

About Street Names and House Numbers

Present system of Avenues & Streets came into effect in 1891

The naming of Streets is very often associated with the commemoration in connection with certain individuals: however, streets are given names of trees, or there are certain physical or natural characteristics of the community consistent with names of streets. Again the locality and direction of the street offers a name, as for instance, East Street, named from the fact that it is located on the east line of "Formerly Adams" addition. Nearly all of the names of streets for the city of Baraboo can be traced to some one of the above named classes.

In determining the origin of the names of streets, one naturally turns to the historical data such as the different histories of Sauk County and the recorded plats in the Register of Deed's office. There, we refresh our memories by reviewing the record of the "Village of Adams", now called on our late maps of Baraboo, "Formerly Adam's." This plat occupies the entire southeast one-quarter of section 35 in township 12 north of range 6 east except a small portion lying south of the Baraboo River. Mr. Brigham, one of the court commissioners, suggested the name Adams after the Adams family in Massachusetts, whom he greatly admired. The plat was recorded in April 1847 and about the same time; Mr. George Brown had his land south of the Baraboo River surveyed and platted, calling it Baraboo. On the 14th of January 1849, the county commissioners caused the two above named plats to be changed and known by the name of Brooklyn. The two respective villages however continued separately till the village charter was obtained in May of 1854, which united them under the name of Baraboo. In the meantime, Mr. Canfield surveyed and platted the village of Lyons in 1846 and 1847, thinking this location was the logical one for the future metropolis of Sauk County. The name Lyons was given by Mr. Harvey Canfield for Lyons, New York, where he formerly resided.

On account of the water power site at the present location of the water works pumping station, a plat was made and recorded in 1850 called the village of Manchester, comprising the entire north

east one quarter of section 1. It was thought at that time that Manchester would at least hold its own with the village of Lyons, which in turn was competing with Baraboo, but Baraboo apparently outdistanced them all. The old Manchester Street Bridge was later moved to the Ochsner Park area where again it straddled the Baraboo River to join two sections of the park. The Manchester Race also was filled in the latter part of the 20th century.

From 1850 to July 1855 there followed the records of the following plats: Mrs. Pecks first, Wallaces, Mrs. Drowns, Thomas's, Camp's, Brown's, Langdon's and Litchfield's. R. G. Camp who applied the name Litchfield after Litchfield, Conn., the birthplace of Mr. Camp, laid out the last in July 1855.

In reviewing the names of the Streets in the "Formerly Adams" addition the commissioners used the numerals from First to Eight Street for the Streets running east and west. First Street was originally named Bench Street, evidently from its prominent elevation and proximity to the Baraboo River. It ran parallel and south of Second Street and was part of the Drown and Moore additions. Bench Street was part of what we now call the Mary Rountree Evans athletic field. The city council changed the name to First Street.

As the successive plats were added to the north from Adams, the east and west Streets naturally took their consecutive numbers from Eighth to Twentieth Street and beyond

When the matter of numbering the residences was presented, it was suggested by Mr. R. B. Griggs, through alderman L. O. Holmes, that the east and west Streets north of the Baraboo River be divided at Oak Street and that West of Oak Street be designated as avenues and east of Oak Street be designated as streets. This method was thought preferable to the usual method of naming them as East Eighth and West Eighth Street, etc., and was affected by the city council. This arrangement was also carried out later on some of the Streets south of the river.

Common Council Meeting, November 1891

In November of 1891 there was considerable discussion regarding streets and avenues during council meetings. By reference

to the council proceedings it could be seen that there was a proposal to change the designation of the east and west thoroughfares in the First Ward to avenues. That is, instead of 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th Streets and so on, those public avenues of travel running from Oak Street westward were to be called 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th Avenues, and so on. This was suggested as desirable to better distinguish between the thoroughfares of the First and Second Wards and aid people in more readily locating any given lot by number and Street. If such a change was not made it was thought that the designation, east or west, would need to be appended to the streets mentioned. There was much force in the reasoning, and no apparent objection to the change proposed. (Baraboo Republic, 11/19/1891)

In March of 1901, a resolution was adopted changing the names of all the streets west of Quarry Street in the Third Ward to avenues, leaving those east of Quarry streets. Also enclosed in the resolution was that part of Maple Street east of Walnut was to be designated Lake Street.

