

### *Wisconsin River*

A tributary of the Mississippi R. It rises in northern Wisconsin, enters Wood Co. at sec. 25, T23N, R6E, and flows generally SW through T22N and T21N, R5E, leaving the county in sec. 34, T21N, R5E. In Wood Co. it is characterized by a drop of at least 100 feet in 15 miles (Snyd. 1878, 250) due to the change from the glaciated to the unglaciated area of Wisconsin, which divides the county in half.

The origin of the name is obscure; various conjectures as to the meaning of the original Indian name are "gathering of waters," "wild, rushing river," "a little muskrat house," simply "river" (Kuhm), or "stream of the thousand isles" (Derl. b, 19). Cp. *Nekoosa (1)*. Pseudo-Indian.

### *Wisconsin Valley Railroad*

A railroad in Wood Co. running from SW sec. 32, T21N, R2E (Remington Township), through Centralia and N through Rudolph Township. The tracks were laid from Tomah, Monroe Co. to Centralia by 1873, and the line was completed through Rudolph Township by 1874. It was sold to the *Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul RR* on Oct. 19, 1880 (Kays., 30). The branch between Babcock and Tomah no longer exists, having been abandoned by the *Milwaukee Road* in 1934 (Kays., 23). The Wisconsin Valley RR was originally intended to "open the great lumber region of the Wisconsin River and connect it with the roads leading into Iowa and Minnesota" (Wall. 1876, 26). So called for the area it served.

### *Wittenberg School*

A school (No. 2) on co. trunk G, in SE sec. 7, T21N, R5E (Port Edwards Township). A member of the Wittenberg family is shown as the owner of the land around the school on Morey 1902.

### *Witter Island*

An island in the Wisconsin R. at sec. 18, T22N, R6E, within the city limits of Wisconsin Rapids. Named in honor of J. D. Witter. See *Edwards Is.*

### *Witter's Addition*

See *Scott and Witter's Addition.*

### *Witter's Subdivision*

A subdivision of the E side of Wisconsin Rapids; actually a subdivision of block 45 of Wood's Second Addition to the city of Grand Rapids. The plat, which was surveyed on Feb. 11, 1904, and recorded on Feb. 12, 1904, was taken out under the name of Isaac P. Witter, president of the Bank of Grand Rapids, for whom it is named.

### *Wood County*

Set off from *Portage Co.* in 1856, Wood Co. includes T21-

T23N, R2-R6E, and T24-T25N, R2-R5E (Jones, 60). It is bounded on the N by Marathon Co., on the E by Portage Co., on the S by Adams and Juneau counties, and on the W by Jackson and Clark counties. Named for Joseph Wood, a resident of early Grand Rapids and the state legislator who introduced the bill which proposed that a new county be set aside from Portage Co. Though he proposed the name Greenwood for the new county, his fellow representatives to the state legislature insisted upon naming it in his honor, maintaining that the name Wood was appropriate to an area in which timber was so important to the economy (Cent., sec. 1, p. 4).

#### *Wood County Railroad*

There are two conflicting accounts about the location of this railroad. On Pull. 1893-1900 it is shown branching off from the *Wisconsin Central RR* at sec. 35, Milladore Township, running S to Sherry at sec. 9, Sherry Township, and continuing from this point SW and S to N sec. 35, Arpin Township, where it meets the *Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul RR*.

However, the account in Cent., sec. 2, p. 17, maintains that the Wood County Railroad Co. was incorporated on June 21, 1883, and operated between Vesper and Arpin. According to this report, the line came under the ownership of the Sherry-Cameron Lumber Co., which sold it to the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul RR on Oct. 31, 1891. The line described by this account is included as part of the *Wisconsin, Pittsville, and Superior Ry* by another source (Kays., 21, 23). Named for the area it served.

#### *Wood County's Dexter Park Development*

A park for camping, swimming, fishing, boating, and picnicing around the W side of L. Dexter in secs. 3, 10, 14, and 15, *Dexter Township*, N of state highway 54 and just NW of Dexterville. The park was opened in 1966 (Muell.). Named for *Wood Co.* and *Dexter Township*.

#### *Woodland Echo School*

A school (No. 1) in SW sec. 8, Arpin Township, on a N-S township road W of state highway 186. Subjectively descriptive.

#### *Woodland Industrial School*

The original name of the *Bethel Industrial Academy*. Descriptive.

