The Beginning of a Community 1855-2005

Ariel shot of the Town of Wayside by T.H. Weber

Governor Cass established Brown County, of which this township is a part of, in 1818. It was part of the Michigan Territory and comprised of what is now the eastern half of the state of Wisconsin. It was named in the honor of Gen. Jacob Brown, then commander-in-chief of the army. By 1951 it had been reduced to its present boundaries.

Originally there were only two townships, Howard east of the Fox River and Green Bay west. As the area became more settled, one new township after the other was established. The original government survey of what is now the Town of Morrison was made in 1834 and 1835.

At that time, lumbering was the major industry. One of the first landowners in the town was James D. Doty, a prominent historical figure in Wisconsin. Another early landowner was Nelson Pendleton.

The Township of Morrison is a complete township of 36 sections and is located in the southeast corner of Brown County in the state of Wisconsin. It is bound on the north by the township of Glenmore, and on the west by Wrightstown and Holland, and on the south and east by Manitowoc county.

Watered by numerous creeks, the soil of the township consists mainly of a gray brown loam and is well adapted to agriculture. In the early years it was well covered by hardwoods, pine and cedar. About 2,500 acres divided into numerous wooded lots and some cedar swamp still remain.

The 2000 census shows the township population to be around 1651 persons, compared to the population of the 1955 census of 1332 people. The township had three small hamlets: Lark, Morrison, and Wayside.

First Settlers

The first settlers of the Town of Morrison were Rev. Alphonso John Morrison and his wife, Harriet, whose land grant was dated May 13, 1852, and was issued out of the Green Bay land office. They settled here in February of 1851. Their 1st child in the township was born in 1852.

James Clark settled in the Town of Morrison around 1852, and was followed by John Clark. The homes of these early settlers were in the midst of an unbroken forest.

In 1854, the Brown County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution that a new town be set off from the towns of DePere and Wrightstown. They suggested the town to be called Morrison, and the first election of town officers to be held at the house of Alphonso Morrison. Michael Quinn was the first town clerk and justice of the peace.

On July 23, 1855, Mr. Morrison sold his property to Phillip Falck, and moved to Wrightstown. Falck opened up the first store in this area in his house. The first post office was established August 13, 1859, with Phillip Falck as postmaster.

1858 brought great change to the township. Lumbermen and farmers joined hands to clear up most of the land. During the early years the sale of lumber, wood bolts, and firewood was an important source of income.