently. Since a section is a mile square, each 1/4 section, or each square on the map, is 1/2 mile. Every location, home or business, in West Allis was within 1/2 mile of a street car line, the

red lines. Most people did not have an automobile. Thus, the 1900-1929 period was one of home expansion to and within West Allis with close public transportation.

By 1949 the Interurban Rapid Transit had become Speedrail with truncated lines to only Hales Corners and Waukesha.



In 1950 there were three accidents within a few weeks. The worst was a head on crash just south

of National Avenue and 100th Street. 10 died and 47 injured.

Safety Concerns + More Autos = End of Service



6/30/1951

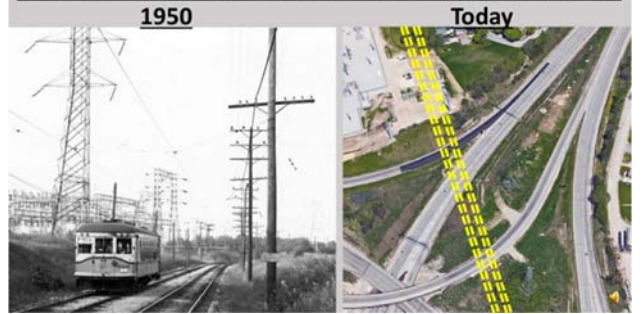
Months later

Speedrail service ended.



The right-of-way at about 95th Street and Adler.

Speedrail ROW Became Zoo Interchange



The right-of-way at 27th Street looking Northeast.



In West Allis, Street Car service ended in 1958. Looking east from the west edge of the Cornwall land.



19. Wisconsin State Fair Baptist Dining Hall

Our pastors during most of the first half of the 20th Century.

In 1894 our Church opened its famous Baptist Dining



years.

Dr. Henry Strong, the first year's manager, reported "a goodly sum" of \$292.82 in profits. Needless-to-say, labor was contributed "free". Practically the entire membership lent it's time and energy each year

We advertised.



1941 total costs of a meal were about \$2.65, and we served 15,650 meals over 10 days. The 1939 depression era profits were \$1,553. 1940 dropped

Pastors of Greenfield Baptist Church

Rev Henry Dee Brown	1904-1905
Rev R. E. Cody	1905-1906
Rev W. E. Risinger	1907-1908
Rev David B. Cheney	1909-1912
Rev F. F. Parsons	1912-1922
Rev A. L. MacMillan	1922-1925
Rev Andrew. B . Martin	1925-1930
Rev Earl Foster	1931-1931
Rev Ralph Compere	1931-1932
Rev Fred Erion	1934-1945

Hall at State Fair Park, operating it during Fair week, to raise money for the operations of the Church. So successful, we did this annually for 54



We had a "barker" to get people to come in. We had about 85 people working during a portion of each day to provide food and service.

In

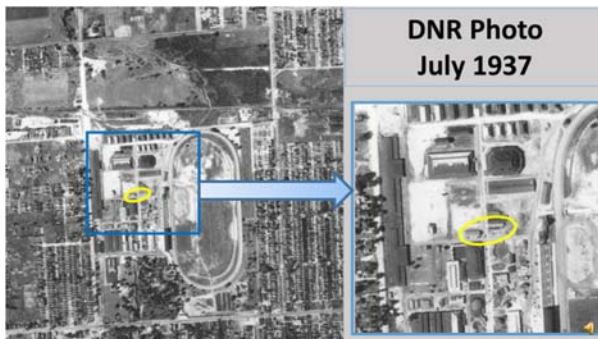


"Barker" Charles Olmstead
father of Charlotte Jaeck

to \$1,247. War year profits increased to about \$2,500 per year, and jumped to \$5,809 in 1947, our last year in the dining hall.

New rental charges and restrictions seemed to prohibit our continued outstanding food service. In 1948, Wisconsin's Centennial year, we served Danish pastry and coffee to fair goers in the International area. The profit dove to paltry \$725.25. It was not as satisfying or as profitable and we stopped our participation.

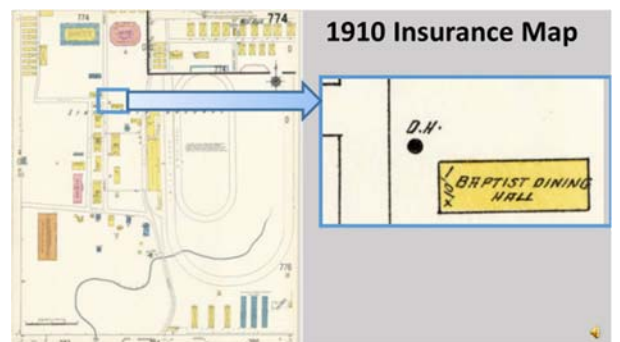
Several of us have asked, "Exactly where was the dining hall?" After research, the exact answer is "I am not certain." Here is a 1937 overhead DNR picture that I believe shows the dining hall in the yellow oval.



I believe the location was at the northwest or northeast corner of Central Avenue and 2nd Street, partially where the giant slide is located in the red box or where the roasted corn is sold in the yellow box. I think in the red box.



Looking at the 1910 Insurance map provides this information. Of course, the location of some of the streets has changed.



Donald Wothe filmed the Dining Hall in 1938. These are screen shots from the film:

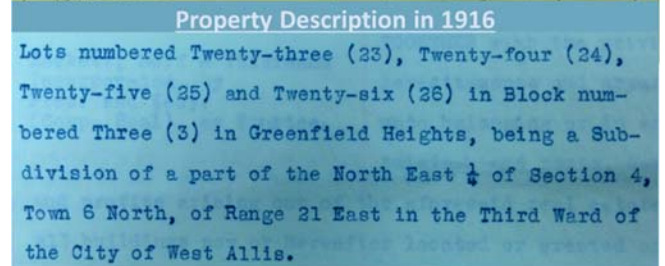
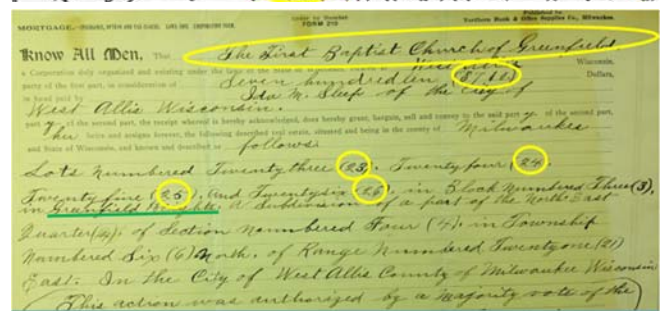
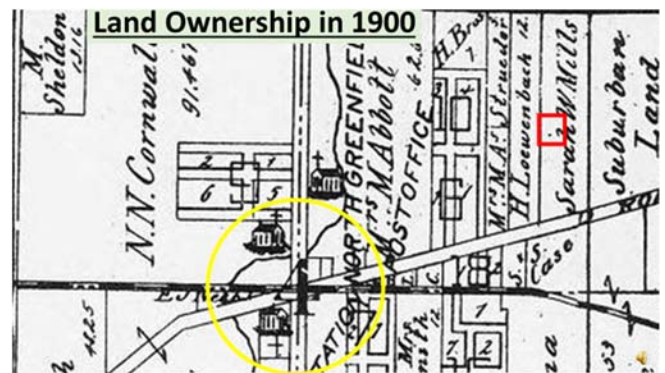


20. Church building repairs or build or move (1920)

Back in 1900, the land ownership in most of the western portion of North Greenfield is shown here. The **yellow** circle is the old Honey Creek settlement and the red square is our present location. Our membership reached 124 in 1911. In 1916, the Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Greenfield purchased four standard 30 foot wide lots at 80th Avenue and Summit for \$710, at the area outlined in red, as a site for a new Church building.

This was the legal description of the land, "... part of the North East $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Town 6 North, of Range 21 East...."

It was located in the pink square inside the dark blue oval. World War I halted planning and 19 sons of our families were called into military service; all returned safely. In 1919 our church building needed renovation and the town was going to pave 77th Avenue, now 84th Street, with us paying our share. The membership decided to



build at the new lots. Our church was at the dark blue circle, basically west of almost all of the city of West Allis.

A proposed new facility.

A closer look at the building.

The eventual 84th Street had a street car link to the Becher Street line which ran past our church.



and storage area.

Looking west on Lapham Street by the rail spur that previously had forced the church's move. Please note the multiple wires over the street.



decided to postpone building new and to move the existing building to the new location. The brown lines represent a pair of streetcar tracks with overhead wires.



The corner of the eventual 84th Street and Lapham Street. A Street car dispatch



This shows our previous move, in light blue, and, in pink, the four lots we had purchased.

In 1920 after much discussion, we

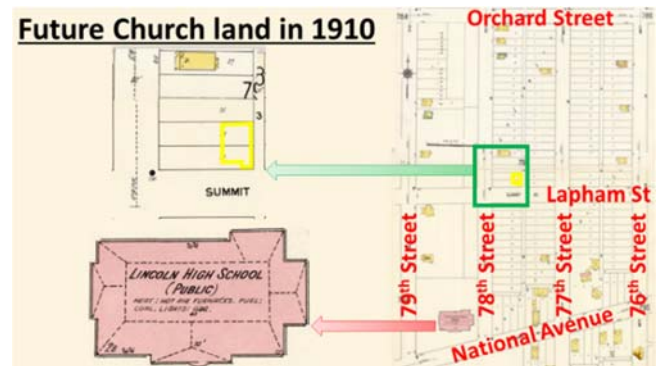


The building was rolled on logs, possibly over the route in dark blue. A tall church building would require the removal of the street car's power lines for one block on the eventual 84th Street and 3 blocks of the eventual Lapham Street. The move might have been via National Avenue,

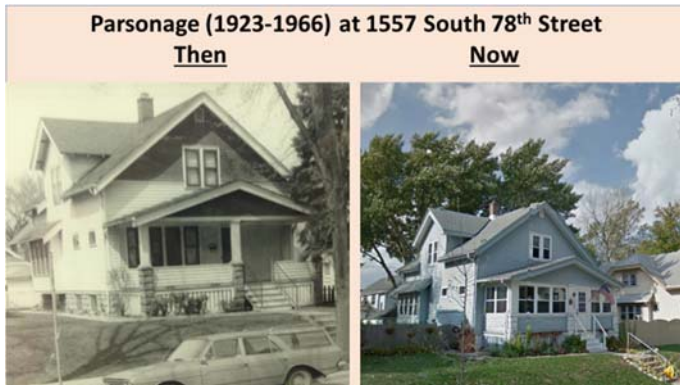
where only 1 ½ blocks of street car wire were involved. When the building had passed over a log, that log was moved to the front of the building. This process went

on log by log. It was reported that Pastor F. F. Parsons “supervised” every step of the way. Once moved, the building was renovated and rededicated. The hope was that the church soon would be overcrowded and that they would be forced to build as soon as possible.

This 1910 insurance map shows few homes in the neighborhood. The home north of our four lots was what we bought in the 1950s. The yellow outline was where our church was moved. Note that our nearby school was Lincoln High School on National Avenue and two homes were where a different Lincoln School is today.



In 1923, at the purple rectangle in the blue oval, we purchased a 1920 home basically across the Street, as our new parsonage, on 1



$\frac{1}{2}$ lots with 45 feet of frontage.

Meanwhile, more people began coming to our church; but, that is another story.

21. Mission church

Today, West Allis has 26 named neighborhoods as shown on this map. Zooming in to our old Honey Creek area, we see that the area is now part of four different neighborhoods, Honey Creek Settlement in the lower right, Henderson Park in the upper right where the light blue square denotes our church's location, Conrad Gardens which includes the Cornwall quarter section, and Woodlawn Manor, outlined in pink, the eastern half including most of the Ruben Strong quarter section. The last is the area we will talk about.



In 1921 a resident of the Woodlawn area at what is now 93rd Street north of Lincoln, marked by the light blue rectangle, asked for assistance in starting a Sunday School in her home. She felt that since our church had moved, the longer walk to the Church was too dangerous, especially in the winter. Soon Baptists living in the area of her home decided there was a need to establish a mission nearby.

