

Mrs. E.C. Cobb

Mrs. E. C. Cobb (wife of Dr. E.C. Cobb)

Sun Prairie

C. Moran

April 2, 1936

Personal History

Mrs. E. C. Cobb was born in the township of Bristol near Sun Prairie. Her parents came by Horse, and wagon from Prattsville, New York, to Wisconsin. The horses were shipped to Milwaukee by boat over Great Lakes. From that city they continued their trip on horseback as roads were in such bad condition. They finally settled on the farm near Bristol Which Mr. Jacob M. Haver (Mrs. Cobb ' father) bought from the Government and from Bristol. The farm is still owned by Mrs. Cobb and her sisters. The family later moved to Sun Prairie, but always kept the farm.

Mrs Haver, (Mrs Cobb's mother) was once called the "smartest woman in Wisconsin" in an article written in a 'Boston newspaper by a minister who had visited Wisconsin. She rightfully earned this title by her ability in spinning, weaving, sewing, knitting, as well as her excellent management of the home and family. She even worked out in the field with her husband and was a most capable woman.

Both Mr. & Mrs. Haver, pioneer settlers, were members of the Methodist Church. About two and a half miles north of Sun Prairie is a little, lake called Old Lake," or Patrick Lake or Brazee Lake. Old time Methodist Camp Meetings were held on this lake shore, and Mr.

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Haver here became converted and, was baptized in this "Old Lake as were several others who attended meeting.

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The farm was large and most of the work done by the entire family. The butter was churned by horse power. A long rod connected with churning container was turned by a horse who walked round and round in circles. A dog also furnished the power for churning butter, by treading in ? wheel - thus turning the churn. Mrs. Cobb's moth prided herself on the splendid butter she made, as she furnished the Park Hotel[,?] and several places here with butter which was all contracted for. The girls would often go to Madison with the Mother and have great fun going shopping. " " The young people delighted in playing croquet, horseback riding was one of their chief diversions. Chautauqua held at Madison on the site of present Olin Park, was called "The Monona Lake Assembly," and it was a great treat for the young people. " (" A very common expression or admonition used in Mrs. Cobb's early [home life, was?] "Be careful, or you'll lose your[b?]boot heels." This probably originated from the time her father braced himself while on horse-back, and lost his boot heels in so doing.) [?] personal " Much of the power used, in threshing was furnished by horses four or six span being used for this purpose . the The sheaves of grain were tied by hand [?] the hay was [?] cut with a "cradle." [A?] As [m?] much of the work of threshing was done by hand ; it usually required two weeks to finish. " " The walks on the old farm home were of brick laid in a dove tail design, also of large stones, imbedded in the ground. They were 2 /saying [?] [with?] [?] cust 4- 3 very [picturesque?] and one of the duties of the duties of the children was to keep these walks free from the weeds which grew between the stones and bricks. These walks are still in use. "

The School building, erected five years. ago, worth \$100,000, is an outstanding grade and high school. It is splendidly equipped [-?] with a gymnasium , also a fine movie machine, bought by the school.

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A very beautiful place in summer, is Mr. Miller's "Rainbow Gardens" a short distance from the main street of the village. The peonies, iris, and gladioli are very lovely when in bloom and draw many visitors to Sun Prairie. Mr. Miller is in the business commercially, selling flowers, shipping bulbs, taking orders for both. Mr. Miller is very well known among flower growers of the country, as is "Rainbow-Gardens." 5 [Personal?]

Among the important organizations of Sun Prairie are the "Kings Daughters" a non sectarian, charitable group. The Twentieth Century Club, whose object is to promote Social, intellectual and civic improvement, is a literary club, one of whose founders founded in 1901. [was Mrs. Sarah Haver Mann, who was also its first president. Mrs. Kann, a sister of Mrs. Cobb, also stated the Public Library.] The Twentieth Century Club does much for the Library. The Garden Club, whose members are both men and women, have done much to make Sun Prairie a most attractive place, to the eyes of people.

The Lion's Club sponsors the "Fall Festival" at Angell Park, an annual affair. The Garden Club co-operated with the Lion's Club to make this a successful affair. 5 Personal

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Dr. Cobb had carved a little wooden statue, an Englishman, with long mustache, hands in an pockets, standing in a very attentive attitude. It illustrates the following story. The Englishman had gone to a house to beg something. The lady of the house asked him why he didn't take his hands from his pockets, and tell her what he wanted, "Madam", he said, "Its a pair of braces I'm needing."

The clubs mentioned above, meet in the community room of the Public Library. This room was furnished by the Kings Daughters and Twentieth Century club.

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About 1840, some people drove from Milwaukee, with oxen and carts to start work on the capital, [them?] being built. The weather was stormy, the skies dark all of the way, but just as they came to where Sun Prairie now stands, the sun came out in all of its glory, so they decided to settle there and call the place “ Sun Prairie “ .

There is no other town or village in the United States by that name. There is only one Sun Prairie -Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.