

The township organization law was adopted in this county in 1849, when the County Commissioners went out of office and the control of affairs passed into the hands of the Board of Supervisors. The last Board of Commissioners consisted of Wm. Wamsley, Willard P. Flagg and S. W. Coffman. Zenas Applington was elected chairman of the first Board of Supervisors.

Leonard Andrus was the first white man who set his foot upon the site of the present town of Grand Detour. He traveled up the river from Dixon, in a canoe, in 1835, and made a claim at Grand Detour in the following year. In that year, Mr. Andrus and W. A. House brought their families to that place. William G. Dana, Amos Bosworth and some others arrived in 1836. The name Grand Detour signifies Great Bend. Rock River forms here, we believe, the largest bend to be found anywhere between its source and its mouth.

In 1836, the Hydraulic Company was formed for the purpose of improving the water power and erecting mills. The Company consisted of L. Andrus, A. Bosworth, W. G. Dana, W. A. House, R. Green and D. and M. Warner. They first, in 1836, built the saw-mill on Pine Creek about three miles from Grand Detour, now known as Dana's Mill. In '37, they commenced building a dam across the river at Grand Detour, and a grist and a saw-mill. These mills were not completed until February, '38. In the latter year, the Company made a division of the property and started anew. Solon Cumins, who arrived in that year,

bought one-half interest in the concern. When the mills were finished, Mr. Cumins bought the other half, and has continued to hold them until the present time. In the same year, and previous to Mr. Cumins' making the purchase, the name of the Company was changed to Rock River Mill Company. In 1835, when Andrus and House arrived at this place, they did their first cooking in the open air, with Indians standing around them.

The village of Grand Detour was laid out in 1836, when there were but a few log cabins. In '37, three frame buildings were put up—one for a store, which was occupied by a Mr. Palmer, which was also purchased by Mr. Cumins in '38; the other two were dwellings. There was also a store, started in '36, by House & Green. The settlement of the place, during the years 1837-8, progressed very rapidly. Mr. Cumins states that his purchases of goods during the years 1839-40 amounted to \$40,000. His trade was very large, his customers coming from Buffalo Grove, North Grove, Cherry Grove and the whole country about.

In 1839, Messrs. Andrus & Deere commenced the manufacture of plows on a small scale. From that time to this, the business has been rapidly growing, until the Grand Detour Plow Factory has gained a wide reputation throughout the whole West. Some idea of the magnitude of their operations may be formed from the following statistics: Messrs. Andrus & Bosworth, the present proprietors, manufacture from forty to fifty plows per day—making a total of twelve thou-