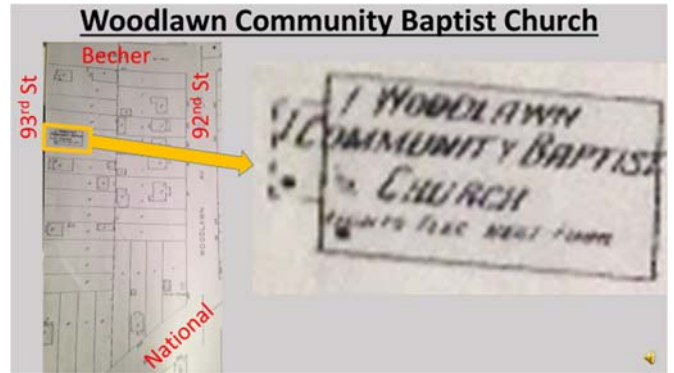
Funds were provided for a lot, a former Army barracks was placed upon it, and the building was transferred into a church. As indicated by the green oval, the church was on 93rd Street between Becher and National.



The exact location is as indicated on the in the gold rectangle. Heat came from a pot-bellied stove. Woodlawn Baptist Church was dedicated in 1925. Our pastor preached there at an early service and a group of young people assisted with the church school. Dr. Strong and his family attended services there.

This 1927 Insurance map on the next page locates the church as on the east side of the now 93rd Street 4 houses south of Becher.

The 1937 aerial photo showing the neighborhood.



Zooming in we see homes on about 25% of the lots.

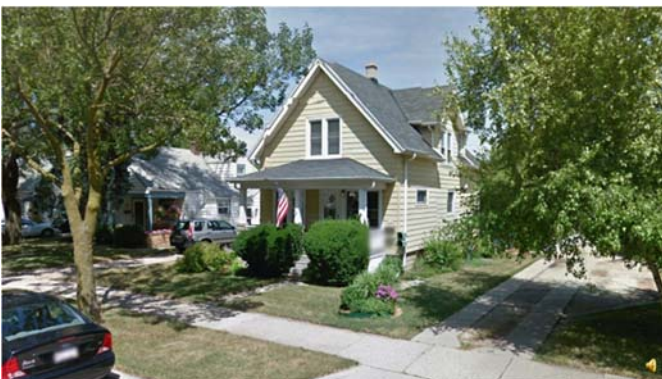
A fuzzy picture



youthful ministry.

indicates it was a

This is that site today.

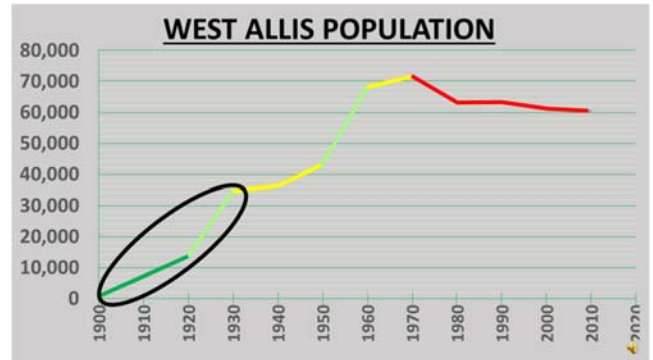


The Woodlawn Community Baptist Church closed in 1936, during the Great Depression.

In 1927 legal steps were taken to officially change our church's name from the Greenfield Baptist Church to First Baptist Church of West Allis.

22. New Church building (1929)

A chart showing the population of West Allis. 1900 to 1920 in dark green was good growth followed by the 1920s period in bright green of rapid growth. By 1927, our nation's economy was booming, West Allis was nearing 35,000 population, our membership was 188, and the church was debt free.



It was felt that larger and more modern facilities were needed by our Church. Concepts were explored and a booklet read,



“Owing to the World War, the entire scheme to erect a new Church building was indefinitely postponed. In the meantime, the activities of the Church have gone on with increased success until it has now become imperative to face a thorough building programWe have a fine field of opportunity for all branches of Church work.....

We have more children and young people than we have proper room for and are wholly unequipped for making the educational emphasis in a modern wayWe feel that the time has come to make our Church a bigger force than ever in the community and the first step to be taken in the erection of a fitting Church building. We ask all our friends to rally to our help and enable us by their cooperation to answer the call to larger service which has come to us.”

The proposed building was deemed too costly. The project's scope was changed. The old building was given a brick veneer to match the new building and became fellowship hall upstairs and Sunday school downstairs.



The new building was dedicated in 1929. Yes, that 1929.

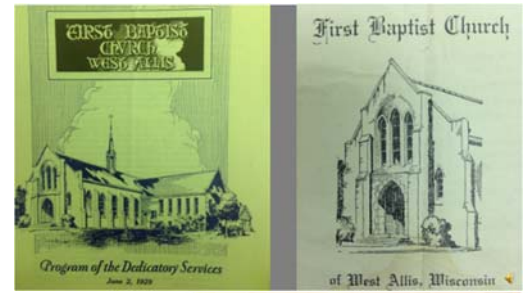
Months later the economy tanked and our members and church went through economic issues. For example, Hannah and Don Wothe married in 1932 and briefly rented part of a duplex in Milwaukee until Don Wothe's father, a carpenter, could not make mortgage payments on the house he built in 1927 in the Newbury Cornwall subdivision on 90th Street.

The newlyweds took over the first floor and Don Wothe's parents had the second floor after converting a bedroom into a kitchen. Don Wothe's parents both passed away by 1935.

As reflected in the 1940 Federal Census, Hannah Wothe's parents, the Oberjats, just retiring, then moved in until after World War II. People did what they had to do to get by during the hard economic years.

This 1940 Census info shows that our pastor, Rev and Mrs. Erion, had two guests in the parsonage named Gissenaas, his mother-in-law and his sister-in-law, who was a Milwaukee school teacher whose brother had married Hannah Wothe's sister. While the depression years were difficult, the Church managed to survive by hard work and the restructuring of debt.

As the depression era was ending, the clouds of war were growing.



1940 CENSUS

State Wisconsin Incorporated place West Allis
 County Milwaukee Township or other division of county _____

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION
63	1472 S 90 th St	Wothe, Donald E.	Head
64		Hannah	Wife
65		Donald R.	Son
66		Oberjat, Emil	Father-in-law
67		Elise	Mother-in-law

1940 CENSUS

State Wisconsin Incorporated place West Allis
 County Milwaukee Township or other division of county _____

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION
44	1551 97 th St	Erion, Fred	Head
45		Loretta	Wife
46		Gissenaas, Loretta	Mother-in-law
47		Louise	Sister-in-law

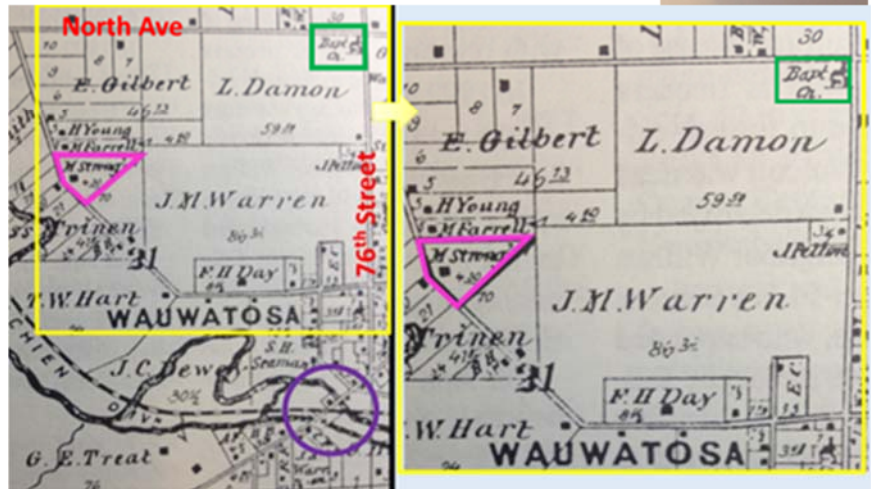
23. The Strong Family connection 19th to 21st Centuries



Previously, we discussed the Strong family through Ruben, one of the initial Honey Creek settlers. One of his sons, Myron, went off to fight in the Civil War, returned, married, and moved to a small 30 acre farm in Wauwatosa.



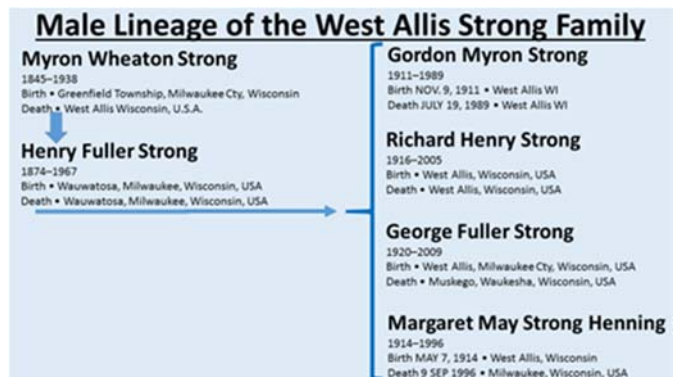
The Wauwatosa farm is highlighted in pink. The mill area is in the purple circle. His children were happy that they were in the country, could explore along the wild Menomonee River, and the “city” was close as was their First Baptist Church of Wauwatosa in the green square.



The future Doctor Henry Strong grew up there. His children, who were active in our church, are listed.



Myron's family in 1883. Eight year old Henry is by the blue arrow.



Let's look at some US Census records. In 1880, 1900, and

1910 Census Reports,

Henry, the light yellow band, was living at home. Yes, even at age 34, after they had moved back to North Greenfield when Henry graduated from Wauwatosa High School.

1880 Census	Strong Myron W	W M 34	Married
	May A	W F 33	Wife
	Myron R	W M 7	Son
	Henry F	W M 6	Son
	Belle	W F 1	Daughter
1900 Census	Strong Myron W	W M 40	Married 1868 52
	May A	W F 39	Married 1868 48
	Myron R	W M 13	Married 1874 25
	Henry F	W M 12	Married 1878 21
1910 Census	Strong Myron W	W M 50	Married 1868 52
	May A	W F 49	Married 1868 48



Henry went to Dental School, opened his practice in Bay View, and later moved his office to downtown.

He and his girl Jessie took buggy rides to Forest Home Cemetery with another couple. No Sunday football on TV; no TV!



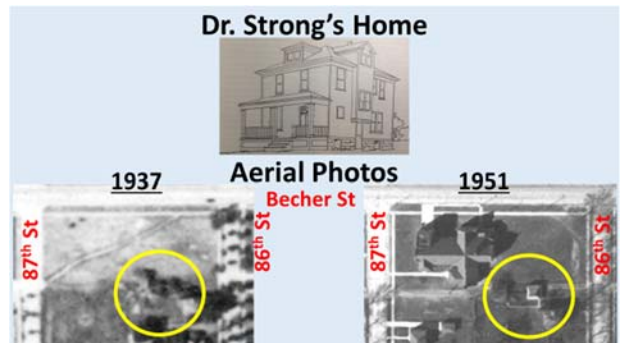
World War I Draft Card.

Head of household with 3 children in the 1920 Census.

1920 Census									
79th St	Y	65	69	Strong	Edward A head	107	M	W	41
					Jessie E wife		2	W	34
					Richard M son		M	W	8
					Elizabeth daughter		2	W	5
					Richard son		M	W	3 1/2

The home on the future 86th Street.

The red rectangle marks the location on the Strong 1/4 section on Myron's inherited land between 86th and 87th Streets.



The home was razed in 1967. This is that area today as a church parking lot.

1930 Census										
866 St. Paul	565	215	22	Strong	Henry F. Hc	Head	33	M	W	58
					Jessie E	Wife	27	F	W	45
					Gordon M	Son	17	M	W	18
					Margaret Henning		16	F	W	16
					Richard H	Son	14	M	W	14
					George F	Son	10	M	W	10

1940 Census											
866 St. Paul	2119	28	0	3500	Strong	Henry F. Hc	Head	37	M	W	65
					Jessie E	Wife	31	F	W	55	
					Gordon M	Son	21	M	W	28	
					Richard H	Son	18	M	W	24	
					George F	Son	14	M	W	19	

The 1930 and 1940 Census shows that because of the depression, young men in their twenties such as the 3 sons of Dr. Strong, tended to remain at home. Margaret had married. The extended family. Grandfather Myron seated in front. The three



some of you might know are Dr Strong, green arrow, George Strong, blue arrow, and Margaret Strong Henning, red arrow.



Dr. Strong was active in our Church as Sunday School Superintendent, leader of the State Fair Dining Hall, and multiple positions of responsibility. He loved the Lord and loved to tell stories as examples of faith. He was seriously injured when trying to get on a streetcar when a young uninsured motorist hit him in 1932. The accident ended his dental career. His tools are at the West Allis Historical Society in the former Garfield School on his grandfather's quarter section of land.

