Original Purchases of Land
by Crouch and Howell
in Section 18, Auburn Township (Twp. 13),
Range 19 E.,
Fond du Lac County Wisconsin

Original purchases of land by Ludim Crouch and John Howell, in Section 18, Auburn Township (Township 13), Range 19 East, Fond du Lac County Wisconsin

Research done by S. Connie Halbur for the Campbellsport Area Historical Society

According to various accounts of the beginnings of New Cassel and Campbellsport, a New Yorker who was teaching in Waukesha Wisconsin, on learning that the southern sections of Fond du Lac County would probably soon be settled, decided to purchase land in that area along the Milwaukee River, so that he could build a dam and a lumber mill. Certainly the new settlers with need lumber for their homes and other buildings. He walked along the Milwaukee River until he found a suitable spot. That spot is what we have known for years as the place where the dam was until this past year (2012). Since our order (School Sisters of St. Francis) owned some of this land for many years, we had records of the purchases of the land, including the original purchase by John Howell. (I did not find a record of the Crouch purchase on the microfilms in our archives. Probably I simply missed it because the microfilm copy was not very clear.) The original documents were microfilmed in 1947 because of space limitations at our motherhouse archives. Unfortunately, microfilming was its infancy then, and the quality of the microfilm made it difficult to read what was on the bottom of some of the pages. So I determined to try to find the original copy and make a photocopy of that. I went to the Register of Deeds office in Fond du Lac, but was told that I would have to contact Green Bay, because at the time of the purchases, Wisconsin was still a territory; the land was actually purchased from the United States of America. Such purchases were called patents. Fortunately, I learned from the Green Bay office that I could go online to get all the details. Then I discovered that I could also print an image of the actual document. The web address is www.glorecords.blm.gov. Of course, the image had to be shrunk in order to fit on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper.

In 1836, a man by the name of Denning, a resident of New York State, purchased land in this area. (The date of the patent was 1837.) I had never read anything about that before, so probably he never lived here. Oe may have sold the land soon after he purchased it. Many of the early settlers in Fond du Lac County were from New York. In some cases these people bought a fair amount of land in Fond du Lac County and then would sell it to others at a profit (speculators?). All of the histories of the area indicate that Ludin Crouch and his brother-in-law, John Howell, where the first settlers. (Crouch's first name is spelled in a variety of ways in different accounts.)

A few months after Crouch and the Howell family settled on their land, they decided to name it Crouchville. At the time of the Howell and Crouch purchases (1846 and 1847), there was no village in what would later become New Cassel and Campbellsport. In fact, there were not as yet any people other than Native Americans living in Auburn Township. Thus, the legal descriptions of the land purchased were given in terms of ranges, townships, and sections rather than blocks or lots. About 10 years after the first settlement, the area known as Crouchville was changed to New Cassel; in those intervening years, many Germans from the Kassel area in Germany had settled there. In 1902, New Cassel and its nearby neighbor, Campbellsport, joined and were incorporated under the name Campbellsport.

Section 18, Auburn Township (Township number 13 N. of range 19 E.) The dam and mill would be built in the eastern part of the Ludin Crouch's land.

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Ludin Crouch purchase
160 acres</td><td>John Howell's
purchase
80 acres</td><td>Wm. Denning
Purchase
80 acres</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
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On the following page I will copy from the transcript ledger the entries showing the information about the Howell and Crouch purchases.

Record of original Crouch and Howell purchases of land from the United States of America, in Section 18, Township 13 (Auburn Township), Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

	Ludin Crouch	John Howell
Part of section	NW ¼	W ½ of NE 1/4
Section number	18	18
Township	13	13
Range	19	19
Acres	160.51	80
Rate per acre	$1.25	$1.25
Purchase money	$200.64	$100
Date of sale	January 5, 1847	January 22, 1846
Receipt number	7797	4666
By whom patented	Ludin Crouch	John Howell
Date of patent	September 1, 1848	March 1, 1848
Volume number	16	235
Page number	10	169

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CERTIFICATE No. 1548

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS William H. Denning, of the city of New York,

has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Green Bay whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said William H. Denning according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the West half, of the South West quarter, of Section one, the South West quarter, of Section nineteen, the East half of the North East quarter, of Section eighteen, and the West half, of the North West quarter, of Section seventeen, in Township thirteen North, of Range nineteen East, in the District of Lands subject to Sale at Green Bay, Wisconsin Territory, containing four hundred and three acres, and thirty six hundredths of an acre

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tract has been purchased by the said William H. Denning

NOW KNOW YE, That the **United States of America,** in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said William H. Denning

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said William H. Denning and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Martin Van Buren PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON,** the tenth day of ~~July~~ August in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES** the sixty second

L.S.

BY THE PRESIDENT: Martin Van Buren

By A. Van Buren Sec'y.

Jas. S. Wilson, Acting ~~Hudson M. Garland~~ Recorder of the General Land Office. ad interim

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CERTIFICATE, No. 4666

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS John Howell of Fon Du Lac County, Wisconsin Territory

ha s deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE *at* Green Bay *whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said* John Howell

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the West half of the North East Quarter of Section Eighteen, in Town=ship Thirteen North, of Range Nineteen East, in the District of Lands subject to Sale at Green Bay, Wisconsin Territory, contain=ing Eighty acres

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, *which said tract ha s been purchased by the said* John Howell,

NOW KNOW YE, *That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said* John Howell,

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** *the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said* John Howell

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, James K Polk

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.*

GIVEN *under my hand, at the* **CITY OF WASHINGTON,** *the* First *day of* March *in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and* Forty eight *and of the* INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES *the* Seventy Second

BY THE PRESIDENT: James K Polk

By J. A. Stephens *Sec'y.*

S. H. Laughlin **RECORDER** *of the General Land Office.*

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CERTIFICATE No. 7797

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS Ludwin Crouch of Fond du Lac County ~~Territory~~ of Wisconsin.

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Green Bay whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Ludwin Crouch according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for The North West fractional quarter of Section Eighteen in Township Thirteen North, of Range Nineteen East, in the District of Lands Subject to sale at Green Bay ~~Territory of~~ Wisconsin, Containing One hundred and Sixty acres and Fifty one hundredths of an acre,

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said Ludwin Crouch

NOW KNOW YE, That the **United States of America,** in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said Ludwin Crouch

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Ludwin Crouch

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, James K. Polk

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON,** the first day of ~~July~~ Sept. in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty Eight and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES** the Seventy ~~Second~~ Third

BY THE PRESIDENT: James K. Polk

By J. K. Stephens Asst. Sec'y.

S. H. Laughlin RECORDER of the General Land Office.

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