#### *Wood PO*

A PO established on Aug. 4, 1863, with Liston A. Houston as postmaster, in sec. 3, Dexter Township, on the road between Dexterville and Pittsville (Jones, 224). Apparently, it was named for *Wood Co.*, or perhaps also for Joseph Wood whose name the county bears. On Jan. 15, 1875, the name was changed to *Pittsville PO*.

### *Wood's Addition*

Two subdivisions of Wisconsin Rapids bear this name. The E side addition was surveyed in April, 1856 (not May, 1856, as in Jones, 133), and the plat was recorded on June 4, 1856. The W side addition was surveyed on July 28-31, 1873, and the plat was recorded on Jan. 20, 1876. Both additions were made by Joseph Wood.

### *Wood's Plat*

A plat of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of sec. 18, T22N, R6E, in government lot no. 4, in the W side of Wisconsin Rapids just N of South Centralia. It appears on Sargent and Philleo's plat of Centralia, which was accepted as official by the city's common council on Aug. 3, 1894. Probably named for Joseph Wood.

### *Wood's Second Addition*

An unrecorded subdivision of the E side of Wisconsin Rapids. It was adjacent to Wood's Addition to Grand Rapids, and was probably made by Joseph Wood; it was surveyed by J. N. Phillips in 1887. The unsold portions of it were resurveyed in Aug., 1924, and this plat was recorded on March 18, 1925. It was taken out by the City Holding Co. and the Kellogg Brothers Lumber Co.

### *Wood's Subdivision*

See *F. J. Wood's Subdivision*.

### *Wood Township*

A township organized on Feb. 10, 1874, including all of the area now in Wood and Cary townships. On Feb. 13, 1901, it was reorganized to include only its present area of T23N, R3E, and renamed New Wood Township. The name was changed back to Wood Township on May 9, 1901 (Jones, 64).

The name Wood had already been attached to the area around *Wood PO* in N Dexter Township before Wood Township was officially organized. Thus, the July 31, 1873, issue of County Rep. contains this report: "Mr. Woodford of Wood presented us with a fine specimen of Kaolin last week." And in the Sept. 18, 1873 issue the editor of County Rep. speaks of a trip he made "to Wood" to visit the Houstons. Therefore, it may be that when the township was organized the common practice of calling part of its territory Wood was formally and officially extended to the entire township.

### *Worden*

A former flag station in SE sec. 29, Rudolph Township, on the Wisconsin Valley RR; also the settlement at the station (Times, June 30, 1882). Named for A. D. Worden, who owned a stone quarry which was connected with the railroad by a spur line from the station (County Rep., July 31, 1873). The settlement was also called *Doudville*.

### *Worden Addition*

An unofficial plat of a subdivision of the E side of Wisconsin Rapids. It included the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of sec. 17, T22N, R6E, an area bounded by Prospect, Pear, 8th, and 12th streets (Page 1881). On Gayn. 1878 M. J. Worden is shown as the owner of this land.

### *Worden PO*

On Feb. 25, 1884, *Doudville PO* was renamed Worden PO to correspond with *Worden*, the name of the flag station in SW sec. 29, Rudolph Township. It was discontinued on Oct. 28, 1885.

### *Worden's Trotting Park*

A park for trotting races (Cent., sec. 5, p. 16) in SW sec. 17, T22N, R6E, within the city limits of Grand Rapids, a location which corresponds to the vicinity around 7th St. South and Apple St. in the E side of present Wisconsin Rapids. The name appears on Cleve. 1874 and Snyd. 1878. On Gayn. 1878 M. J. Worden is shown as the owner of this land.

### *Worthington Dutruit's Addition*

An unofficial plat of a subdivision of *Centralia*. It includes an area around 4th Ave. and Fremont St. which is now part of the rights-of-way of the Milwaukee Road, the Soo Line, and the Chicago and North Western RR. It was possibly named for Ralph C. Worthington and Sophie Dutruit, whose names appear on the original plat of *Centralia*.

### *Wrightstown*

A nonce form, coined in Pilot, April 8, 1898, as a synonym for *Babcock*. Origin unknown. None of the leading merchants who appear in State Gaz. of the time have the surname Wright.

### *Yellow River*

A tributary of the Wisconsin R. It rises in Cary Co. and flows E and SE to sec. 6, Lincoln Township on the Wood Co. border; touches NE Rock Township and flows S through R3E (Richfield, Wood, Dexter, and Remington townships), leaving the county at sec. 34, T21N, R3E (Remington Township) and joining the Wisconsin R. in Juneau Co. The name is a translation of Winnebago *necedah*, "yellow river." Both names reflect the fact that the stream was thought to have a "dark" color (Kings., 396). The name Yellow R. first appears on Colt. 1855.