George had a beautiful tenor voice and blessed many services, weddings and funerals until he and wife Carol, who also was active, passed within the past decade.



Margaret served on the diaconate, Vacation Bible and Sunday school teacher, historian, floral chairperson, Guild girl leader, involved in women's work circles, and Key woman for our church.

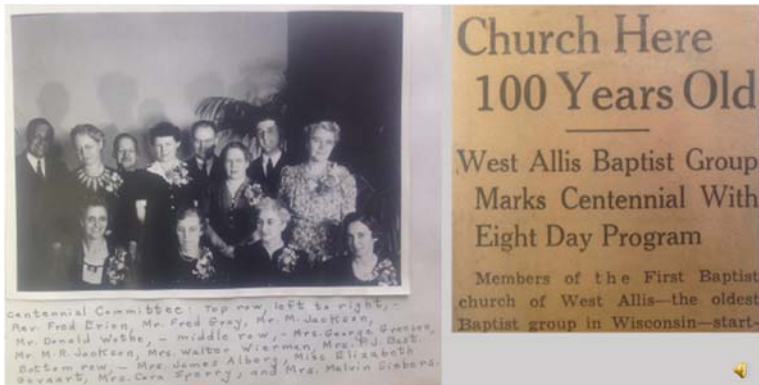


Her daughter, Carol, also was very active in multiple activities as Chairperson of and served on all 3 boards, historian, vacation bible and Sunday school teacher, children's story giver, usher, and key woman for our church .until days before she moved to Florida last fall of 2015 In fact she worked via e-mail as a member of the 175th anniversary committee. She plans on maintaining the "Strong connection" with her and our church. The "Strong connection", 1849 to 2016, is 167 years old and continuing.



24. Our Church During 1941-1945

Our Church celebrated 100 years of service in 1941.



It was a joyous time. Our country then switched from a decade of Depression to fighting World War II. The population growth in West Allis and our church during the 19 teens and 1920s led to a large number of military aged young adults. Our church kept track of our service members.

We had an honor roll hanging in the foyer. Two long

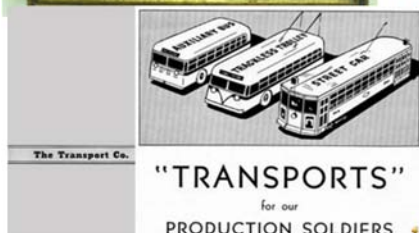


time members, Charles Dahl and Paul Bast are listed. We needed space for more names.

We got a new honor roll. 62 of our members were called; 4 were women. So many that a new Honor Roll had to be created.

Our country was united. An ad called working folk

“production soldiers.”

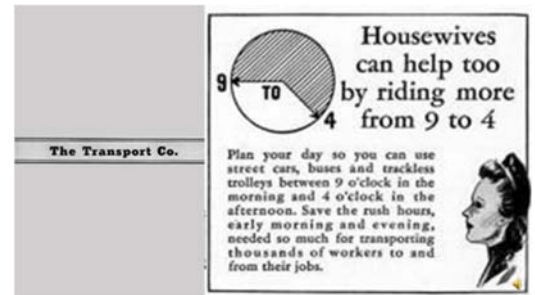


Another ad asked housewives to avoid the rush hour when transit was full.

We were told to buy war bonds.



We
were
told
to



save car and tires by riding rapid transit.



Families has "victory gardens" in the open fields south and west of Greenfield and 108th Street.

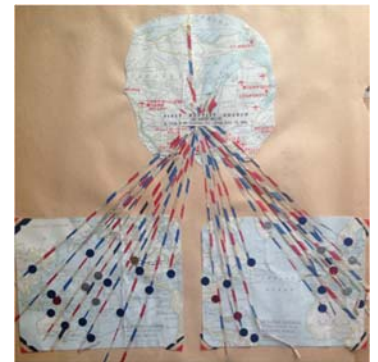


Our church's "home forces" kept a World War II Memory Book; the cover is on the left. Military drawings were in the book. Page one, on the right, showed the mission. In contrast with today, our people of country and much of the world had a

uniting purpose. We worked together and respected the people serving the common good.

This second page showed the location of each servicemen.

The top is shown here. In effect saying, "they all call our church home."



The left side shows locations in the Pacific theater.

The right side shows locations in the Atlantic area.

Our church provided lists of service member's

Sgt. Frank L. Back 16132526
1103 A.A.F. Base Unit Sqdn. C
Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Florida
Sept. 27

Tech. Sgt. Paul J. Bast Jr., 36208999,
Will be at home soon. May 22

Byron E. Batchelder, S.S.E.A.S. Clarke,
c/o Marine P. O. Detroit 22, Mich. Apr. 29

Ensign Harry Batchelder, Jr.
U.S.S. L. C. I. "G" 66, c/o F.P.O. San
Francisco, California May 23

Edwin D. Baugh, H. A. 1/c
U. S. Naval Hospital, St. Albans, Long
Island, N. Y. Dec. 12

The Women's Union had the honor of
selling more War Bonds and Stamps while
in charge of the booth in Penney's store
than any other organization.

Mr. Erion received a fine letter from Pvt. Jay Roth last week. Jay has been on
maneuvers.

We are mighty happy to welcome Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Kenneth Erwin this
morning. Ken has been in the service two years. This is his first furlough during
that period.

We are also glad to welcome Charles Dahl who was recently discharged from
the service because of physical disability. We are mighty happy that Charles' con-
dition has improved sufficiently to permit his leaving the hospital. We are confident
he will grow stronger from week to week.

addresses
and
birthdays so
our resident
members
could contact them.

The book contains entries about our efforts such
as selling Bonds and Stamps as well as what our
folks were doing.

Service members
wrote to our Pastor,
Rev Erion, and their
comments were
posted.



We sent our military the Baptist Dispatch, the predecessor to
the Communicator. Rev Erion sent newsy letters. Members sent
cards and letters.

We sent Readers Digest subscription,
Christmas packages and Easter packagers.

That Pvt. Jay Erwin, Pvt. Charles Dahl,
Lieut. Lisle D. Horton and Harry Batch-
elder Jr., four of our service men, were
in church Easter Sunday? Jay is home
on a sick leave and is convalescing nicely.
Lisle is enroute to the west coast where
he will assume new duties in the coast
artillery division.

Dear Rev. Erion:
I want to thank everyone of you for the
splendid Christmas gift you gave me in
having the Readers' Digest sent to me all
through the year 1944.
It is one of the finest magazines pub-
lished and I know I shall enjoy each and
every copy just as much as I have enjoyed
the very first one.
Thanking you again and hoping that
this war shall be over before the coming
of another New Year.
Sincerely,
Sgt. Kenneth Erwin

Dear Rev. Erion:
I received the summer issue of The
Baptist Dispatch yesterday and today your
letter. You have no idea how happy I was
to receive the Dispatch and read about
all the local news, your letter put on the
finishing touches. Thanks!
Before I go any farther I wish to thank
everyone for the cards and letters I re-
ceived during my illness. I'm sorry I did
not get around to answering them but I
hope my expression of gratitude at this



Pictures were pasted into the book.

The whole book was a labor of love and reflects the unity of effort within our church. As a soldier who spent most of his Army time overseas, I truly appreciate our church's effort, especially after paging through the book.

Not all our military returned home. Joseph V. Butterfield, Jr. and Ernest E. Kohler, Jr. gave their lives defending the United States. We thank them for their service and sacrifice.



V J DAY 1945

(Victory Japan Day)

Wisconsin Ave Bridge

West Wisconsin Ave



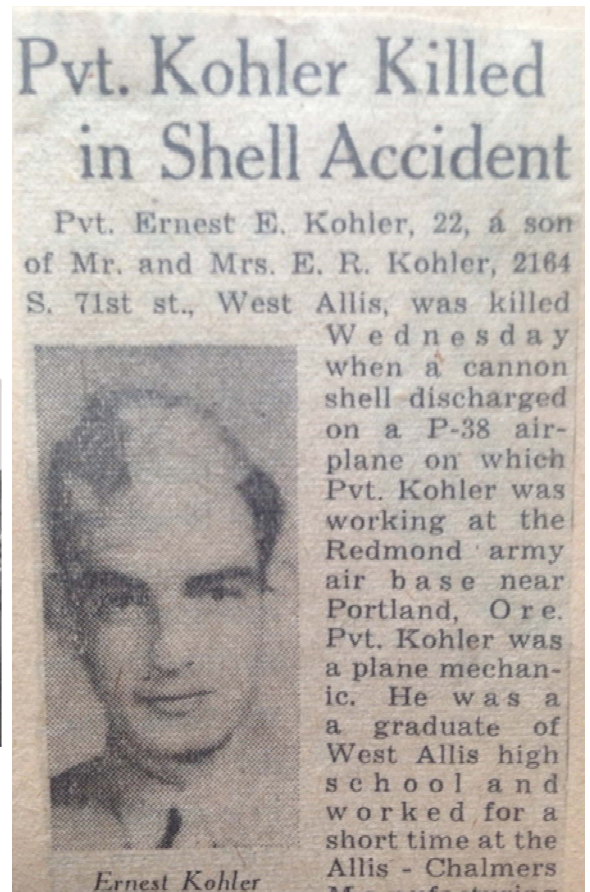
Pastors of Greenfield Baptist Church

Rev F. F. Parsons	1912-1922
Rev A. L. MacMillan	1922-1925
Rev Andrew. B . Martin	1925-1930
Rev Earl Foster	1931-1931
Rev Ralph Compere	1931-1932
Rev Fred Erion	1934-1945
Rev Raymond Pierson	1945-1946
Rev Alfred S. Davis	1946-1952
Rev Alex G. Sinclair	1953-1966
Rev Merlin W. Bradley	1966-1978

Victory
Japan day
was

celebrated on Wisconsin Avenue by Gimbels and the Riverside Theater.

Our pastors from the end of the war through Rev Bradley. We were again debt free in 1946.



25. Stained Glass Windows



For the first quarter century, our Sanctuary was basic and plain as seen in these 1940s pictures. Over the years, we have had some very generous gifts to enhance our worship experiences. Too often we walk by and do not notice them.



The stained glass windows, for example. They were installed in 1954 for the 25th anniversary of our sanctuary. They were made from antique glass from several countries. Rev Sinclair helped in the design. The windows inspire us and involve some aspect of our Christian faith. We might see the six most visible in the sanctuary but do we recognize their meaning?



The south side windows from the front.

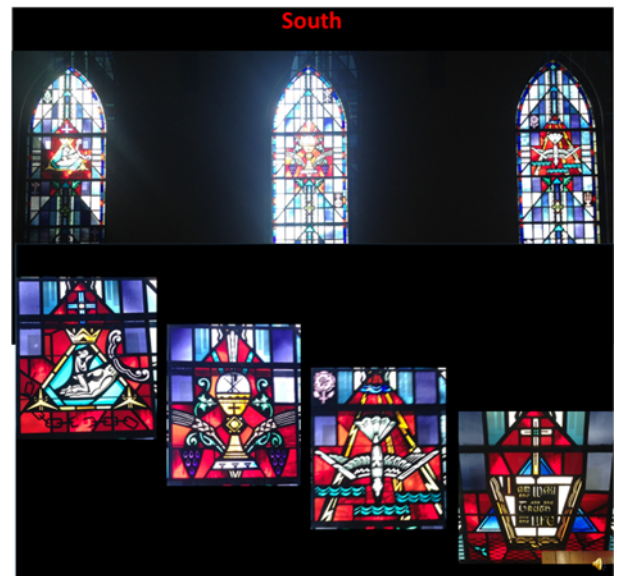
REDEMPTION in memory of Ernest Kohler

COMMUNION in memory of Jennie Nobles

BAPTISM in memory of Jennie Nobles

HOLY SCRIPTURES Where is this window?

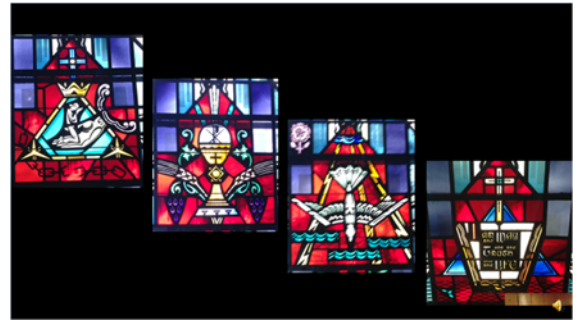
It is the fourth from the front on the south side. The picture was taken from the balcony.



