



# Early Settlement of West-Central Wisconsin

Guide

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## Chronology of Events

- 1785 Jean Baptiste Perrault establishes fur post at mouth of Red Cedar River
- 1787 Wisc. part of NW Territory, British control
- 1788 Perrault establishes fur post/fort on Red Cedar near Menomonie
- 1800 Wis. Part of Indiana Territory
- 1802 Fur posts at Fort Folle Avoine on Yellow River, Burnett Co.
- 1809 Wis. Part of Illinois Territory
- 1818 Wis. Part of Michigan Territory; Hudson trading post for American Fur Co.
- 1827 Army officers select Prescott site for settlement
- 1830 First successful mill in Chippewa Valley at site of Menomonie; James Lockwood and family first settlers in Dunn Co. at the mill site
- 1831 Henry Schoolcraft canoes down Red Cedar
- 1832 Louis Demarie and family spend winter in cabin in Eau Claire site; trade with Indians
- 1836 Wisconsin Territory**; Jean Brunet builds dam and sawmill at Chippewa Falls
- 1837 Dakota (Sioux) land cessions in w. Wis., move across river to Minn.; settlers at St. Croix Falls; John Fonda and family reside at Menomonie site
- 1838 Mr. Doe settles south of Prescott
- 1840 St. Croix Co. formed from Crawford Co., seat: Stillwater (now Minn.); included w. Wis. To Red Cedar River; Samuel Lamb first settler in Dunnville
- 1841 Peter Bouchea first settler in Hudson
- 1842 Ojibwe land cessions
- 1843 Dr. Aldrich settles in Prescott
- 1840s-1860s Federal land surveys in Wis.
- 1845 Chippewa Co. created** from Crawford Co.; seat: Dunnville (Samuel Lamb's tavern); Federal survey St. Croix Falls area; Arthur & Stephen McCann, Jeremiah Thomas first settlers at site of Eau Claire; John McCain first Pepin Co. settler (N. of Pepin)
- 1846 Knapp, Stout & Co. formed, settlement of Menomonie begins with cabins of Capt. William Wilson, Lorenzo Bullard and others; Perry Curtis establishes first farm in Dunn Co. near Eau Galle; Simon & George Randall build dam and sawmill at Eau Claire
- 1847 Hudson settled; Thing and Cornelison brothers settle in Prescott; Frank Ames and sons farm near Eau Galle
- 1848 Wisconsin statehood**; St. Croix River adopted as western border; St. Croix Co. seat moved to Hudson; Joel Foster settles in River Falls; several Knapp and Stout employees settle in Barron Co. with families
- 1849 Prairie du Chien-Hudson & Portage-La Crosse roads help settlement of w. Wis.; Fed survey of Pepin Co.; Elizabeth renamed Prescott; McGregor and Mapes settle in River Falls
- 1850 Settlers farming in Eau Claire Co.; St. Croix Co. population 248; Population of Menomonie 150; Harvey Seeley settles in Maiden Rock
- 1851 First Pierce Co. school opened by Mrs. Olive near Prescott
- 1852 Wisconsin Commissioner of Emigration; First Dunn Co. school at millsite in Menomonie; First sawmill Pepin Co. at Arkansaw; B. Fowler settles in Mud Creek area (Dunn Co.); Rev. Thos. Barland first farmer Eau Claire Co.; First settlers in New Richmond

- 1853 **Pierce Co. formed**, set: Prescott; Ferry licensed across St. Croix River at Prescott; Isaac Ingalls, Melvin mills build first gristmill in Pepin Co. on Roaring Creek
- 1854 **Dunn Co. created** from Chippewa Co., seat: Dunnville; Chippewa Co. seat moved to Chippewa Falls; Four Ojibwe reservations created; A. Chapman settles in Maiden Rock
- 1855 Demand for wheat soars due to Crimean War; Jesse Hardy starts hotel and store at mouth of Bear Creek, Pepin Co.; Population of Dunn Co. 1,796; *Paraclete* (later *Transcript*) first newspaper in Pierce Co.; Village of Eau Claire platted
- 1856 **Eau Claire Co. created** from Chippewa Co., seat: Eau Claire; Chippewa Falls platted by H.S. Allen; Adin Randall begins Eau Claire House hotel; Shaw & Huntington open store; Presbyterian Church in Eau Claire first church in Chippewa Valley; Hamilton Hubbard founds Tyrone, builds hotel; Massey Settlement (Dunn Co.) started by H.M.
- 1857 St. Croix Co. courthouse built in Hudson; Hudson expected to outstrip St. Paul; New Richmond platted by Henry Russell; Adin Randall plats Village of West Eau Claire; Village of North Eau Claire laid out; *Eau Claire Free Press* founded; Panic of 1857; Federal land office established at Eau Claire
- 1858 **Pepin County created** from Dunn Col, seat: Pepin; Dunn Co. courthouse at Dunnville burns
- 1859 **Dallas Co. (later Barron Co.) created** from Polk Co., seat: village of Manhattan; Village of Menomonie platted
- 1860 St. Croix Co. population 5,394; Pepin Co. seat moved to Durand; *Dunn Co. Lumberman* founded
- 1861 **Civil War breaks out**; Pierce Co. seat moved to Ellsworth; Dunn Co. seat moved to Menomonie
- 1862 **Homestead Act**
- 1864 Railroad facilities in New Richmond
- 1869 **Dallas Co. renamed Barron Co.**
- 1870-71 West Wis. Railroad reaches Eau Claire and Menomonie

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