

FOUNTAIN CITY, WISCONSIN IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Second In A Series Of Articles On The 19th Century Photography Of Gerhard Gesell

Originally known as Holmes Landing, Fountain City is where the settlement and political organization of Buffalo County began in 1839. By the mid-19th century Fountain City was an established town and Fountain City Bay provided a thriving natural harbor on the Mississippi River and an active levee for riverboat traffic. As a result, Fountain City was a farmer's town where merchandise was readily available and wheat could be shipped on the river.

Gerhard Gesell came to Alma, Wisconsin from Reads Landing, Minnesota in 1876 and in 1879 he married a Fountain City girl, Miss Christine Giesen. Fountain City was often featured in Gesell's photography: an 1885 overlook of Fountain City, 1890 McCormick Day celebration, 1895 view of Liberty Street, politicians signing a document in front of the Town Hall, view of Fountain City from the Mississippi River, the building of an early barge in Fountain City and a bluff view above the Fountain Brewery.

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Photo: Men On Bluffs Over Fountain City (WHS Image 25734)