The North side from front to back.



FELLOWSHIP in memory of Lisle Horton



PRAYER in memory of Luella Cooke

WORSHIP in memory of Lucile Cooke

CHRISTIAN SERVICE Fourth window from the front on the north side as seen from the balcony.

At the bottom are the windows on the doors at the rear of the sanctuary; above them is the transom window all in memory of Alf Sommers.



The windows on the stairs to the balcony, suggest praise in the house of the Lord with a harp and trumpets.

The windows way above the main entry door as seen from the balcony. Christ is the pivot point.



The same windows showing more detail.



Additional windows have been added over the years.

The windows in the stairway of the education wing.



THE SOWER

In memory of Orto Staples

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

In memory of Agnes Marvin

TEACHING

In memory of Hulda Thompson,

MUSIC

In memory of Gertrude Murdoch

And finally, the windows on the west side of the second level of the education wing.

ST MATHEW

In memory of Clyde & Ida Halliwell

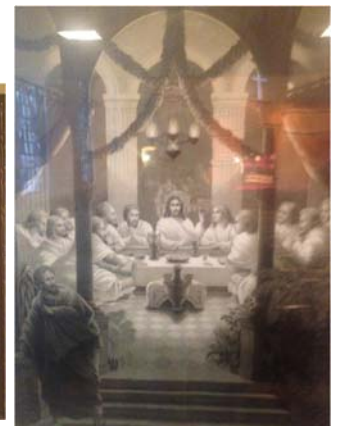
STS LUKE & JOHN In memory of FG "Pete" and Agnes Pearson

ST LUKE

In memory of William Thayer



In the foyer we have the Lord's Prayer and at the rear of the sanctuary we have two paintings.



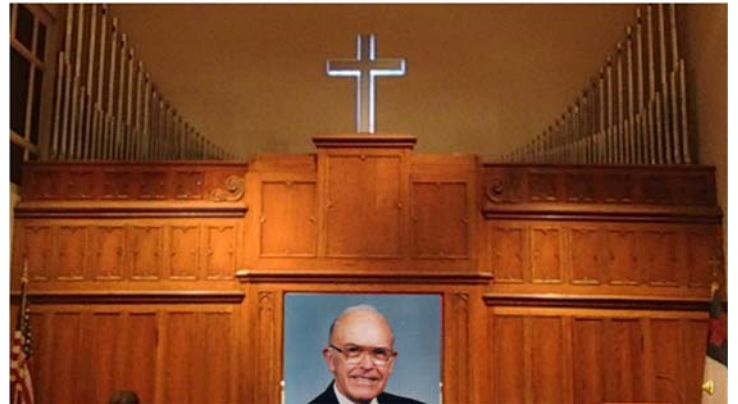
The lighted “Last Supper” at the altar was a 1965 gift in memory of Joe Friedbacher.

Paul Bast,
Senior,
constructed

and installed an illuminated cross in 1938.



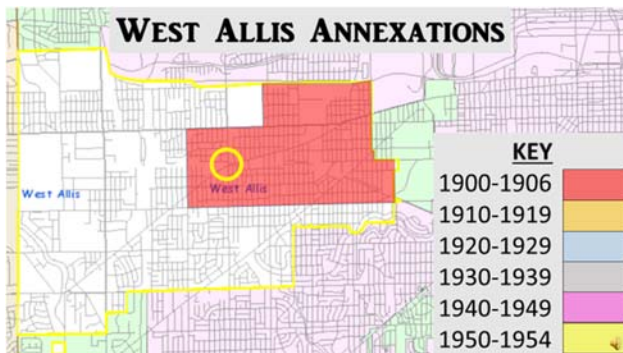
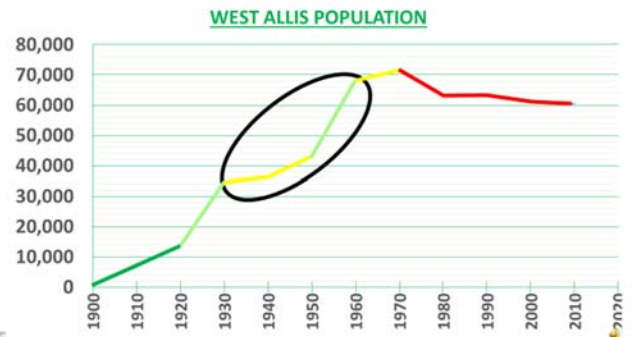
More recently, the video screens were in memory of Hannah and Gerda Wothe while the cross was in memory of Ted Hertel, Senior.



We have only covered a few of the many gifts. We should all give thanks to those who made these windows and many, many other items available which enhance our experiences.

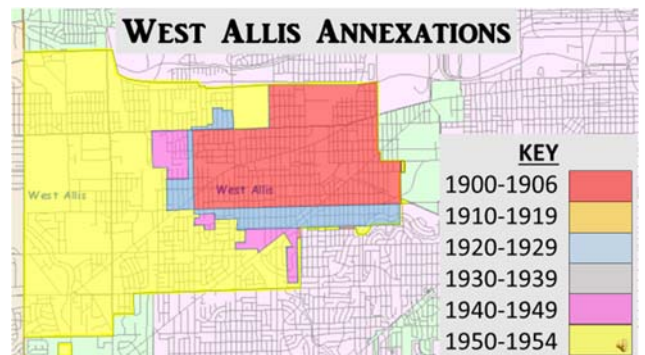
26. West Allis expands; Education wing built (1959)

West Allis's population increased only slightly from 1930 to 1945 due to the Great Depression and then World War II. It started really growing again in 1946 and zoomed upward as shown in the light green, during the 1950s.

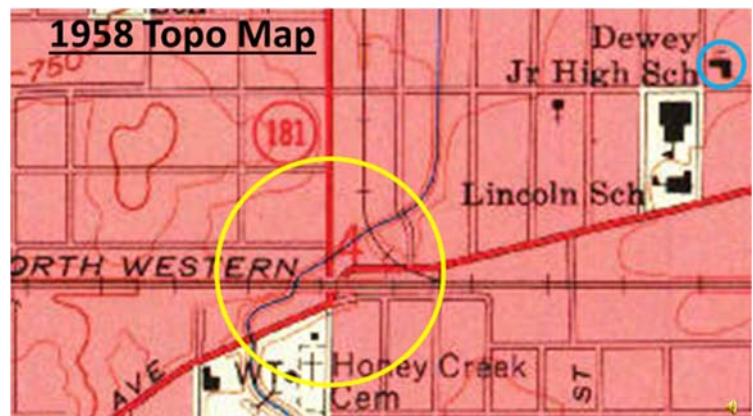


Let us look at the size of the city. The yellow line is the current limits of the city. The area in red was the result of actions 1900 to 1906. The yellow circle identifies our old Honey Creek settlement.

A small orange area on the east side was added in the next decade. The blue identifies the much larger area annexed during the booming 1920s. Nothing was added during the depressed 1930s. Pink identifies the late 1940s annexations when there were almost no empty lots in the city. Yellow reflects the almost tripling of the city in 1954 from only four square miles to 11.5 square miles.



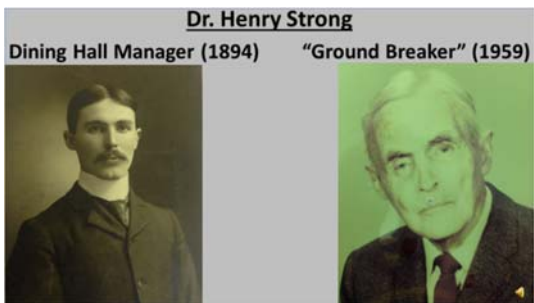
In the mid 1950s, we periodically had 200 attending our Sunday School classes; however, we were very overcrowded on our four lot property, within the blue circle. For example, we had four classes in the south wing's basement with light curtains between the classes. Also, note that Lincoln was no longer a high school and John Dewey Junior High was kitty corner from our Church.



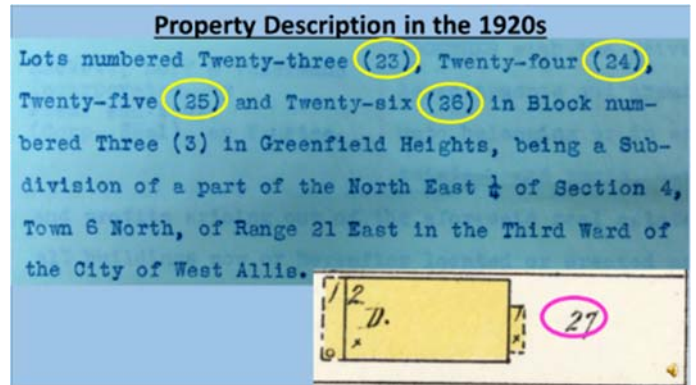
In 1957 we purchased the duplex on lot 27 to the north of the sanctuary and initially conducted some classes there.



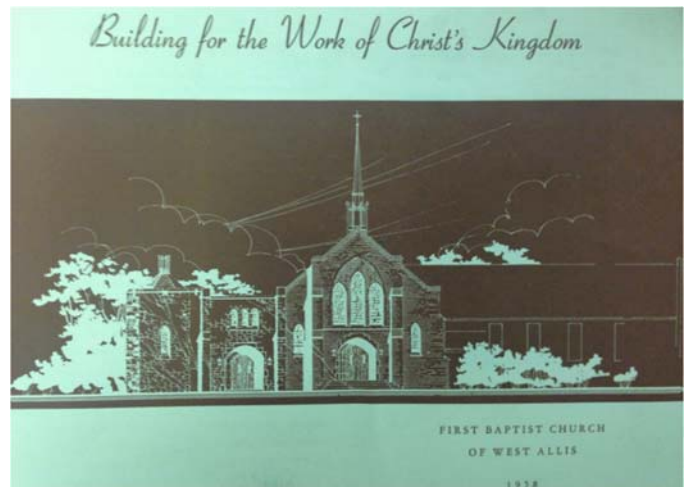
The home was sold, moved, and in the Spring of 1959. Dr. Henry Strong, our oldest member, and a direct link to our church's early days, broke ground for our Education wing.



Education wing was dedicated in early 1960.



After a decision to build an addition and a reduction of the costs, we had a financial campaign.



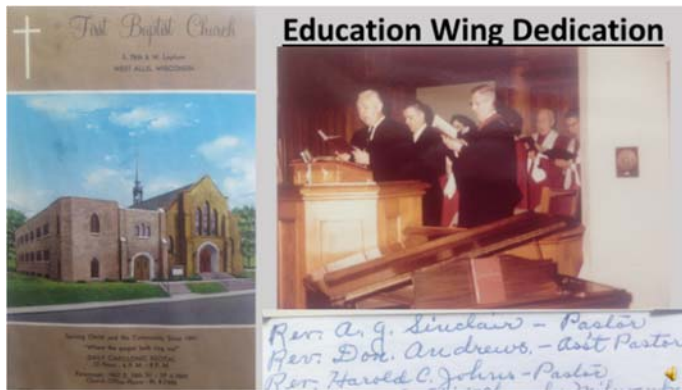
You could see the north side of the Church.



The



The service.



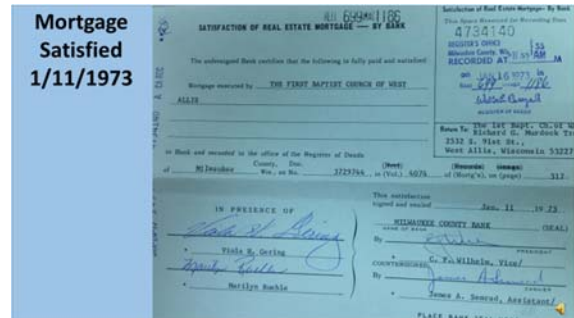
We now had ample classroom space, chapel, and a game room for our youth.

The mortgage was satisfied in 1973.

Our last update of our pastors.

Pastors of Greenfield Baptist Church	
Rev Raymond Pierson	1945-1946
Rev Alfred S. Davis	1946-1952
Rev Alex G. Sinclair	1953-1966
Rev Merlin W. Bradley	1966-1978
Rev Sheldon Schuttenberg	1978-1986
Rev Donald E. Brown	1986-1988
Rev Jeffrey C. Wilkinson	1988-1992
Rev Mark Weisser	1992-present

For
the



period 1955 to 1980, we had a Director of Christian Education, Associate Pastor, or Student Pastor. In 1982 Ted Hertel Senior

was commissioned as lay Pastor, a position he was dedicated to for eighteen years until 2000.