For the north and south streets, in the Adams Addition, East Street was named for its location on the east line of section 35, which is also the east line of the Adams addition. Center Street was similarly named from its location on the north and south centerline of section 35, as was also West Street, being located in the west portion of the Adams Addition.

The rest of the streets are nearly all named after certain individuals whose service and influence for the community has been of a prominent character. For the streets in this class we have the following:

Angle Street extends from Fifth Avenue northwest to Sixth Avenue, between Center and Summit.

Ash Street, named after a tree, was formerly called North Bridge Street from the bridge to the property of D. K. Noyes on First Street. The council changed it to Ash Street in July 1855. The old

timers called that portion of Ash from Water to First Street, "Wind Hill."

Athenaeum Place is sixth east of Quarry and extends from Potter Street southeast to Withington; it is a continuation of Depot Street.

Barker Street, from John Barker of the law firm of Barker & Remington of Baraboo. He came to Baraboo in 1865 and held various offices of trust such as town clerk, town treasurer, county judge and district attorney and was the first attorney for Baraboo.

Bench East (East of Oak) & Bench West (West of Oak) Street was the former name of First Street, evidently from its prominent elevation and proximity to the Baraboo River. It ran parallel and south of Second Street and was part of the Drown and Moore additions. Bench Street was part of what we now call the Mary Rountree Evans athletic field. The city council changed the name to First Street.

Birch Street, named after a tree.

Blake Street, named after Mr. Marvin Blake, who arrived in Baraboo in 1844 with his family. They are the first family to settle in Baraboo and assisted in building the first dam in Baraboo

Breir Street, from B. L. Breir, who was associated in the development of the waterpower with the Maxwell's at the lower rapids.

Broadway was named from the fact of its being one rod more in width than all other streets excepting Fourth Avenue.

Camp Street, named after R. G. Camp, who laid out the Litchfield addition.

Case Street (Case's sub-division) is fourth west of Quarry, and extends from W. Linn, south to Quarry, named after Mr. H. J. Case, who resided on the corner of Lynn Avenue and Russell Street in 1917.

Center Street was named from its location on the north and south centerline of section 35. Extends from Second Avenue north to Eighth Avenue.

Center South Street is fifth south of the river and extends from Lake east to the railroad tracks.

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Cherry Street is third east of Quarry and extends from the river to south to the city limits.

Clark Street, named after Lyman Clark, who came to Baraboo in 1847 and pre-empted forty acres just south east of the original village of Baraboo. He made himself famous as a hotelkeeper, never turning anyone away, money or no money.

College Avenue (Jacob's sub-division), second north of the river, and extends from Washington east along the city limits to Lincoln Street.

Crawford Street, running north and south in continuation of Center Street from Tenth Avenue, was named from John B. Crawford who came to Baraboo in 1844 with a corps of government surveyors. Mr. Canfield states in his history: the Crawford family played a pleasant and profitable part in the early history of Baraboo.

East Street, named from the fact that it is located on the east line of "Formerly Adams" addition.

Elizabeth Street, from Mrs. Elizabeth Camp, wife of Arthur Camp. Mrs. Victoria Wheeler Hawley, daughter of Mrs. Rosaline Peck stated that when W. H. Canfield made the survey of the plat east of Elizabeth, he asked Mrs. Peck what to name the street, as the other streets were named for the pioneer and her daughter. Mrs. Peck suggested the name of Camp's wife, which the street has since borne. Another school of thought has the name Elizabeth from Elizabeth Tuttle. The Tuttle's constructed a home on this road in 1869 which still stands as of this writing on the north-east part of Baraboo.

Elm Street, named after a tree.

