

Princeton "Scenes from the Past" In the Beginning was

Wisconsin was joining the Union as the 30th state in 1848 and that same year Royal C. Treat arrived in Princeton. On June 2nd Treat staked out a claim on a plot of land and he erected the first building with building supplies hauled in from Stevens Point. In the beginning Princeton was known as Treat's Landing.

The following September, Treat was joined by Nelson M. Parsons. Later, Royal and his brother H.B. Treat, went to Green Bay and secured title to 132 acres of land and laid out the village which they changed the name to Princeton. As land was laid out into lots and blocks over the years, the "Additions" were named after the forefathers of the community. Some of the Platted Additions include Parsons Addition in 1855, Flint & Treat's Addition in 1857, Rosebrook's Addition in 1867, and R C Treat's Addition in 1872, and W. S. Flint's Addition in 1875. Buried in the City Cemetery is Royal Treat's daughter, Jane A. Treat who died at 11 months. Although there is a variation in the spelling (which was very common in years past) Ezra & Polly Rosbrook are buried in the City Cemetery.

Although the history goes back to 1848, the community was organized as Pleasant Valley. Early records are sketchy and do not go back much further than 1865. First minutes of the Village show that in that year, a request was made to the State Legislature for a charter and that charter covered the entire area of the Township and the City of Princeton.

In 1877, a vote was taken on the question of moving the county seat from Dartford to Princeton, however the majority of the supervisors voted in favor of Dartford (now Green Lake). A minority voted in favor of Princeton and were supported in their decision by the Attorney General. Some citizens of Princeton obtained possession of the County records and removed them forcibly to this City. An appeal was made by the people of the eastern part of the County to the Supreme Court and a ruling was secured in their favor and the County seat was moved back to Dartford.

In 1889, a special meeting was called to determine whether or not the Village of Princeton and the Town of Princeton should separate as a joint district. A committee of five citizens was appointed by Chairman Erich Mueller to investigate separation proceedings. At a later meeting it was decided to leave matters as they were and not separate. A few years later, On March 4, 1893, a resolution was passed for a special election to be held on April 1, 1893 to ratify a new charter which was approved. This began the final steps toward the separation of the Village and the Town of Princeton.

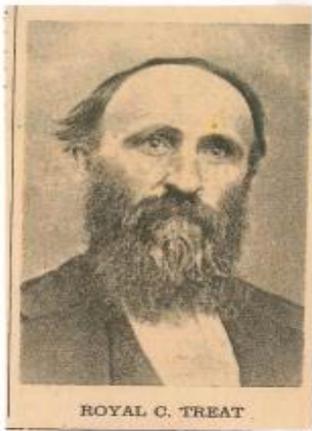
During these final steps, due to there being considerable discussion and a dispute over the assessment of taxes, license money, and the division of property, final separation did not take place until 1901 – 8 years later! During the time period of 1897 and 1901, the Circuit Court and the State Supreme Court had to make decisions in order to bring about the separation of the Town and Village. According to the records, the Town of Princeton commenced an action to collect back license money and taxes they claimed belonged to them during the period of 1888 to 1895. The State Supreme Court decided that the Village did not have to reimburse the township.

According to records, the first Village Board to be elected after the final separation were elected on April 1, 1902. President Gottlieb Luedtke, Trustees Chas Ellinger, Fred Nickodem, Emil Oelke, A E Ziebell and

William Freiheit and Gustave Zierke. Emil Oelke is the only one buried in the City Cemetery as the rest are buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Princeton.

If anyone has information about those buried in the City of Princeton Cemetery please contact City Hall at 920-295-6612 or email mneubauer@cityofprincetonwi.com or cnickel@cityofprincetonwi.com. Also remember our Cemetery Historic Walk taking place on August 26, 2017 at 1:30 and 4:00 p.m. on Hwy 73/Cty Trk J.

Information for this article came from the Princeton Times Centennial Article of 7/22/1948 along with the Quas Qui Centennial Anniversary Book. Although we review many sources, from time to time we find slightly conflicting information on a date or name however always strive for accuracy.



ROYAL C. TREAT

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PRINCETON'S FIRST VILLAGE BOARD

Front row, left to right: A. E. Ziebell, Gottlieb Luedtke, Chas. Ellinger.
Back row, left to right: Gustav Zierke, Fred Nickodem, Emil Oelke, Wm. Freiheit.