We sold our 78th Street parsonage and bought a new one in 1966.

Parsonage (1966) at 8636 West Harrison Avenue
Then Now



We ended up selling that home and bought another in 1973. In 1979 Rev Schuttenberg purchased it, and we were out of the parsonage business.

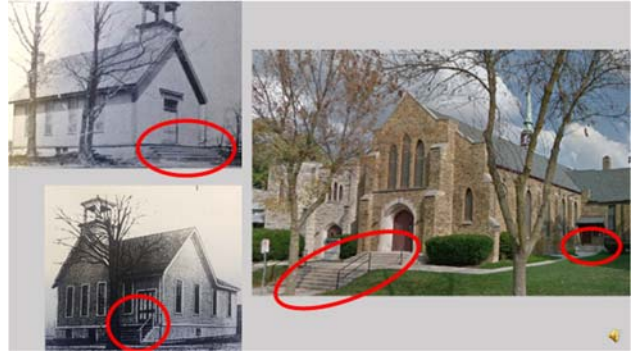
Parsonage (1973) at 8727 West Harrison Avenue
Then Now



27. Accessibility Improvements

Our Church facility was constructed over multiple years and at times when accessibility was not a true consideration. Our Church did not meet modern requirements. Over time, we recognized the problems and have made corrective actions.

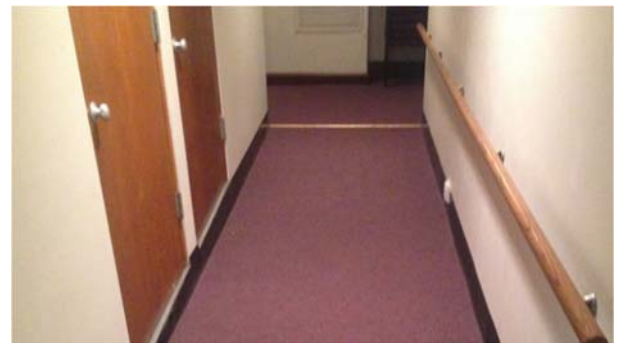
We had no true wheelchair access, and we had a person who needed it. Three decades ago we built a ramp leading to the outside “office” door. People with walkers and canes also use this for access.



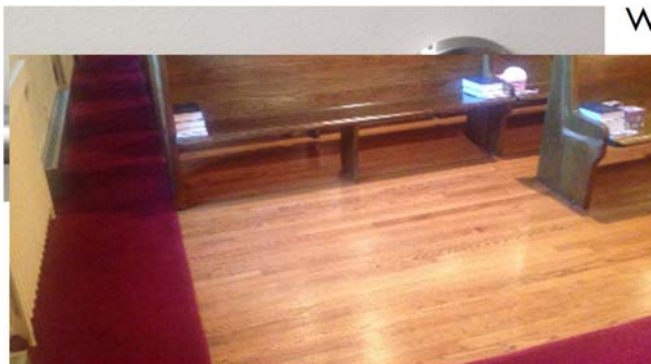
middle of the Education wing.

Some rest rooms got support bars to assist getting up or down.

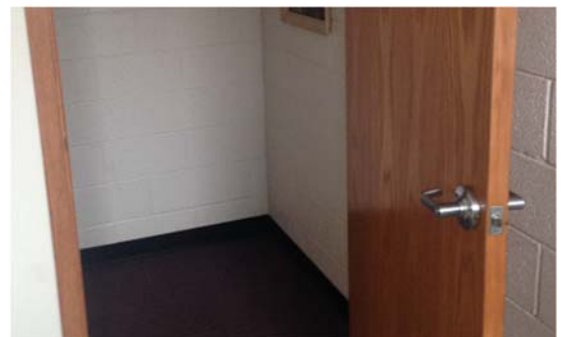
Throughout years we replaced some interior steps with ramps. This is in the



Some rest rooms got wider doors to allow a wheel chair to enter.



We removed a pew to allow for wheel chairs.



The largest improvement was the installation of an elevator that makes all levels of our building accessible except the “upper room” and the balcony. Pastor Mark reports that he noticed a sizable drop in visits to shut-ins to provide communion because more people felt they could make it to church and actually came.

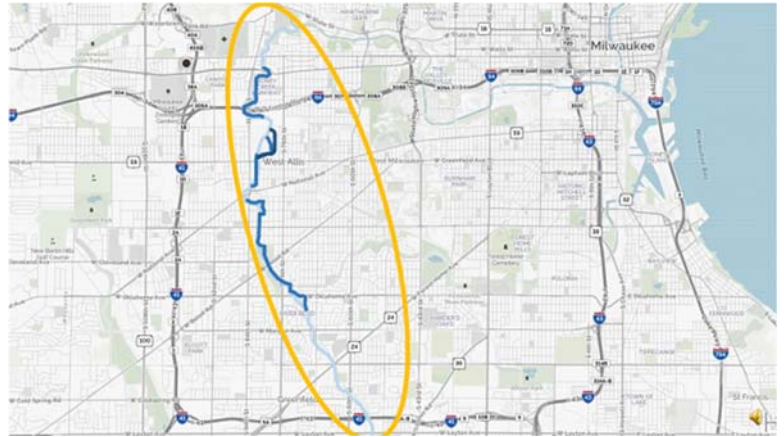
In addition to accessibility improvements, we renovated the historical South Wing as part of our 150th anniversary.

We also installed a modern sign on the corner with landscaping.

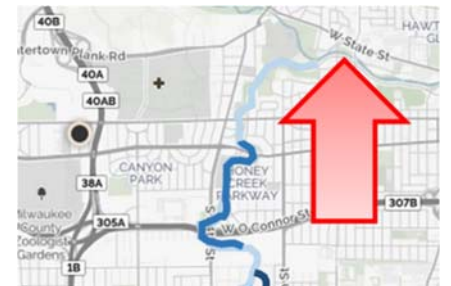


28. Honey Creek Changes Over Time.

Please consider that without Honey Creek, our Church would not be here today. Today, Honey Creek is an example of man's influence on nature. Early on we mentioned that Honey Creek, shown here in blue, was a fast flowing, sparkling stream. Today, Honey Creek originates at a South 43rd Street storm sewer outfall in the City of Greenfield and



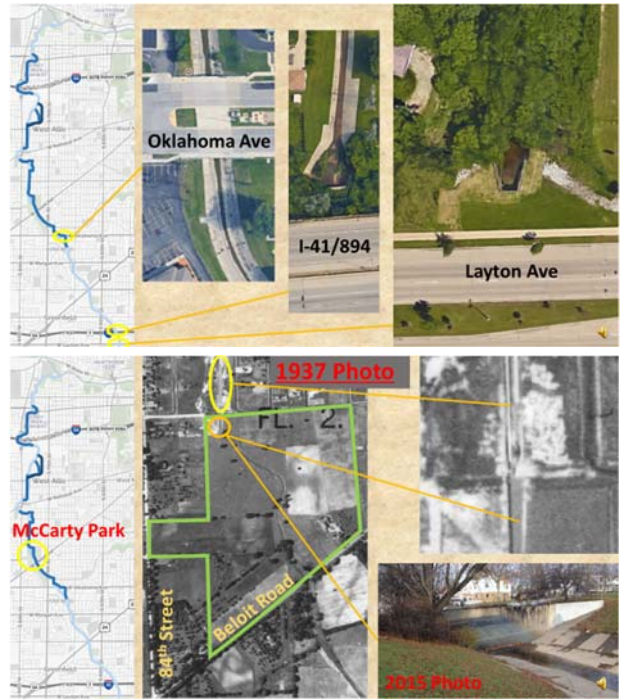
flows in a northerly direction for approximately 8.8 miles through West Allis and Milwaukee until its confluence with the Menomonee River in Wauwatosa. The Honey Creek watershed encompasses 11 square miles and includes portions of the communities of Greenfield, Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, and West Allis.



Channel modifications such as filling in back yards, deepening, straightening, and lining with concrete have been made to 7.1 miles of Honey Creek. The darker the shade of blue, the more recent the changes. The larger projects were in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps to line the creek sides and bed with limestone, primarily in West Allis and in the 1960s when much of the bed was lined with concrete or placed underground.

From the south, it looks normal with trees and brush. Soon it is lined with concrete at I-41 and at Oklahoma.

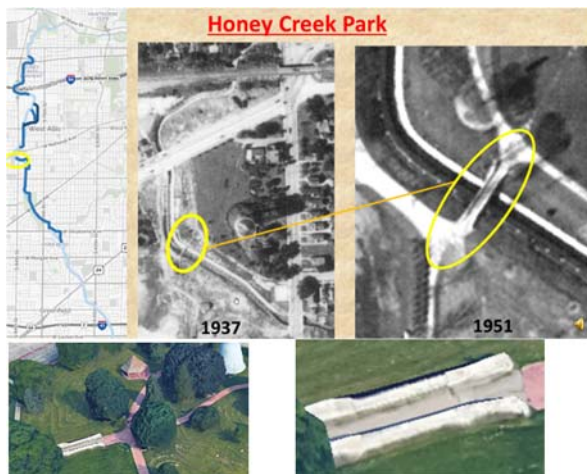
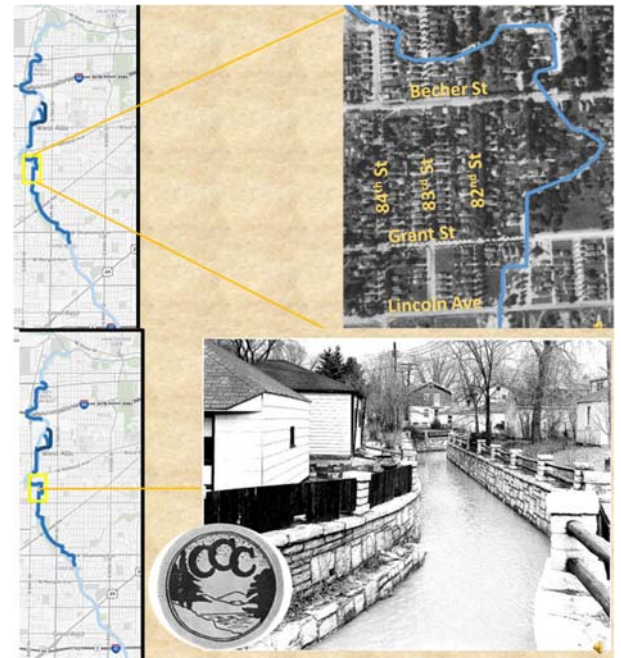
Here we have the McCarty Park area near 84th Street and Beloit Road. The 1937 photo shows the park in the light green border was not yet developed. The stream was still a stream. The upper right blowup of the area in the yellow oval reflects the limestone canal developed north of the future park. The lower right photo shows that Honey Creek disappears at the north end of the park today.



The creek wandered through the area from Lincoln and 80th street until it entered Honey Creek Park by 84th Street.

The 1935 work of the Civilian Conservation Corps is shown here. Solid stonework with a much canalized creek running through peoples' back yards. This work was done to stop flooding problems. 50 tons of Lannon stone was used.

This photo of Honey Creek Park in 1937 shows the canalized Honey Creek. Note the object in the yellow oval.



What is this? It is a 1935 stone pedestrian bridge over Honey Creek. These are current pictures. No, the Creek is not green with algae; it was buried through most of West Allis in 1965 to prevent flooding



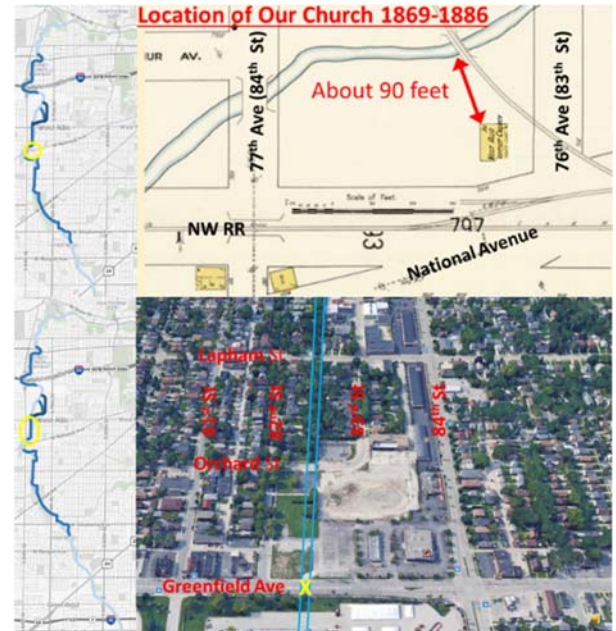
after floods continued after the 1935 project. It seems that as we pave more

parking areas, we reduce the water soaking into the ground and increase the water running off and going downstream.