Florence Court, in Jacobs' addition, named after Miss Florence Jacobs, a daughter of W. H. Jacobs.

Guppy Street, named by Major Chas. Williams after his friend, Col. Guppy, whom he greatly admired. Col. Guppy resided in Portage and received his title for meritorious service in the civil war.

Hill Street, probably named after James and Ed. Hill, who owned considerable property in that vicinity,

Hitchcock Street, named after Mrs. Leona Hitchcock, who before her marriage to Mr. Hitchcock, was Miss Leona Case. Mr. Hitchcock was formerly a schoolteacher in the public schools.

Hollywood Boulevard; after the Warren Park addition was added to the city in 1938, Tenth Street was renamed Hollywood Boulevard. Obviously, the name was short lived.

Island Court was named after a petition was circulated for signatures and presented to the city council in September of 1916.

Lake Road, About 1/2 mile of main road to Devil's Lake became the roadbed for the Northwestern Railroad in 1871. A new route had to be found for pedestrians, carriages and wagons and in 1877 problems arose with the new path, which by then had become the continuation of Maple Street, and was known as the "Lake Road." The property owners on that thoroughfare had been somewhat antagonized. What was then known as the "compromise line" was established by agreement of interested parties some year's prior but the boundaries had been lost over the years with traffic cutting across yards etc. Substantial monuments then marked the line so that future disputes would be avoided

Langdon Place (Langdon's Addition), fifth south of the river, and extends one-half block from lot 7, block 1, northeast to Lake Street.

Lincoln Avenue, in the east part of the city we have Washington and Lincoln Avenue, which apparently need no further comments as to the origin.

Linn Street East & Linn Street West, located east and west of Quarry Street, undoubtedly from the tree by the same name. Later the council changed the spelling from Linn to Lynn, the latter to be used for the numbering of all houses west of Vine Street.

Maple Street was of course, named after a tree.

Maple Street West, (Case's sub-division, second south of the river extending from Tyler Street west to Case Street.

Martin Street, named after Mrs. Martin, the sister of the Brown's, who platted Brown's addition in 1878.

Maxwell Street, named after James A Maxwell, whose first visit to Baraboo was about 1840. The Maxwell's were instrumental in developing the waterpower at the present pumping station of the city waterworks.

Mills Street, named after Dr. B. F. Mills who came to Baraboo in 1850. He was engaged in the drug business at the corner of Oak and Third Streets for a number of years at the same time practicing his profession of medicine.

Monroe Street first appeared in the 1895 city directory as eighth west of courthouse square (a part of the western boundary line of the city), and extends from N. W. R'y. track to Quarry Street.

Moore Street, for the street on the south side of the Baraboo River, named after Capt. Levi Moore, who came to Baraboo in 1840. He located his claim near the falls of Skillet Creek and is given credit for naming the stream and falls from the worn out holes in the soft rock, giving them the appearance of iron vessels called "skillets." His early experience, in the Winnebago wilderness around Baraboo, is most interesting to read, and his connection with the waterpower development along the Baraboo River is characteristic of his services rendered.

Mound Street, named from the location of the effigy mounds along the south side of the street, third south of the Court House square and extends from Elizabeth, east and south-east to Water Street.

Mound, South, Street is seventh south of the river, and extends from Lake Street, east one block and southeast one block to Hill Street.

Mulberry Street, named after a tree.

North Bridge Street originally ran due north from Water Street to First Street. At that point, which was in front of the D. K. Noyes home, it turned sharply to the west and then sharply to the north on Ash Street? North Bridge was a very steep hill and very hard to negotiate, especially in the winter and after a rain when the street was a muddy quagmire. Eventually, probably about 1910, the city purchased the Noyes's property and chopped off the corner so there were no sharp corners to navigate. Bridge Street then became an extension of Ash Street.

Oak Street, named after a tree, was the first paved street in the city. Mayor Wild was very proud of this accomplishment. Early on, this street was called Park Street.

