

PREFACE

My wife and I were both born and raised in the Town of Belmont, and lived the first few years of our married life there also. So the town of Belmont is where our roots are found.

We all have seen many changes in our lifestyles. We have seen the horses give way to the tractor, we witnessed the first home radios and television, the old single engine bi-plane of World War fame to the large jets and space rockets, and now we see and hear daily of our race for nuclear supremacy.

Being interested in our heritage and our local history, I decided to write this book to take you back in time, to the Town of Belmont in its very early years of 1850, and to put as much history as I could find about the township and its early pioneers all in two books.

The materials that I used for these books were taken in part from many sources. I used the Standard History of Portage County, published in two volumes, by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago and New York, put out in 1919. Inscriptions that have been copied from tombstones were used. The Commemorative Biographical Record of Upper Wisconsin, published in 1895 by J. H. Beers & Company, Chicago, Illinois, was used. I used courthouse records, census records, old obituaries, old school and church records, old newspapers and, last but not least, by the fine cooperation of many friends who provided helpful information as well as supplying me with some fine pictures that will appear throughout this book.

I want to thank my wife for her patience during my many hours away from home doing research which made this book possible.

You may find what you believe to be misspelled names or incorrect dates. Sometimes this is true, because I have found many discrepancies in the spelling of names, especially on the old census records. The names and dates on the tombstone often do not correspond with the obituary or the death record in the courthouse. I felt that I should go with the courthouse records. However, there has even been some exception to this.



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