How close to the creek was our initial church structure's location? About 90 feet away as shown on this Church's image added to a 1910 map.

Looking south from State Fair Park the blue lines mark where Honey Creek flows. Several homes on the west side of 82nd Street were torn down in recent years due to flooding.

The new hotel is now open in that area. The blue area indicates where the water used to be visible.



The Creek flows under State Fair Park in an enclosed channel that consists of 3 - 10' X 15' pipes. Originally the Creek basically was where Grandstand Street is now. It was moved to the infield and then, as the CCC project further east where it was later buried.

In this 1937 view of the Fair's parking lot, the Creek wanders around starting by the arrow going under the former railroad tracks. In 2014 work was being done to increase water storage capacity of the area. The covered part of the Creek ends



at these pipes.

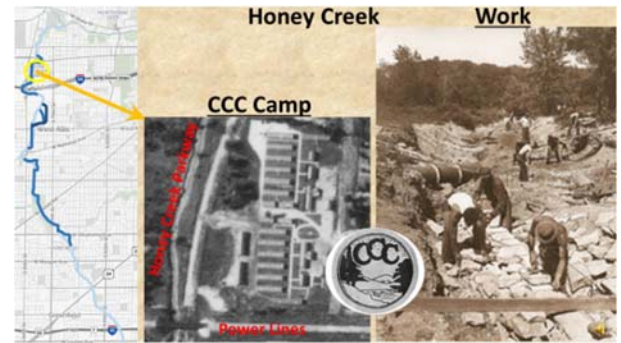
At Honey Creek Parkway east of 84th Street and North of the power lines and

Rapid Transit, the CCC had a temporary housing complex. The picture shows manual work along the Creek in 1933.

In Wauwatosa, the CCC stonework was basically to prevent washouts on curves and by bridges.



In recent years, there have been tests revealing human waste in the water of Honey Creek. Overall, the Honey Creek watershed has experienced minor flooding problems, but, according to UWM, the biggest problem with this Creek has been the ecological degradation and habitat loss due to channel modifications. The creek is still there, you just have to know where to look.

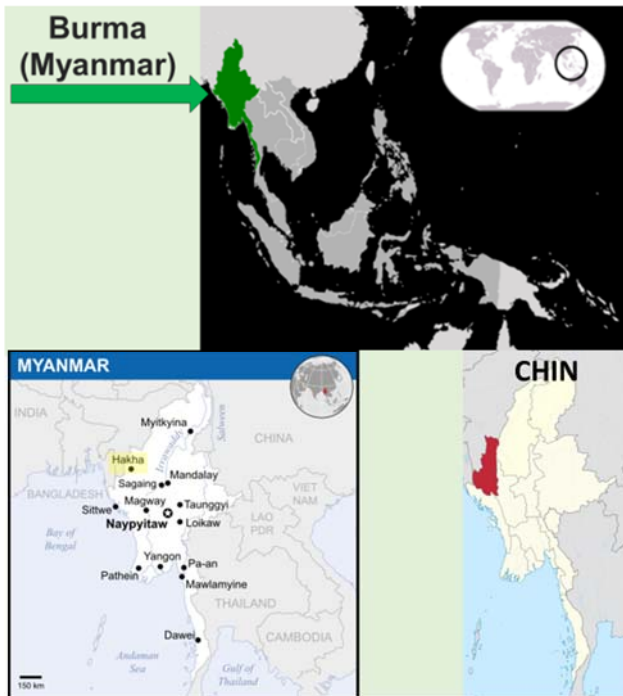


The blue arrows indicate the flow of Honey Creek into the Menomonee River by Wauwatosa's Hart Park. The 80 year old work is really showing its age.



29. Ministry to Refugees

Adoniram Judson, Jr. was an American Baptist missionary. At the age of 25, Judson became the first Protestant missionary sent from North America to preach in Burma. He served in Burma for almost forty years. His mission and work led to the formation of the first Baptist association in America to support missionaries.



He translated the Bible into Burmese as well as established a number of Baptist churches in Burma. Judson is remembered as the first significant missionary in Burma, as well as one of the very first missionaries from America to travel overseas.

Myanmar, or Burma as the US Government still calls it, is located between Bangladesh, Thailand and China. Hakkha, the capital of Chin State, is shown in the photo.

In 1938 the Northern Baptist Convention met in Milwaukee. Our church sponsored the Burma exhibit.



This shows more details.

After World War II, there was a strict military government that made life very difficult for Christians. As a result, refugees have fled the country seeking a better life and escaped persecution and armed conflict. They received United Nations refugee status in Malaysia before coming to the United States. Some of them from the Chin State came to the Milwaukee area under the auspices of Lutheran Social Services who in 2008 asked assistance of the Executive Minister of ABC-Wisconsin who asked the First Baptist Church to assist. We learned that some refugee families had formed a small congregation in Milwaukee and were looking for a place to worship. Our church arranged for the new congregation, Milwaukee Chin Baptist Church (MCBC), to use our building for worship on Sunday afternoons.

Many of the Chin parents worked on Sunday mornings, but they sent their children to our church for Sunday school and worship. Our Men's Fellowship helped to furnish apartments for new arrivals by picking up and delivering donations of furniture.



As new refugees from Burma continued to settle in Milwaukee, MCBC grew rapidly, and so did our Sunday school and Vacation Bible School.



Each summer, several of the Chin children and youth go to Camp Tamarack near Waupaca. The former members of the United Church, who take a special interest in camping ministries, gave a large donation to First Baptist Church to fund camp scholarships.

Growing pains at MCBC resulted in division. Now there are five congregations in the Milwaukee area that originated from MCBC. Three of them, Carson Chin Baptist Church (CCBC), Emmanuel Chin Baptist Church (ECBC), and MCBC are members of the Wisconsin Region of ABC-USA, just as we are.

In late 2015, MCBC purchased the old St. Mary's Catholic Church in South Milwaukee, where the congregation holds services every Sunday afternoon. Even though MCBC no longer worships in our building, several Chin families continue to send their children to First Baptist Church on Sunday mornings, where they are loved and nurtured as members of our family.



Were there some difficult times during the 7 years of sharing our building with MCBC? Yes. We were welcoming people of a different culture and language. But we share with them a rich Baptist heritage. Many people supported this continuation of the ministry of Adoniram Judson in the current day. Our brothers and sisters from Chin State have blessed and enriched our individual lives and the life of our congregation.

30. New use of land; new mission?

Since the initial settlements in the 1830s, land use has changed in the Milwaukee area. The lakefront from the Milwaukee river harbor to Wisconsin Avenue, the green line, initially was homes, piers and fishing.



railroad built on the shore edge and beach.



Then in 1870 the Chicago and Northwest



After land fill extended the shore line, Maitland field opened to water and small aircraft. Northwestern Mutual is in the blue oval while the Lincoln Memorial Bridge is in the red oval. After 30 years, the airfield closed in 1957.

In 1957 the area became a cold war NIKE air defense base which closed in 1969.



Today, the area is the Henry Maier Park,



called, "the Summerfest Grounds."

I bring up this transition of land use as there are more changes being proposed for West Allis, a city formerly based on industry.

The area on the East side of West Allis near the junction of Greenfield and National Avenues on the 1910 insurance map. Outlined in green was housing developed in 2009. The long time Farmer's Market is outlined in Pink. The 13.3 acre area in red is the proposed housing and commercial development.

An overhead view of the area.

This is the proposal.



Closer to home, so to speak, is a proposal for the Northeast quarter section of Section 4, the area our Church is located. Specifically, 4 blocks west and 1 block north of our Church.



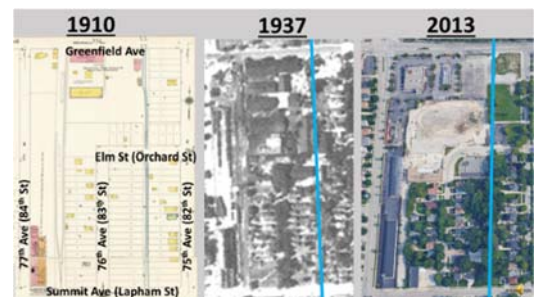
Apartments, brew pub planned in West Allis

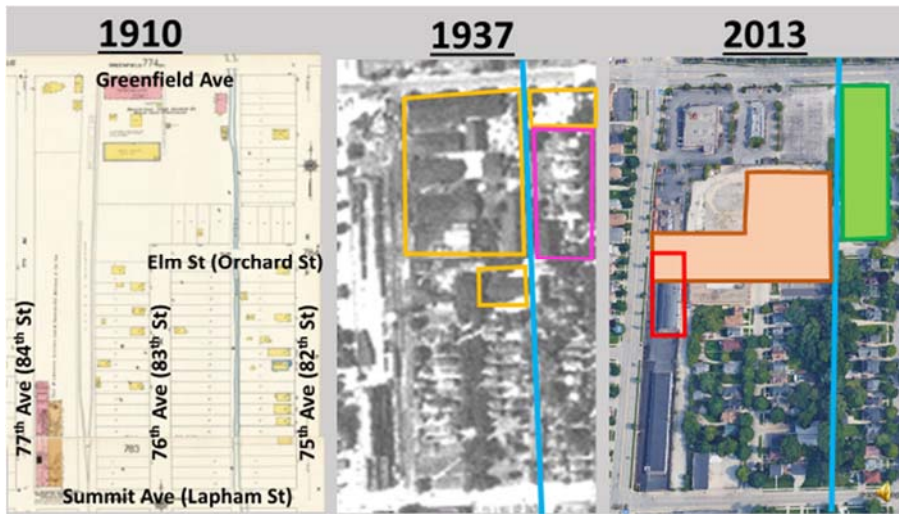


The locations.



This gives us 3 views of the area between Greenfield and Lapham from 82nd to 84th Streets. From left to right a 1910 insurance map, 1937 aerial picture, and a 2013 Google Earth view. The light blue line is Honey Creek, above or below ground.





The area in orange boxes indicates commercial or industrial buildings that have been razed. The pink box reflects where homes have been removed due to flooding issues. The area in green is the new

Hampton Inn and Suites and State Fair Convention Center.

The red rectangle denotes the existing commercial building to be razed.



The area in brown is the new five acre development.

From

industry to new buildings with new apartments provides us with the opportunity to minister and set examples to new people in the community. Will we accept the challenge? How will we do it? Time will tell.



31. Important Church Events in the Past Quarter Century

1991

- Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) celebration
- Approved renewal of South Wing; work started
- Sanctuary floors sanded and carpeting installed
- New hymnals, "The Singing Church"

The 1991 highlight was the Sesquicentennial, celebrating 150 years of service to Christ and the community. Special guests came throughout the year. This included Don

Andrews, Don Brown, Wendell Bocker, Ted Hertel, Sr., Sheldon Schuttenberg, Merlin Bradley, Beverly Davidson, David Borger, Jeffrey Wilkinson, Alex and Violet Sinclair, and George Daniels.

As part of our 150th Anniversary celebration, the South Wing, which is the original church building and oldest public building in West Allis was approved for refurbishing.

1992

- Pastor Jeffrey Wilkinson departed
- New hot water heating system cost \$32,700
- South Wing work continued
- Pastor Mark Weisser started Aug 23



A pastor left in 1992 while a new pastor came. Work was done on the heating system and work continued on the South Wing. By-the-way, do you recognize any changes?

More community groups, such as AA, scouts, and jazzercise were using our facilities.

1993

- Purchased an electronic keyboard
- Worked on an enhanced Sanctuary sound system
- Community groups using our facilities more often

1994

- South Wing dedicated June 5
- Education Wing roof replaced for \$13,782
- New floor plan for Memory Hall
- Added Saturday evening praise service

The South Wing was dedicated in 1994, and we replaced the original 1959 roof on the Education Wing.

1995

- Interior work on the main level of South Wing

1995 saw more interior work in the South Wing.

1996

- Agape Fine Arts Center was dedicated



In 1996 the Agape Fine Arts Center was dedicated.

In 1997 the organ needed substantial internal electrical work to replace 1929 era switches and relays.