Orchard Street--Sycamore and Orchard Streets are in the Thomas addition. Orchard Street was originally the home of the Case family and when their residence burned about sixty years ago, they planted an orchard covering this location, hence the name Orchard Street.

Paradise Alley was the name given to the alley between the River and Lynn Street running east and west between Walnut and Vine. Possibly also running east from Walnut and curving up towards Lynn Street by the Effinger Brewery.

Park Street, name from its physical characteristics.

Parkway, the road from the "Y" at the intersection of 12 and 123 to Walnut Street was named Parkway at a council meeting in July of 1928. At the same council meeting the new street south of the Broadway Bridge was named South Boulevard after the bridge was finished in 1928

Pine Street, named after a tree.

Potter Street, named after H. H. Potter, who came to Baraboo in 1849, and later marrying the daughter, Miss Emma, of the above mentioned James A. Maxwell. This early path was referred to as Potter's Lane or Potter's Path. In May of 1872 Mr. Grubb, one of the owners of the Manchester Waterpower, constructed a bridge over the race at the foot of Potter's lane and constructed a roadway down the east bank of the race. It was noted in the Baraboo Republic that the citizens of Baraboo would then be able to avail themselves of a new drive to the Lake via the roundhouse, H. H. Potter's, past the Manchester Mills and so on to the Lake.

Quarry Street, on account of the street leading to and past the quarry of Levi Crouch. In 1895 it was described as an extension of Broadway and extended from the river south to Blake, thence southwest and west to the city limits.

Race Street. eighth east of Quarry between the waterway and the river.

R. C. Street (Case's sub-division), third west of Quarry Street extending from W. Linn south to Quarry Street.

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Remington Court,(Jacob's sub-division), fifth north of the river and extends from north and south quarter section line of section 36, east to Lincoln Street, city limits.

Remington Street, named after C. C. Remington who practiced law in Baraboo from 1847 until the time of his death in 1878. As a lawyer, C. C. Remington stood at the head of the bar of Sauk County for many years. Extends south from Second Street south to Mound Street.

Ridge Street's name came from its physical characteristics.

South Boulevard; the new Street, south of the Broadway Bridge was named South Boulevard after the bridge was finished in 1928.

Roseline Street, from Roseline Peck, the first white woman to cross the Baraboo bluffs and make her home in the valley north of them. She and her husband arrived in Baraboo in 1840 making their home in the village of Manchester and later moving to Baraboo.

South Street, by virtue of its location along the south side of the original plat of Baraboo.

Summit Street's name from its physical characteristics.

Sycamore Street was named by Major Williams in memory of Sycamore Street in Milwaukee, where he lived before coming to Baraboo.

Thomas Street, named after Mrs. Thomas in 1926. Mrs. Thomas was 96 at the time and lived in California. Mrs. Thomas was a sister of Major Chas. H. Williams who was a civil war veteran and a member of the board of regents at the UW for 5 years.

Tyler Street, (Case's sub-division) named after Mr. M. J. Tyler, residing at the present time (1917) on the corner of Lynn Avenue and Tyler Street. Victoria & Wheeler Streets were each named after Mrs. Victoria Wheeler, the daughter of Roseline Peck. In 1917 she was living in Delton and historically was an important character.

Victoria Street, fifth east of courthouse square, extends from East Water Street, north to Second Street.

Vine Street, obviously named after a vine.

Waldo Street, supposed to have been named after Mr. Ed. Alexander, but through an error of the Street Committee of the common council, they gave the road the name Waldo, thinking it was his real name. It is not clear where the prior information came from...but, Wayne Pivotto, a classmate of the writer whose mother was Alta Mae (Waldo) Pivotto, states that his grandparents, Charles and Maude Waldo had a farm that laid on both sides of this road, thus...Waldo Road, later Waldo Street.

Walnut Street, named after a tree.

Warren Court, named after T. M. Warren, who came to Baraboo about 1847 and became very successful in business. He remodeled the former Chas. Sumner hotel in 1896, giving it the name of the Warren House.

