

## **TOWN OF GROVER OFFICIALS**

Chairman	Terry Schultz
Supervisor	Tony Kiselicka
Supervisor	Jean Dehn
Treasurer	Holly Sromek
Clerk	Mary Schultz
Assessor	Robert Christensen

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairwoman	Jean Dehn
Member	Shawn Paul
Member	Karl Dehn

## **HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GROVER**

Wisconsin became a part of the Northwest Territory of the United States in 1836, organized as the "Territory of Wisconsin." It officially became a state in 1848. In 1854 the state was surveyed by government surveyors and divided into counties. Taylor County was created on March 4, 1875.

In 1875 Taylor County had four townships: Westboro, Chelsea, Medford, and Little Black. At that time the townships ran straight across the county.

In November of 1885, the Taylor County Board organized three new townships: Grover, Browning, and Greenwood. The new township of Grover encompassed what would later be the Townships of Hammel, Ford, and Aurora. North Grover, however, originally belonged to the Township of Chelsea, and in 1886 it became part of the Township of Molitor.

Latton writes in his book *Reminiscences and Anecdotes of Early Taylor County*: "According to Fred Westrich, in 1882 Jacob, Peter, and Henry Maurer, George Bahn, and Henry Richter took homesteads in the vicinity of what is now Perkinstown. Four years later, Frederick Westrich, Joseph Lechner, John Kausse and John Spuhr joined the settlement."

These homesteads were granted through the Homestead Act of 1862, which gave 160 acres of public land to anyone who was head of a household, at least 21 years of age, and who settled on the land for five years and then paid a nominal fee. If settlers wanted to acquire title earlier, they could do so after six months by paying \$1.25 an acre. This law was a great opportunity for anyone wanting to acquire land.

At this time the lumber era was in full swing. When the first loggers came to the area it was said the pine trees were so thick that "a squirrel could leap from tree to tree and make its way from Upper Michigan across Wisconsin to Minnesota without once touching the ground." Forests covered five-sixths of the total land area. The dense tree