1997

- The organ needed substantial internal electrical work costing about \$19,000

Repairs started in November 1998 and were completed in

1998

- Organ repairs started in November

1999

- Organ repairs completed in January
- Air conditioning installed in Agape Room
- Chimes purchased for the bell choir
- Golden Guys and Gals celebrated 20 years



January 1999. We had a hymn fest to celebrate. We installed air conditioning in the Agape Center.

2000

- Pastor Mark traveled to the Holy Land
- Ted Hertel, Sr retired as Lay Pastor
- Missionary from India preached and spoke to combined Sunday School.



In 2000, Pastor Mark traveled to the Holy Land, an experience that he has used to enhance his sermons. Ted Hertel, Senior retired from his lay pastor position after 19 years.

2001 saw a lower ceiling and better lighting in Fellowship Hall.

2001

- Purchased "The Celebration Hymnal"
- Fellowship Hall ceiling lowered and lights improved
- 160th Church anniversary



We were cool in our air conditioned sanctuary in 2002.

2002

- Sanctuary was air conditioned

2003

- Web site created

<http://www.firstbaptistwestallis.org/>

In 2003 the Church entered the modern age; we had a web site!



We started a Music Night/Coffee House in 2006. We also participated in West Allis' 100th Birthday which included a display at the State Fair.

2006

- Music Night/Coffee House started
- West Allis celebrated 100th birthday

2007

- Accessibility of the church greatly improved

After committee work, we improved the accessibility of our church, to include installing an elevator, building ramps, and upgrading rest rooms in 2007.



Starting in August of 2008 and running through the Fall of 2015 we opened our facilities to a church of Chin refugees from Burma. Overall, it was a good experience which continues today in our Sunday School. We also installed the presentation system in the Sanctuary with two video screens.

2008

- Made our facilities available to a Baptist congregation of Chin refugees from Burma
- Installed two video screens in Sanctuary



2010

- New LED sign on SW corner of Church property

In 2010 we installed a new Church sign on the southwest corner of our property.



2012

- Sanctuary cross replaced
- Landscaping of SW corner of property
- Energy efficient windows installed in South Wing



In 2012, the inoperable Sanctuary cross made by Paul Bast Senior in the 1930s and repaired by Paul Bast Junior in 1960 was replaced in memory of Ted Hertel Senior.

In 2013 we installed more energy efficient windows and started restoring our stained glass windows following a "one-at-a-time" philosophy.

2013

- Energy efficient windows installed in other areas
- Started restoring stained glass windows



2014

- Large video screen installed in Fellowship Hall

A large video screen was installed in Fellowship Hall in 2014. This enhances meetings, Sunday school classes, and other events.



2016

- Pastor Mark Weisser became the longest tenured pastor of our Church
- We celebrated the Church's 175th Anniversary



In 2016, Pastor Mark Weisser became our longest serving pastor surpassing Rev Enoch Underwood. Finally, we celebrated our 175th anniversary of service to Christ and the community.

32. Women's Groups



American Baptist Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God. The vision is that every American Baptist church shall have a vital women's ministry program that empowers women and girls to become and develop as God's person, build God's faith community,

and serve God's world. Since approximately 1990, American Baptist Women have functioned under the name American Baptist Women's Ministries. Over the last 25 years, a variety of circles at FBC-WA have been added and deleted to reflect the needs and interests of the women of our church.

As of 2015, the Ruth Naomi Hertel circle combined with the Killingstad Thayer circle to meet as a single group. The number of our women is less, but they still accomplish many mission



projects - many of which would not be possible without the support of the entire church congregation.

The annual Holiday Bazaar is a highlight for the women and for the community at large. Throughout the year, the women meet regularly to work on projects for the Bazaar. Proceeds from the Holiday Bazaar have grown steadily over the last several years; which results in a greater impact by using all proceeds to support missions locally and around the world.



Supported women's mission work includes:

and

Supported Mission Work

- Gifts to national and international missionaries
- National American Baptist Women & Girls Fund
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Homeless outreach projects
- Church Women United of the Milwaukee Area

Supported Mission Work

- Scholarships to Wisconsin women
- Special projects outlined by the Wisconsin ABWM
- Camp Tamarack
- America for Christ offering
- Project Focal Point
- Grand Avenue Club
- Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering
- World Mission Offering

The women participate in White Cross work by collecting supplies for the Milwaukee Christian Center and by rolling bandages to send to the Congo. By-the-way, the picture on the right also shows a multi-generational activity.



Several years ago, they

introduced the Third Sunday Collection to help the Milwaukee Christian Center's Emergency Food pantry - collecting a designated food item and designated hygiene item each month.

They have other activities. In 2016, they tried to new fundraiser, "Soup-er" Bowl Sunday - a soup lunch to raise funds for St. Ben's Meal Program and the Milwaukee Christian Center's Emergency Food Pantry. Some of the most important mission work they do is in supporting & building up one another. For the last 4 years, they have coordinated a retreat for the women of our church. Additionally, there are many "crafty work days" and several luncheons throughout the year. In

Other Activities

- Soup-er Bowl
- Women's retreat
- Luncheons
- Fun outings



the summer, they have "just for fun" outings, to enjoy the opportunity to be together.



All women of the church are considered members and are always welcome to join in any or all functions.

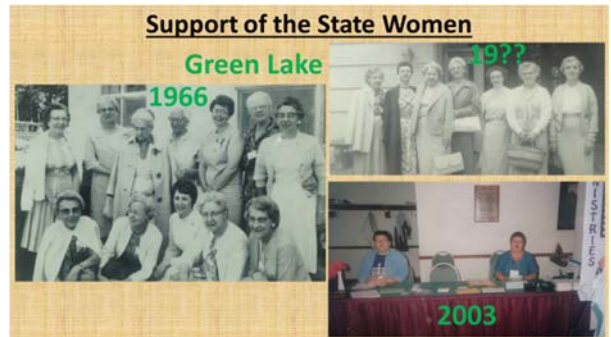
ABWM Presidents in the past quarter century are shown here

ABWM Presidents since 1991

1988-1994 Nancy Byleen
1994-1996 Eleanor Hendricks & Lexy Grigg
1996-1998 Barbara Borger
1998-2000 Elaine Pagel & Theresa Winkler
2000-2004 Bonnie Kirk
2004-2006 Pam Weisser
2006-2008 Barbara Borger
2008-2010 Nancy Byleen
2010-2014 Karrie Napier
2014-2016 Becky Holl

They coordinate Women's Sunday, as well as the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer at FBC-WA, and

State activities such as have been held at Green Lake and Camp Tamarack.



33. Men's Group

The mission of American Baptist Men is to bring men and boys into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Their vision is to enable men and boys to strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ so they will become biblical men for mission and outreach.



Our Men's Fellowship has been active over the years. A picture of some past officers.

The men worked with boys, such as scout groups and including giving them flight experience. Our activities have been added and deleted to reflect the needs and interests of the men and boys of our church.



They have fund raiser events such as spaghetti dinners and corn roasts.

There are work days to maintain and improve our facilities.



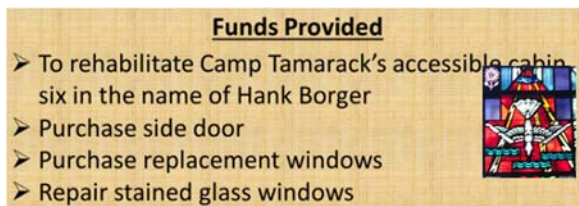


They offer periodic Sunday breakfasts.

Finally, there are sports activities including game night, Bucks game and a bike ride.



Funds have been raised and contributed to support the listed purposes. Most of donations would not be possible without the support of the entire church congregation. Especially appreciated are the deserts that some women have volunteered for our dinners and corn roasts.



<

The men plan and present the Laymen's Sunday service each year in October.

For years our men heavily supported the State Men's group by providing leadership and often sending the most men and boys to the men's annual retreat. This is a picture of all the attendees in 1947. The summer retreat became a winter retreat first at Green Lake and then at Camp Tamarack. In recent years, our men



provided the tailgate party for their annual Brewers game. Unfortunately, the State activities have decreased to an almost inactive status.



Men's Fellowship Presidents in the past quarter century are shown here.

Men's Fellowship Presidents since 1991

1991	Pat Phinney
1992-1993	Ted Hertel, Sr.
1994	Ted Hertel, Jr.
1995-1996	Ted Hertel, Sr.
1997	Ted Hertel, Jr.
1998-2003	John Wothe
2004-2006	Rick Boardman
2007-2009	Bob Kelly
2011-2013	Karl Byleen
2014	Ed Barrett
2015-2016	Chris Spitzer

34. Youth Group

For over the initial six decades, our church primarily was comprised of farming families which tended to have many children. Over the next seven decades we had many young families with children.

<<>>

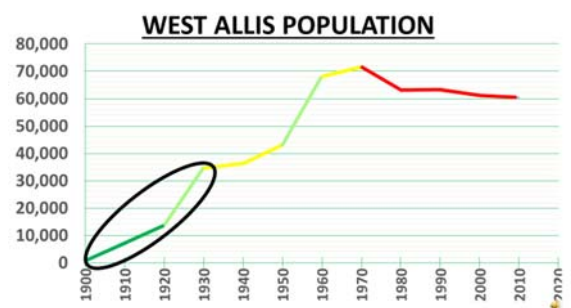
We have been fortunate over the years to have many fine teachers and leaders working with our youth. I would be remiss not to mention one woman in particular. Miss Nancy Halliwell (1900-1987), who never seemed to have a last name, she was just known as “Miss Nancy.” She taught our children for over 55 years. How many lives were impacted by her dedication?



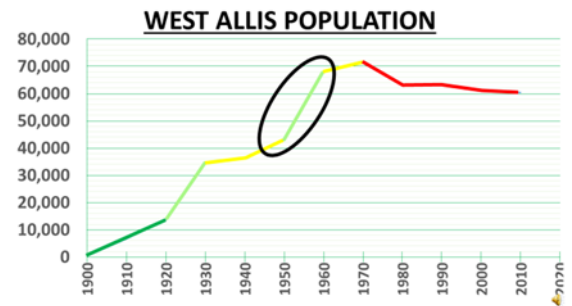
Initially, youth activities were conducted in the basement of what is now the South Wing at its previous location and then at its current location. This was our Sunday School in 1927. They are standing where the ramp to the side door is today. They became the heroes of the “greatest generation” of World War II.



This chart, which you have seen before, reflects the huge population growth in West Allis from 1900 to 1930. The families tended to be young and had many children. We basically were forced to build our main building to meet the population growth, especially of children. We sponsored scout troops.



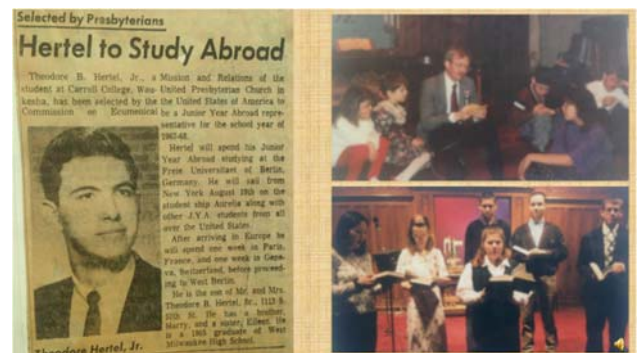
Again huge population gains in West Allis caused by annexations in the 1950s and the birth of “baby boomers” forced us to build the Education Wing. In the 21st Century, West Allis has become a more mature city with a higher average age. Our Church reflects our community.



We had youth groups and a girl's guild.

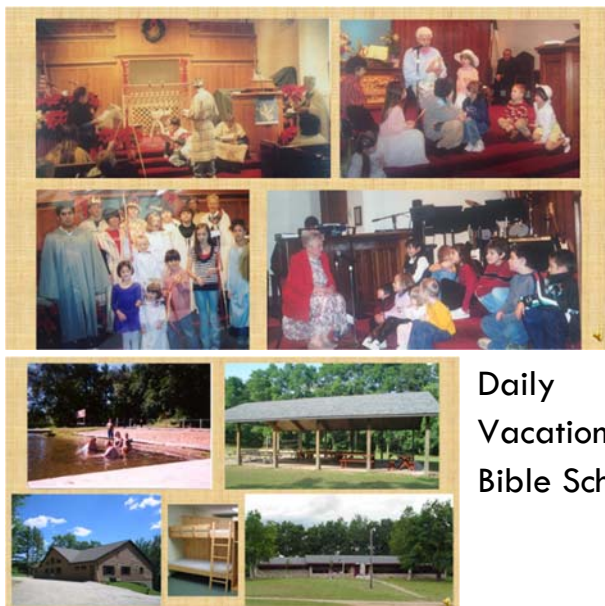


Our children grew up and went away to school. Some returned home; some did not.



