

MARRIAGE NOTICES FROM
"THE LITTLE FORT PORCUPINE AND DEMOCRATIC BANNER"
1845 TO 1847

By Philip D. Smith

The **LITTLE FORT PORCUPINE AND DEMOCRATIC BANNER** was a weekly newspaper published from March 4, 1845, to March 23, 1847, in what is now the City of Waukegan, IL. All issues of this paper have survived. The following tables list all sixty-one published marriage notices three ways: A) in order as published in each issue (TABLE No. 1); B) alphabetically by groom's name (TABLE No. 2); C) alphabetically by bride's maiden name (TABLE No. 3). The residence of the Groom and/or Bride (if stated in the notice) is included in Table 2 or 3 respectively. The number assigned to each couple listed in Tables 2 and 3 correspond with Table 1.

The spelling of all names and places has been transcribed as originally published. Due to the condition of some of the original issues and/or the microfilm, the spelling of names was not always clear, and is noted as such by a question mark in parentheses (?).

The title of the groom (Mr.) when published is not included. However, the title of the bride (Mrs., Miss) when published is included as it probably is an indication of her previous marital status.

If the location of the marriage is not clear, then that portion of the location is enclosed in parentheses and includes a question mark. Example: Southport (Racine CO., Wisconsin Terr.?).

Early newspapers were not always a wealth of information. Of the approximate 129 Lake County marriage licenses issued during this papers existence, only 35 notices (approximately 27%) were published. Conversely, 26 marriages listed in this paper took place elsewhere, some as far away as the state of New York.

It should be remembered that the location of marriages have been transcribed exactly as published, representing then current conditions. As an example, Kenosha County, Wisconsin was formed from part of Racine County in 1850. Therefore marriages in Paris (entries Nos. 10 & 11), Southport (Nos. 13, 18 & 19), Bristol (No. 53) and possibly the two Racine Co. notices (Nos. 36 & 37) took place within the boundaries of current Kenosha County.

Food for thought: There are two marriage notices (Nos. 36 & 37) listed in this newspaper as having taken place in Racine County, Wisconsin, that are on file at the Lake County Clerks Office. If true, it makes one wonder if the opposite is

possible (i.e. could other early local marriages have been filed in other counties?).

PDS

Dec. 24, 2002

Aug. 30, 2003 (Rev.)