



The History of Winnebago County, Ill., its past and present, containing a biographical directory war record portraits of early settlers statistics ... Northwest, history of Illinois etc., etc.

H. F. & Co. Kett

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1877 Excerpt: ...and find a ready demand wherever such articles as they manufacture are used, and they manufacture almost everything needed by civilized people. Of their achievements and successes in forty-three years, the people of Rockford may well be proud. With a brief summary of these achievements we close the pages of this history, with a hope that ere another forty-three years shall be buried beneath the debris of time, another and abler pen will have preserved the history and improvements these years will have made. THE WATEB POWEE. In the spring of 1844 the Rockford Hydraulic Company was organized and a dam built across the river, nearly opposite the gas works, by Mr. C. C. Coburn. On the east side of the river, the race having been completed in the meantime, a saw-mill was erected near the dam, by L. B. Gregory and A. C. Spafford. Next below them, and near the end of State street bridge, was the grist-mill of Mr. Nettleton, among the first of its kind in the county. Still further down, the woolen-mill of J. B. Howell, and then the saw-mill of Messrs. Wheeler & Lyon. On the west side, a wide race was laid out as far down as Mulberry street. Here a third saw-mill was put in operation by Messrs. Robertson & Holland, who were leading spirits in the Hydraulic Company. Near the termination of the race, Mr. Ethan Clark established the first foundry and machine shop. On the first day of June, 1850, this dam went out. For a time, the bridge just below it was in imminent danger from the flood, but, though somewhat damaged, it remained. On the fifteenth day of July of the following year (1851), a number of the citizens of Rockford (twenty-seven) organized the "Rockford Water Power Company," and in September, the owners of the land and water in the old organ...

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