

Price County Historical Timeline - 1800 to 1894

The following is a tool suggested by Agnes Wudel that can be used in analyzing your ancestor's family history based on events and circumstances in Price County. The timeline will be compiled in three segments, 1800-1894, 1895-1919, and 1920 to 1946, and incorporated in future editions. Please send any additional historic events or corrections to Glenn Brazelton at gbraze@cox.net, 124 Ivy Arch, Yorktown, VA 23693, or call 757-256-7042.

- 1818 - Trader named Ashman establishes trading post at Lac du Flambeau just east of current Price County ([Wikipedia, Vilas County, Wisconsin](#)).
- 1822 - First timber cutting permit issued in Chippewa River Valley by James Lockwood, U.S. Indian Agent ([Wisconsin Historical Society \(WHS\), Firsts in Wisconsin Forest History](#)).
- 1828, Spring - First logging in Chippewa Valley by James Lockwood at confluence of Chippewa River & Red Cedar in what is now Menomonie ([Randall, History of the Chippewa Valley & Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1830 - Isaac Stone visits Spirit River country & marries an Indian woman, & raises 3 children initially in Lac du Flambeau area ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1830/31 - First sawmill in Chippewa Valley on Menominee River built by William Farnsworth & Charles R. Brush, and on Red Cedar River built by Lockwood & Rolette at Menomonie; Lockwood speculated to have been first to crib & raft lumber to mill in the Chippewa Valley ([WHS, Firsts in Wisconsin Forest History & Vogel 1980](#)).
- 1837, July 29 - Treaty of St. Peters: First of 3 major treaties (also 1842 & 1854) where Ojibwe tribe ceded their entire Wisconsin homeland to the United States and established reservations for 4 bands, in exchange for \$9,500 in cash and \$24,500 in goods, provisions, tobacco, and 3 blacksmith shops ([Milwaukee Public Museum & Wikipedia](#)).
- 1845, February 3 - Crawford County divided & Chippewa County formed, which included areas of current day Price County ([Sackett, A Glimpse at the Early History of the State of Wisconsin Relating to Price County](#)).
- 1848, May 29 - Wisconsin becomes the 30th state.
- 1850's - Tote road from Green Bay through Wausau, & Jenny (Merrill), to Washburn, Wisconsin crosses in Price County near Spirit ([German Settlement History](#)).
- 1860 - Isaac Stone returns to the Spirit River country & is first logger in Price County area; also clears land for hay and potatoes for his crew ([Sackett, A Glimpse... & Meier, German Settlement History](#)).
- 1861, April 11 - Civil War begins as Fort Sumter is fired upon.
- 1862, May 20 - Homestead Act signed by President Lincoln.
- 1862, July - Morrell Land Grant Act enacted to provide financial support for colleges of agriculture, mechanical arts and military science by awarding land from the federal domain including major portions of northern Wisconsin ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1863, November 24 - Henry Putnam purchases land on the South Fork of the Flambeau including future site of the Round Lake logging dam on behalf of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1865 - Initial government survey in Price County with two townships ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1867 - Sam Ward files for first homestead in Price County at SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 20, Town 35N, Range 2E. ([Meier, German Settlement History](#)).
- 1868, June 18 - Isaac Stone becomes first homesteader in Price County in Section 2, Town 34N, Range 3E ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1868—Frederick Weyerhaeuser tours portions of the Chippewa Valley & called the area a “loggers paradise” ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1870 - Wisconsin Central Railway begins laying track north from Neenah & Menasha ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1872 - Railroad station called Section 89 and later Corney established on the Little Jump River in what is now Ogema. Dennis McGuire commissioned by Wisconsin Central Railway to run a boarding camp at the station for men working on railroad and raises first frame building in the county ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1872, November - Eph. Hackett, J. Charles Hewett, Charles Roser, & William Seeburger came from LaCrosse to lumber land on the Dora Flambeau with crew from Eau Claire; established “Hackett’s Farm,” the farthest upriver lumber camp on the Chippewa River east of Connor’s Lake ([Seeburger, Recollections..., & Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1873, May 3 - Hackett & Hewett conduct first drive on the upper Flambeau River, on the North Fork, with 1,300,000 feet of pine logs.
- 1873, Spring - Wisconsin Central Railway reaches Mackeys Spur south of Ogema ([Meier, German Settlement History & Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1873 - Siegfried Meier & son Karl Albert come to Spirit River area on tote road from Wausau ([Meier, German Settlement History](#)).
- 1873 - Wisconsin Central Railway reaches Ogema from Stevens Point ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1873 - Wisconsin Central Railway stops for the season 12 miles north of Ogema ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).

