

## The Story of Our States

By JONATHAN BRACE  
XXX.—WISCONSIN



**T**HE many cities in Wisconsin with French names show the French influence in its early settlement. The first white man to penetrate this region was Jean Nicolet, who was sent out in 1634 by Champlain to open trade with the Indians. He landed at Green Bay and probably traversed the country to Chicago. Fur traders and missionaries followed and the latter built a mission where Ashland now stands. This was the first church erected in the state and around it sprang up the first permanent settlement. Joliet and Father Marquette descended the Wisconsin river, and La Salle explored a great deal of Wisconsin before he took his famous trip down the Mississippi. Among the fur traders to come to Wisconsin shores was Daniel du Lhut, after whom the city of Duluth, Minn., was named.

During the Revolution Wisconsin remained loyal to the British and though Wisconsin became a part of the United States by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, it was not until 1816 that federal troops really established authority there. Indian uprisings continued for some time ending only with the Black Hawk war in 1832. Then followed extensive immigration from the New England States.

Wisconsin had formed a part of the Northwest territory until 1800, when it became a part of Michigan territory, under which jurisdiction it remained until 1836, with the exception of nine years, when it was considered a part of Illinois territory. With the admission of Michigan as a state, the Wisconsin territory was created, which included also the present states of Iowa and Minnesota and portions of North and South Dakota.

In 1814 Wisconsin was taken into the Union as the thirtieth state. Its area is 56,000 square miles and it has thirteen electoral votes for president. The state is named after the Wisconsin river. This is an Ojibwa phrase which means "gathering waters." It is sometimes called the Badger State. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

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XXV.—ARKANSAS



**A**RKANSAS was named after the river which flows diagonally through this state and is one of the chief tributaries of the Mississippi. It is said that the early settlers found in this territory, an Indian tribe named Arkansas, but the actual meaning of the word is not known. It probably has some relation to the word Kansas. There has been much confusion as to the correct pronunciation of Arkansas. To remove this as far as possible a resolution was passed by the state senate in 1881 which specified that the true pronunciation was "Ar-kan-saw."

Originally Arkansas was a part of the Louisiana Purchase. Its first settlement was made by the French about 1685. Except for the few years during which by secret treaty it was ceded to Spain, it remained under French rule, until purchased by the United States in 1803. For nearly ten years after this, it was a part of Louisiana territory. With the admission of the State of Louisiana in 1812 this northern section was formed into the Missouri territory. In 1819 there was another partition and Arkansas territory was created, which included the present state and what later was called Indian territory.

Due to the reports of an early explorer named Pike, who visited this region in 1806, the incorrect idea was generally accepted that most of the expanse of plains east of the Rockies was a vast desert. This idea persisted to such an extent that as late as 1850 the western plains were called in the school geographies "The Great American Desert." Adventurous settlers, especially from the South, found conditions in Arkansas quite otherwise, however, and by 1838 Arkansas was admitted as the twenty-fifth state of the Union with an area of 53,355 square miles.

The natural resources of the state are considerable. There are the mineral springs of medicinal value, which have been placed under governmental control at Hot Springs. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

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XI.—NEW YORK



**T**HE STORY of New York should rightly begin with 1524, eighty-five years before Henry Hudson's voyage in his little boat, the Half Moon, up the river which now bears his name. For at that early date an Italian navigator, Verrazano, exploring for France, sailed into New York bay. This first visit to New York made little stir and was soon forgotten, and it was Hudson's rediscovery which tempted the Dutch to send over colonists and obtain for the Dutch West India company a monopoly of the Dutch fur trade in America. The new colony which was started in 1623 called its territory New Netherlands, after its mother country, and their principal city New Amsterdam. It is interesting to reflect that Manhattan Island, which is now New York city, was purchased from the Indians for \$24 worth of beads and ribbons. Even in its earliest days the settlement on Manhattan Island was cosmopolitan. In 1643 it is reported that eighteen different languages were spoken there. In 1664 the English captured New Netherlands, and King Charles II presented the colony to his brother, the duke of York, who was later King James II, and its name was then changed to New York.

New York played a leading part in the formation of the United States. It was Alexander Hamilton who as New York's representative in framing the Constitution and it was New York city which was selected as the first capital of the new Union, where Washington was inaugurated the first president. Ever since the Empire state, as New York is sometimes called, has held the deciding voice in presidential elections. Though its size is only 49,204 square miles, not quite half way in the list of states according to area, its great population gives New York forty-five presidential electors, the largest number of any of the states. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

## The Story of Our States

By JONATHAN BRACE  
XVI.—TENNESSEE



**T**HE history of Tennessee stretches back to the year 1541 when De Soto with his party of Spanish adventurers probably reached the present site of Memphis on the Mississippi. The French under La Salle built a fort here about 1682. The English also laid claim to this territory, including it in the grant to North Carolina. It was not until 1770 that the first permanent settlement was made by James Robertson and this was soon followed by many other settlers from North Carolina. They formed what they called the Washington district, but this was short lived as it was promptly annexed to North Carolina. In 1784 the inhabitants, indignant over North Carolina's attitude toward them, declared their independence and formed the State of Franklin or Frankland. As this secession was not countenanced by North Carolina, for a number of years a state of confusion existed with two sets of officers trying to govern. Meanwhile the settlement suffered severely from hostile Indians and from the Spanish, who still held Louisiana, and controlled the Mississippi river. In 1790 North Carolina finally ceded this territory to the United States. By 1796 the population had increased to over 60,000, so Tennessee was admitted as the sixteenth state of the Union.

