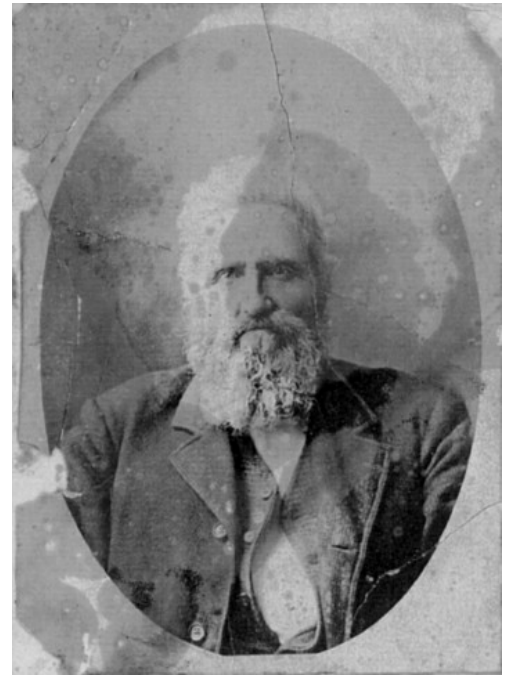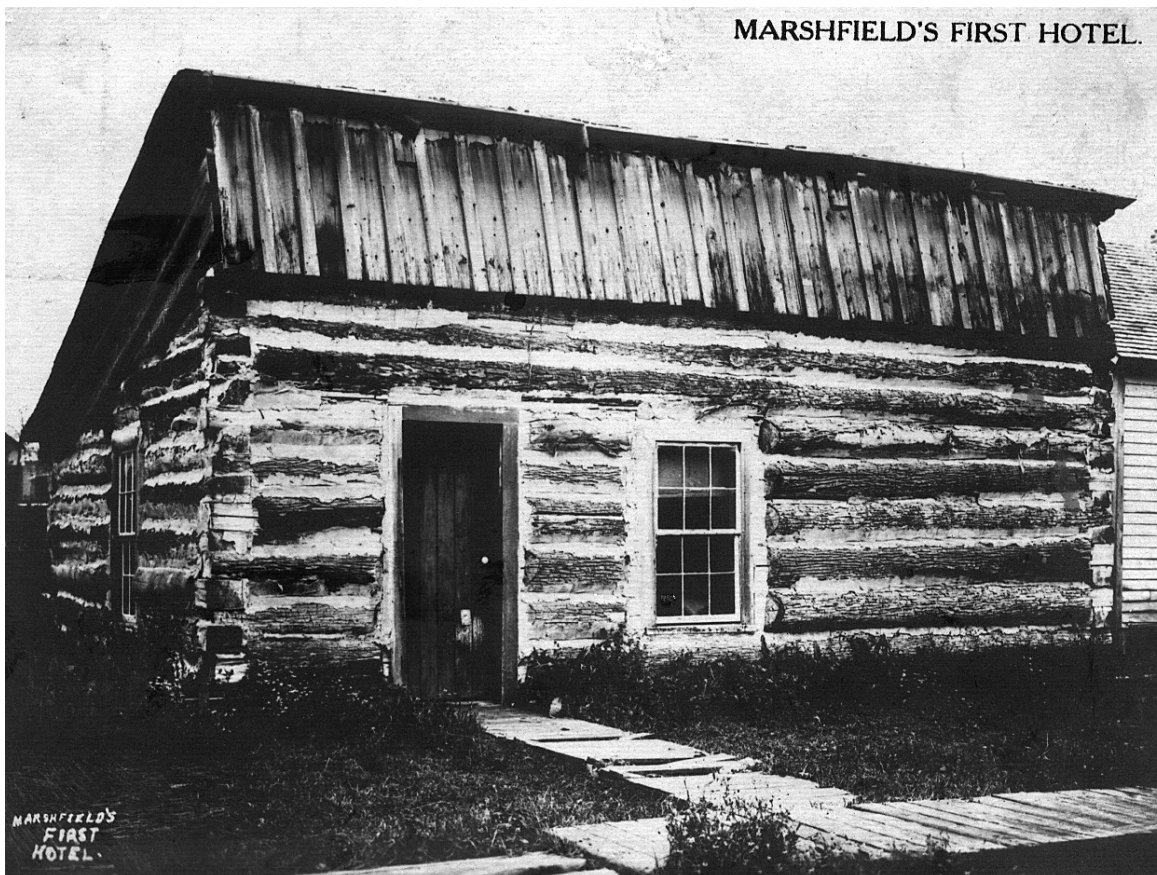# Louis Rivers Hotel

In 1871 Louis Rivers and his brother Frank chose to develop a one and a half story log building to serve as a residence, hotel, tavern, and store, because he had heard of the segment of the Wisconsin Central bound from Stevens Point northwest to Lake Superior and wished to take advantage of the business from the track laying gang, and then later of the traffic the train would generate. No longer in existence, it was located at the present northeast corner of North Chestnut Avenue and West Depot Street.

On July 4, 1872, the first train reached Marshfield.
(from The Marshfield News Herald, 6 June, 1972, p. 2.)

Accommodations for formal entertainment in Marshfield go back to 1880 when Louis Rivers, who built the first structure on the site of the city back in 1872, essayed a backwards skyscraper, "three stories with a cupola," at the corner of N. Central and W. Depot, calling it the Rivers Hotel. Here traveling players put on their shows until January 23, 1883, when the hotel burned to the ground.
(from The Marshfield News Herald, August 3, 1956, p. 22)

Louis Rivers, Marshfield's First Landlord
(from Marshfield History Book, Vol. 1)

MARSHFIELD'S FIRST HOTEL.

Marshfield's First Hotel. Tradition has it that Louis Rivers, accompanied by his brother Frank and G. A. Lupient, built Marshfield's first permanent structure soon after their arrival here on April 1, 1872. (Marshfield History Book, Vol. 2 via Jeff Kleiman)

FOUNDER'S SQUARE

In 1871, Louis and Frank Rivers constructed a one-and-a-half story log building at the present northeast corner of N. Chestnut Ave. and W. Depot St. This building served as a residence, hotel, tavern, and store. The brothers heard that the Wisconsin Central Railroad from Stevens Point to Lake Superior would pass through this area and they wanted to take advantage of the traffic that the railroad would generate.

On July 4, 1872, the first train reached the new community of Marshfield. Other early settlers were drawn to the community to establish businesses near the new railroad. The Wisconsin Central built their first depot near the Rivers' log building.

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If you have any additional information (including pictures) regarding this business or location, we would really appreciate you contacting us and sharing. We will add information whenever possible.

For questions, or for sharing additional information, please contact us at schnitz1@charter.net. Please include what story the information relates to. Attach your text information in the form of a word document, please no PDF's. Photos should preferably be in jpeg format.

For additional stories on the historical sights and businesses of Marshfield, visit our website at:
http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/QR-Codes-of-Historical-Marshfield.html.