- 1874 Spring - Allen "Stub" Jackson of LaCrosse & 5 men, a yoke of cattle & supplies moved from Hackett's Farm to a new camp at SW1/4 of Section 10, T37N R2W & cleared a farm now known as McKinley Farm near Merrill's Bridge on the South Fork of the Flambeau River.
- 1874, July - B.H. Holmes settles in Ogema and builds first sawmill in Price County, and a lumber yard, store and home ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1874 - Wisconsin Central Railway reaches and stops at Worcester, also known as Wolverine or 101 (referring to 101 miles north of Stevens Point).
- 1874, October 13 - Ezra Cornell deeds land adjacent to the Round Lake logging dam to Cornell University ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1874, Fall - W.T. Price with contract for 100,000,000 feet of pine logs locates two camps in T37N R2W in Sections 9 & 17.
- 1874, Summer & Fall - Two tote roads cut from Worcester: one west to the mouth of the Elk River the other north to Elk Lake, where Phillips now stands ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#), & [Seeburger, Recollections...](#)).
- 1875, Fall - Tote road cut from Hackett's Farm on the Flambeau to Worcester following line between Townships 46 & 37.
- 1875 - Frederick Weyerhaeuser purchased 50,000 acres on pineland from Cornell University, including some tracts in Price County ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1876 - Two Frenchmen, Albert Lacqueoix & Frederic Neadeau built homesteads along north fork of the Flambeau River, later called Muskellunge Falls and Park Falls
- 1876, July - Wisconsin Central Railway begins laying track again after 2-year hiatus ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1876, August 16 - Wisconsin Central Railway reaches Phillips ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1876, August - initial lots between the railroad tracks and Elk Lake cleared.
- 1876, September 23 - Plats for Village of Phillips recorded with Chippewa County Register of Deeds. Named Phillips in honor of the General Manager of the Wisconsin Central Railway.
- 1876, October 1 - First lots in Phillips offered for sale.
- 1876 - Lake View Hotel first building built in Phillips.
- 1876, October 17 - Plats for Village of Fifield recorded.
- 1877, January 6 - Phillips Times began publication with a democratic perspective by W.F. Sackett.
- 1877, Spring - A. B. McDonald started the first dam erected on the Elk River on Section 11, T37N R2W for log driving purposes.
- 1877, May 20 - First Phillips Fire consumed all but seven buildings.
- 1877, June 11 - First school in Price County established in Phillips in a room in Spaulding's warehouse.
- 1877 - Wisconsin Central Railway reaches Fifield, the area of Park Falls, and eventually Ashland.
- 1878, Spring - Large colony of Swedes settle near Ogema based on work of Rev. Ostergren, a Baptist Minister & immigrant agent ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1878, April - Village of Ogema incorporated & platted by the Wisconsin Central Railway ([Sackett, A Glimpse...](#)).
- 1878 - Round Lake logging dam authorized by Wisconsin Law. Authorization to construct the dam given to Henry Hewitt, Jr., of Menasha & Eric McArthur ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1879, February 26 - Towns of Brannan & Worcester formed by Wisconsin legislature.
- 1879, March 3 - Price County was organized, & Phillips designated Price County seat. There were two Price County supervisors, from Brannan & Worcester.
- 1879, November 18 - Town of Fifield formed from part of Worcester.
- 1879, Fall & Winter - A. B. McDonald built "Job's Dam" on Section 14, T37N R1W.
- 1880, April 2 - Town of Fifield organized, & third Price County supervisor added.
- 1880, June - Severe flooding on Flambeau & Chippewa Rivers washes away the Little Falls Dam at Holcombe and 110,000,000 feet of timber, along with booms and sorting works in the lower Chippewa Valley ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1880, September 2 - Joseph & Charles Viles of Eau Claire purchase Round Lake Dam site from Cornell University ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1881, January 1 - Knox Brothers, William & Samuel, with James McCrossen purchased 2,960 acres of land from Francis Palms in southern Price County for \$24,000
- 1881, Spring - Alexander Prentice & George Greenman journey from Portage to survey timber and a mill near current day Prentice where the Wisconsin Central Railroad crosses the Jump River ([Hagg, Prentice Centennial Album](#)).
- 1881, June - Chippewa River Logging Company formed ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1881, July 5 - The Badger paper established in Phillips with a Republican perspective by Charles H. Darlington.
- 1882 - Jump River Lumber Company formed in Prentice and incorporated in Portage with Oscar Derrick Van Dusen as President. Officers & advisors included F.H. Lewis, M.T. Alverson, C.R. Gallett, L.L. Breese and Alexander Prentice ([Hagg, Prentice Centennial Album](#)).
- 1882, September 1 - Jump River Lumber Company mill begins operations with a capacity of 50,000 feet of lumber per day ([Hagg, Prentice Centennial Album](#)).
- 1882, Fall - Jump River House constructed in Prentice.
- 1883 - Supervisor from Ogema added to the Price County Board.