At the outbreak of the Civil war, Tennessee joined the Confederacy. In 1866, when the state was readmitted to the Union, there was much disorder during the reconstruction period. This led to the formation of the Ku Klux Klan, the influence of which quickly spread throughout the Southern states. This secret organization took into its own hands the suppression of crime and the administration of justice.

Tennessee contains 42,022 square miles, and is sometimes called the Volunteer state. It is named after its principal river, which is a Cherokee word meaning "Crooked River" or "bend in the river." (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

## FISHERMAN'S LUCK.

By Bill Blue.

Dear Editor: Since writing up that last fishing trip I have discovered that a good reliable set of legs is sometimes worth more to a fellow than any quantity of brains. I am forced to make this declaration from actual experience. Cause some of them fellows got so het up durned if you couldn't smell 'em half a mile. I had to sort o' curvy 'em down and b-bosh I just told 'em that fishing trips were like frizzly hair, hard to make things lay and look straight, and then some o' 'em just went up in the air and like to kicked the rafters off the elements. They acted like a giraffe on a razeze with his legs tangled up in a lazy streak o' lightning, while others done sorter like a hooten owl, looked wise and said nothing. But I tell you they shot it to me like Johnson did the bear. It aint printable but it's lamentable. Even now I keep a wolf trap set in my yard and sleep with two Kreg-Jergusens under my pillow, besides a company of muzzel leading bulldogs entrenched just outside my gate.

You see some o' 'em swore a mighty swear that they was going to do something amazin ugly to me if I ever writ up their fishing doings again. So I just informed 'em that the newspapers was just starving for news and me being one of the official correspondents I was going to have the news if I had to go out and scrape it up with the county road scrape and deliver it with frills and variations and the bark on. So after mature and solemn deliberation we made our will, packed our worldly belongings (seven fish hooks, one pencil and a quart bottle) in our grip sack. Half soled our trousers where it would do the most good, bid the wife one long lingering farewell and hiked out with a merry jog on the trail to the happy hunting grounds of the fisherman.

How long we hiked I do not know, but luck was with us still, it seemed, Although we searched both high and low That quart was but an empty dream.

We cast our roving optics over the placid waters of the fisherman's para-

dise. The moon arose and solemnly peeped over the hill and everything was as quiet as a pair of ladies' slippers under a hotel bed.

Well, we began to think the link-pins of our logic had slipped a peg or two and kind of wished we hadn't come, when afar down the river among the mugwamps and cane breaks we spied the twinkle of a light. Then we knew our hunch was right and proceeded to investigate. When we seen it was the same old Easley bunch we slipped up like a sneak thief and hid behind a sun perch that one o' 'em had thrown to one side and listened to the talk, and I'll be hanged if it wouldn't surprise you what a crowd like that will do and talk about. One fellow said he had a wart on his heel that he could rub till it got warm, then wade the river where it wasn't over four feet deep and every fish for half a mile would follow him clean out on the bank. Another fellow named John, I think, said he always carried a buckeye in his pocket when he wanted to catch a mess of medium sized ones weighing 30 to 40 pounds. Well sir, this talk went on for some time, but you could have knocked me over with a feather when a fellow got up and said, "Well, boys, we start for home in the morning and everybody remember man's the word. Not a ding busted word about this trip back home where that air feller Bill Blue can git hold of it. That blue rascal jis rites and rites. The last time he writ about us it was a cussed no sich thing and the one that tells him about this trip I'll be damned if he don't stay to home next time. Bill's got no business ritin our doings in that old paper no how. Don't the blame fool know that our wives might read that paper and guess who 'twas. And the first durn one to you fellers that tell I'm going to kick the whole ging bosom of your britches out." That was the last I heard. That sun perch gave one flap and I landed half way cross the river and kept pulling for the other shore.

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By JONATHAN BRACE  
XV.—KENTUCKY



**T**HE kinship of Kentucky and Virginia is that of parent and child. From Virginia came most of the settlers of the western state, and with them these pioneers brought Virginia institutions and ideals. It was not until 1750 that the first authentic journey was made by a white man into central parts of the region afterwards called Kentucky.

Further explorations showed that this territory held two important attractions for settlers. The first was the great fertility of what was called the Blue Grass region. The so-called blue grass, from which this state is nicknamed the "Blue Grass State" is in no wise peculiar to Kentucky.

