

. . . . A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF CORDOVA. . . .

Page 1-

Walter Havighurst, in his book on 'The Upper Mississippi' says, " A century ago the 'Western Fever ' brought the Mississippi it's hectic fervid life, and when the fever passed, the languid river was lined with useless warehouses and weed grown landings. A life time was enough to span the rise of the trade and it' s decline, and there were many rivermen who knew Mark Twain's sense of loss when the great arched bridges carried a land-borne commerce on it's way with hardly a glance at the empty current below. The River commerce began in 1820. It reached it' s height in thirty years, and another thirty years brought the end. The railroads banished the steamboats from the landings, as they had driven the stage coach and the covered wagon from the prairie trails."

The village of Cordova was one of these towns. Like many other river towns it shared the hope and ambition that someday it would be an important commercial port. No doubt when the first white man settled on the land, which was to be the future site of the village, he was impressed with the natural possibilities. There was an abundance of rock for building purposes. It was softer than some rock and lended itself readily to be shaped for building purposes by the equipment used at that time. The harbor was good and the landing was wide and dry. There were no hills to climb to gain access to the back country and the farmer's ox cart could come to the very landing of the steamboat to dispose of the sacked grain or to receive the cargo of merchandise from a distant port. Wood from the timbered slopes adjacent to the river afforded lumber and fuel. Water for human consumption was no problem as the natural water level was within thirty or less feet from the surface, and the digging in most places, could be done with a spade. In fact it was an ideal spot for a settlement, just waiting to be discovered by the imagination and ambition of one of the pioneers as the frontier gradually pushed it's way westward.