Washington Street (avenue?)(Jacob's sub-division); in the east part of the city we have Washington and Lincoln Avenue, which apparently need no further comments as to the origin.

Water Street East; fourth south of the courthouse square and extends from Oak Street to Briar Street.

Water Street West; fourth south of the courthouse square and extends from Oak Street west to Broadway.

West Street, named for being located in the west portion of the Adams Addition.

Wheeler & Victoria Streets were each named after Mrs. Victoria Wheeler, the daughter of Roseline Peck. In 1917 she was living in Delton and historically was an important character.

Withington Street, named after A. H. Withington, who came from England directly to Baraboo in 1857, locating near Devil's lake and remaining on his claim till his death.

Wood Street, for the Street running north and south, for one block only. Named after J. B. Wood, moving to Baraboo from Walworth County in 1856. He was a business partner of John B. Crawford and constructed the residence where Mr. E. Paddock lived in 1917 at the head of Wood Street on Ninth Avenue. His father was a highly educated physician practicing in Baraboo in the early days.

Warren Park was platted and opened in 1911; this area covered Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Streets located between East and Elizabeth streets. All of the lots in Warren Park were sold the weekend of May 20/21, 1911. The sale commenced on Saturday morning and ended on Sunday at 4:00 Sunday afternoon. All 56 lots were sold. Prior to the sale the streets had been laid out, trees planted, street names put up and a flag placed on each lot. No taxes for two years and no interest ever, was a good proposition. It was felt that almost anyone could set a dollar aside each week because that was all it took. Mrs. Hoyt and Mrs. Minnie Hoggins sold the land.

Tenth Street was renamed Hollywood Boulevard at that time.

House & Business Numbers

Every space of twenty-two lineal feet frontage of lots or parts of lots on any street in the residence portion -- and as much less thereof so as to provide for each hallway in the business portion -- of the city of Baraboo should be numbered with a separate number, and known thereby as follows: The numbers on all the streets north of the Baraboo River running east and west commence on Oak street, and south of the river on Quarry street, (one block west of Oak street); and all streets running north and south commence at the river, and such numbers run continuously from those streets (Oak and Quarry) and the river, one hundred numbers being assigned to the length of the block, so that the first number of the first block should be number one hundred, the second block two hundred, and so on; the even numbers should always be on the right hand side of all streets receding from the initial points of numbering; the odd numbers on the opposite side. All streets intersecting Oak *street* from second street north, are known as _____ avenue in that part lying west of said Oak street; and _____ street in that territory which lies east of said street. Blocks upon streets running in directions which do not intersect said Oak and Quarry streets and the Baraboo River, should bear like numbers

with the blocks upon streets which do intersect at like distances from those points, so far as practicable. It is the duty of each owner of any building or tenement fronting upon any street in the city of Baraboo within thirty days after the erection of the same, to securely attach or apply to the front of such building or tenement, in a conspicuous position, and not higher than the first or ground story of said building, so that the same can be plainly seen from the street, the proper number of such building or tenement, as inscribed upon the record prepared by the city surveyor, and on file in the office of the city clerk, in figures not less than three inches in height.

The Village of Lyons, circa 1895

Cedar Street, third east of Pine Street extending from Linn Street south to the river.

Chestnut Street, second south of Linn Street extending from Pine Street to Willow Street

Linn Street, (Eighth Avenue) bounds the village on the north extending from Pine Street east to city limits.

Locust Street, second south of Linn Street extending from Pine Street east to Willow Street.

Maple Street, first south of Linn Street extending from Pine Street to Willow Street.

Mulberry Street, first east of Pine Street extending from Linn Street to the river.

Oak Street, fourth south of Linn Street extending from Pine Street to Willow Street.

Pine Street, bounds the village on the west extending from Linn Street to the river.

Walnut Street, second east of Pine Street extending from Linn Street to the river.

Willow Street, fourth east of Pine Street extending from Pine Street to the railroad track.