The second inducement for settlers was the fact that there were no Indians living in this region. It was later found that many roving bands of savages crossed the Ohio from the north and sorely harassed the early colonists until Clark's expeditions into Ohio and Indiana checked their invasions. In fact, the name Kentucky is probably derived from the Iroquois word kentka-ke, meaning "hunting land." Another interpretation is "dark and bloody ground," but this is doubtless incorrect.

The main highways of travel at that time were Daniel Boone's "Wilderness Road" through Cumberland Gap and down the Ohio. Hardy pioneers poured into this new territory in such numbers that in 1792, with the permission of Virginia, Kentucky was admitted to the Union as the fifteenth state with an area of 40,598 square miles. Kentucky has thirteen electoral votes for president. The remarkable physical condition of its population is shown in a report of the volunteers in the Civil war. This gave their average height as nearly an inch taller than the New England troops and with a correspondingly greater girth of chest. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

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X.—VIRGINIA



**T**HE EARLY history of Virginia revolves about the name of Capt. John Smith. It was his indomitable spirit which enabled the settlement at Jamestown to survive the privations and difficulties that encompassed it during those first years. There in 1607 was made the first permanent English colony in America. The charter given by King James I to what was known as the London company, under whose auspices Jamestown and the later Virginia settlements were founded, designated that this colony should extend 200 miles north and 200 miles south of Old Point Comfort and stretch westward to the sea. Under the reign of Charles II it was considered such an important colony that it was called the fourth dominion of his empire, that is, England, Scotland, Ireland and Virginia. From this Virginia was often called the Old Dominion. The name Virginia itself means the virgin land and was so called after Queen Elizabeth, the "Virgin Queen." The early government of Virginia is of great interest. At first communism was tried, under which system the land and all property was owned in common and all profits were divided equally. This proved a disastrous failure. In 1619 the first real representative government in the colonies was established, called the house of burgesses, which continued in force under varying fortunes until Virginia joined the Union and became the tenth state in 1788. Much might be written of the character of the early Virginian settlers and their great influence on American life. From Virginia has sprung two other states, Kentucky and West Virginia. Even so, the state's present area is 42,627 square miles. Politically the Old Dominion state is entitled to twelve presidential electors. This is about the average of the southern states. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

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XXVIII.—TEXAS



**T**HE ill-fated expedition of Navarez was responsible for the first interest in Texas. This large expedition was wrecked at the mouth of the Mississippi in 1528. Four members including Cabeza de Vaca were captured by the Indians and spent eight years wandering through the country eventually reaching the Gulf of California. It was their accounts of rich Indian villages which led the Mexican governor to send Coronado to explore this country. He returned after a two-years' trip without discovering the reputed riches which he was seeking.

To counteract the aggressions of the French settlements in Louisiana, the Spanish established many missions throughout Texas, the most important being at San Antonio. When the United States negotiated the Louisiana Purchase from France they considered that Texas was a part of this territory. Over this question war was nearly precipitated but finally the United States withdrew their claims in exchange for Spain's withdrawal of claims to the Oregon region.

Many Americans began to settle in Texas, among them General Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin. Mexico became alarmed at this rapid increase of American pioneers which threatened to crowd out the Mexican population. Oppressive measures were adopted and caused the Americans to rise in rebellion in 1836. During this uprising occurred the gallant defense of the Alamo by a handful of Americans and their slaughter by the vastly superior numbers of the Mexicans. "Remember the Alamo" became the Texans' slogan. General Houston decisively defeated the Mexican forces at the battle of San Jacinto and the Republic of Texas was launched with Houston as president. The flag contained one star, and from this has come the name the Lone Star State. After considerable opposition from the North, Texas was annexed to the Union and became the twenty-eighth state. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

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XXVII.—FLORIDA



**F**LORIDA was considered America's first health resort. It was the search for a mythical Fountain of Perpetual Youth that led Ponce de Leon, the Spanish explorer, to land near the present site of St. Augustine. His rediscovery of Florida in 1513 was on Easter Sunday, hence the name, which is from Pascua Florida or Flowery Passover, which is the Spanish for Easter Sunday.

The French were the next settlers, founding a colony on the St. John's river. Spain promptly took action to maintain her ownership of this region and sent over an expedition which erected a fort under the leadership of Menendez at St. Augustine in 1565 and exterminated the Huguenot colony. St. Augustine is the oldest city in the United States. There followed a period of hostility between the English colonists in the Carolinas and the Spanish in Florida. By the treaty of 1763 Spain ceded Florida to England in exchange for Havana, which England had captured a few years previous. It remained an English colony until the last years of the Revolution when Spain recaptured it.

There were two provinces, East and West Florida. As the Spanish ruled Florida with a very loose form of government, this region became the refuge of pirates, smugglers and lawless characters. Such an element together with the unruly Seminole Indians naturally caused a great deal of trouble. To overcome this, President Monroe purchased Florida from Spain in 1819 for \$5,000,000 or about eleven cents an acre. It was organized into a territory and in 1845 was admitted to the Union.

Florida is sometimes called the Everglade State on account of the vast swamp-land in its southern part. It is also known as the Peninsula State and is the southernmost State of the Union. Its area is 58,660 square miles. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)



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