We have made numerous attempts to be multi-generational and inclusive. For example, the men have played dartball with a 98 year old woman and a 10 year old. The younger folks have rolled bandages with the women. The bell choir has a young member.

We incorporate the youth into our activities such as Sunday services.



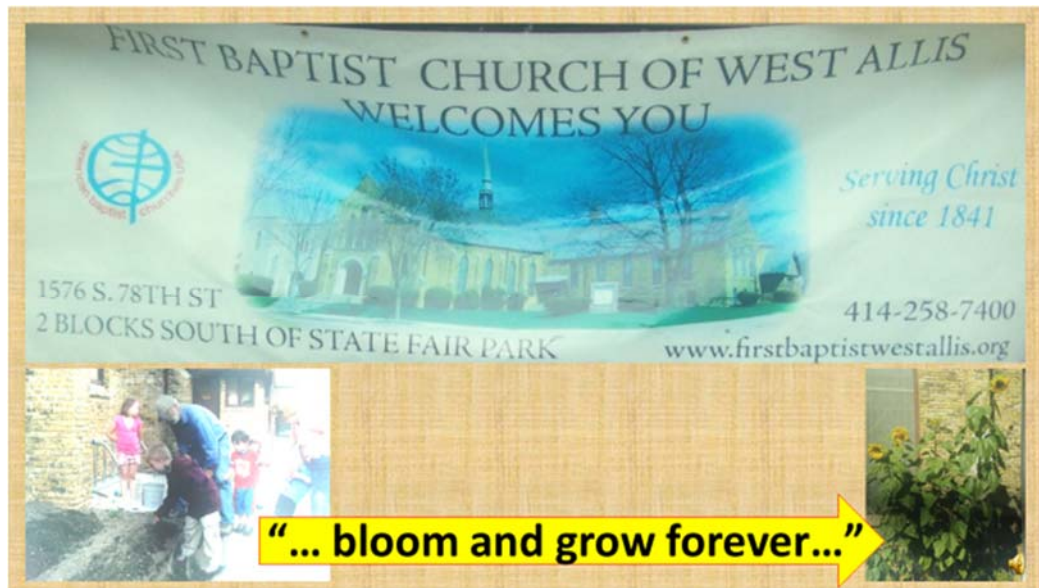
The young, and old, continue to enjoy



Daily
Vacation
Bible School and

Camp Tamarack and other activities.

In life, we plant the seeds and they “bloom and grow forever.”



35. Music

Music is a very important enhancement of our worship.

Paul and Naomi Bast led our music for four decades. They retired but remained active.

Mary Schecher has dedicated herself to our music for over a quarter of a century.

Back in the day (1933), we had a very large junior choir as shown here in the



balcony.



Charles Dahl and Ruth Dahlberg.

Some pictures of the singers over the years.

Another picture from 1933. Two long time members are pictured here,



The choir and bell choir(singers and ringers)



The 175th anniversary celebration.

For years we participated in and championed Choir fest, an event that brought many of the Milwaukee Baptist churches together, especially at the individual level. The locations moved from church to church. Unfortunately, in the past decade other churches reduced their choirs and choir fest participation to the point that the event was dropped.

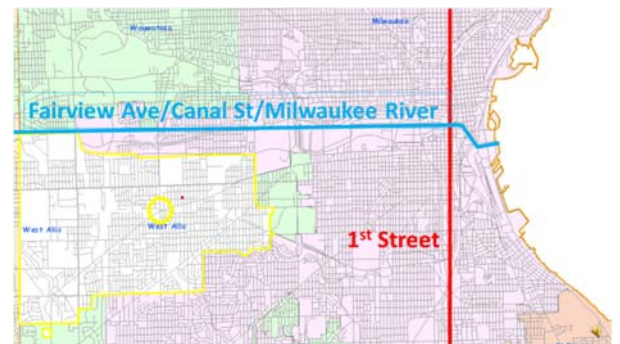


36. Open Questions

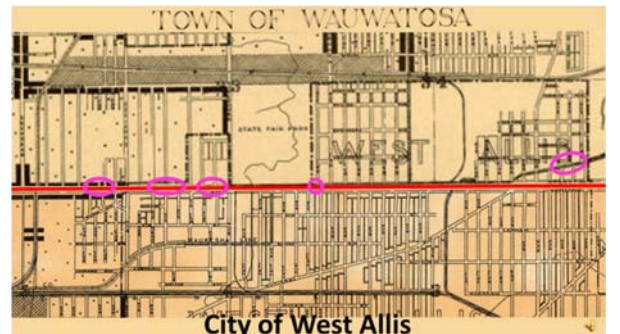
There are some questions that I have not specifically answered during these history moments. For example, If Memory hall was moved twice with the third location being the corner of 70th Avenue and Summit Avenue, how did it get to 78th Street and Lapham? As the Milwaukee area grew, there were multiple streets with the same name. Also, not every numbered avenue was the same relative distance from Lake Michigan. Thus, effective in 1931, there was a massive renaming and renumbering project in most of Milwaukee County. Since Mitchell was one block north of Burnham, Cornwall was renamed Mitchell. The next northward east/west street, Summit, became Lapham and 70th Avenue then became 78th Street.



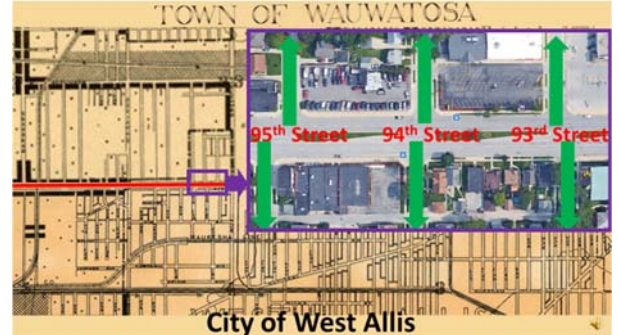
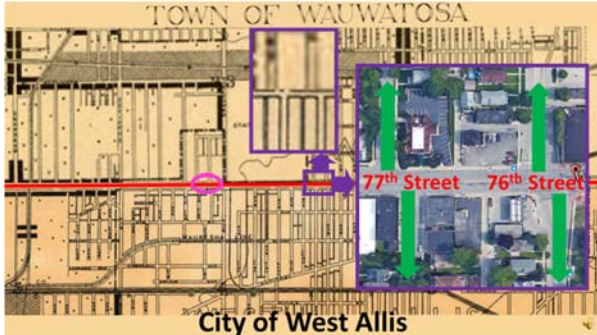
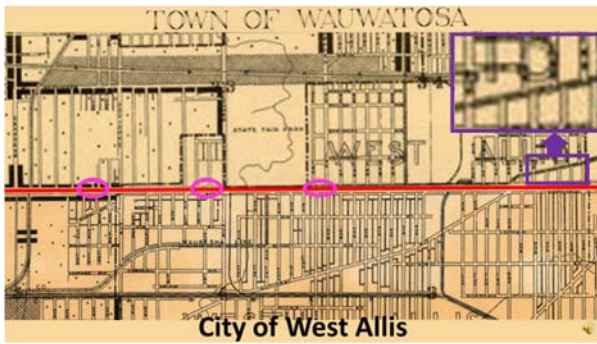
This is a current map of central Milwaukee County. The red line denotes that 1st Street is the East and West border. Likewise, the light blue line along Fairview Avenue, Canal Street, and the Milwaukee River is the North and South border.



Another question was, why don't certain numbered streets line up? This map combines two different planning maps, one from the town of Wauwatosa at the top and one from the new City of West Allis at the bottom. The red line is Greenfield Avenue, the former border between the towns of Wauwatosa and Greenfield. The pink ovals indicate where streets are not aligned. As people laid out proposals for dividing their 20 or 40 acres, they sought approval from their town. The towns were independent and in pre phone and internet days, coordination was not always easy or attempted.



56th Through 58th Streets on National. The streets do match at Greenfield.



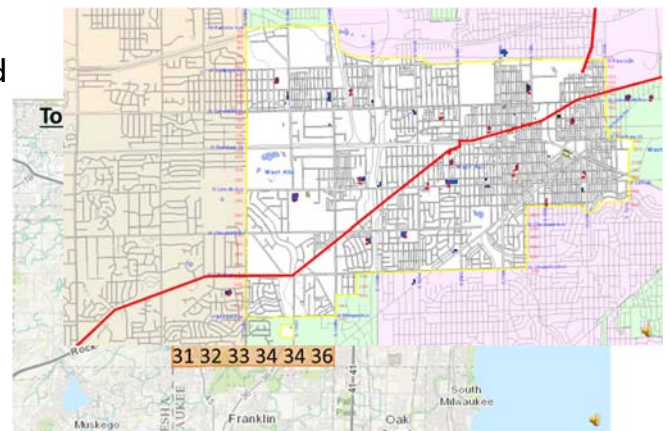
76th and 77th Streets

and 93rd to 95th Streets.

How were sections numbered in townships? Looking at our Section 4 of Greenfield Township, here are the numbers. Each section was one square mile.

How were main roads determined? Let us look closely at West Allis. Some, like National Avenue and Hawley Road, followed Indian trails.

I have placed alternating light blue and light yellow squares to indicate the



numbered sections in West Allis. Each section was divided into quarter sections of 160 acres or $\frac{1}{2}$ mile square or $\frac{1}{4}$ of a square mile. For the most part, our main roads formed on the quarter section boundaries, between different peoples' properties. Specifically, Slinger, Greenfield, Burnham, Lincoln, Cleveland, Oklahoma, and Morgan as well as numbered streets 60, 68, 76, 84, 92, 100, 108, 116, and 124. Karl helped me with the math; it is 8 blocks between the major numbered streets.

The members of the new Greenfield Baptist Church were pioneers; they were not rich in money, but they had their faith.



1869

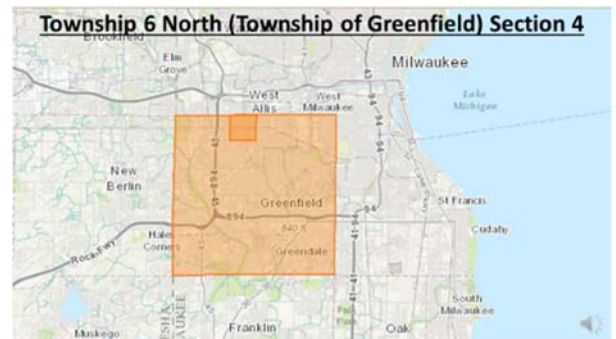
Last Thoughts

This is the final chapter of our historical moments for the 2016 175th anniversary of our church.

We have looked at Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Honey Creek Settlement, North Greenfield, West Allis, and Section 4 of Township 6 from when this was the wild west to modern days.

I would be remiss if I did not remind you of our long serving pastor Rev Enoch Underwood.

And our new, longest serving pastor, Rev Mark Weisser.



Rev Enoch Underwood

**Pastor, Greenfield Baptist Church,
1850-1873**

**Historically,
Our longest serving pastor**



Rev Mark Weisser

**Pastor, First Baptist Church of West Allis,
1992-2016**

**Our new longest
serving pastor**

We may have aged our pastor over the years. Compare with this earlier photo.



We have just covered a few of the experiences. I am sorry if we have

not covered an area of interest to any of you. Much has changed in our church and community over the years. Where are the Honey Creek bee hives? Where is Honey Creek? Where is the railroad siding that forced the church building to be moved? West Allis is west of what? What is an "Allis"?

We have omitted more events and stories than we have discussed. Life in a church or a person is second by second and moment by moment before they become year by year. Our individual and collective moments remain before us. Many, many crossroads remain before us. May we be best prepared to make the best decisions today, tomorrow, and forever.

The 17 folks back in May and June 1841 seemed to make the right decision to close and move their church to a better place. It was the right decision at the right time.

In 2041, as I hope we celebrate our church's 200th anniversary, and I personally hope to celebrate my 100th birthday, may we review our decisions as being wise and good.

In the film, "Back to the Future", Doc, the Professor, said, "...your future hasn't been written yet. No one's has. Your future is whatever you make it."

Our individual and collective futures remain to be written.

"...your future hasn't been written yet. No one's has. Your future is whatever you make it."

Future: May we do well in our:

- Homes
- Church
- Communities
- Country
- World

This is a sunrise opening our future. There will be bumps ahead. Happy trails.