- 1883, July 9 - Phillips Lumber Company incorporated by John R. & B.W. Davis and J. Q. & Carver Griffith with Davis brothers as controlling managers.
- 1883-1886 - Round Lake Logging Dam constructed ([Vogel, 1980](#))
- 1884, May 24 - Village of Prentice was surveyed platted and recorded.
- 1884 - Carl Scheller built house in German Settlement in Spirit area.
- 1884 - Saw and planing mills built by W.H. Coolidge.
- 1885 - Phillips Opera House opened by Sackett, Sullivan, & Bartoe.
- 1885—Albin Johnson house (now called Yesterday House) built in German Settlement in Spirit
- 1885 - Henry Shaw builds first band-saw mill; Muskellunge Falls renamed Park Falls.
- 1885, August - Weyerhaeuser's Chippewa River Improvement & Log Driving Company acquires 50% interest in the Round Lake Logging Dam ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1886, May - Louis Hallstrand surveyed and platted Village of Diamond Town, a "red light" district adjoining Prentice.
- 1886 - Supervisor from Prentice added to the Price County Board.
- 1886 - Kennan began as a small railroad station along the Soo Line and was platted by K.K. Kennan.
- 1886 - S.T. Nelson opens shoe shop in Prentice making the famous "Klondike" drivers' & cruisers' boots.
- 1886, November - Wisconsin Central Railway set up a flag station at Coolidge.
- 1887, Spring - Track of the Soo Line Railroad reaches Prentice area from Minneapolis, and community of Diamond Town forms at junction of Wisconsin Central Railroad and the Soo Line.
- 1887 - First Fifield school established in a warehouse owned by Bob Spaulding.
- 1888, January - Phillips Lumber Company & Wisconsin Central Railway agree to build a railroad spur east of Phillips to cut and remove "saw timber."
- 1888, July 14 - Phillips Lumber Co. began active operations of their railroad. Railroad was initially 20 miles in length through heavily timbered pine lands. Wisconsin Central Railway furnished rails and Road Master Jennes, of Medford, was in charge of construction.
- 1888 - Supervisor from Georgetown added to the Price County Board.
- 1888, August 31 - S.A. Johnson purchases lot on Lake Ave. in Phillips for the "Johnson Photo Parlor."
- 1888, November 24 - Phillips Lumber Company "Hot Pond" discussed in Phillips Times; claimed first of its kind
- 1889 - Larger school built in Fifield on Spruce Street north of Linden for students around northern portion of Price County.
- 1889, July 8 - Phillips Lumber Company was dissolved and all assets and debts were absorbed by the John R. Davis Lumber Company.
- 1889 - Jump River Lumber Company purchased Ward Tract In La Font, about 4 1/2 miles southeast of Prentice ([Hagg, Prentice Centennial Album](#)).
- 1889 - Four Supervisors added to the Price County Board from Emery, Kennan, Lake & Hackett
- 1889, December 26 - Van Dusen Mill or Fifield Manufacturing Company incorporated ([Lessard, Fifield 1876-1976](#)).
- 1890 - Three Supervisors added to the Price County Board from each of the three wards in Phillips.
- 1890, August 1 - Samuel Knox in Knox Mills sells his personal and real property, as well as unexecuted timber licenses with the Wisconsin Central Railroad to his brother William Knox.
- 1891, June - William Knox completes construction of a saw mill at Knox Mills after persuading Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie & Atlantic Railroad to build a branch line from Brantwood to the new mill site on Long Meadow Creek.
- 1891 - Van Dusen & Sherry built Fifield Manufacturing Company sawmill which operated until 1898 ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1891 - Tannery operated by U.S. Hide & Leather Company opens in Prentice.
- 1892, May - C.O. Law acquires 50% interest in the Round Lake Logging Dam ([Vogel, 1980](#)).
- 1892 - S.W. Pierson opens general store in Prentice.
- 1893, July 27 - Entire business district of Fifield destroyed by fire ([Lessard, Fifield 1876-1975](#)).
- 1894 - Planing mill & drying shed completed at the Jump River Lumber Company in Prentice ([Hagg, Prentice Centennial Album](#)).
- 1894, June 23 - Planing mill and a dry kiln at John R. Davis Lumber Company in Phillips burned.
- 1894, July 27 - Phillips Fire destroyed the entire city of Phillips, including mills, homes, stores, and the court house, with a loss of 15 lives.