

I hope this Trestleboard finds you in good health and spirit. January was a tough month for our brother Denis Bay and his wife June. They've been grateful and comforted by the support they've received from the Masonic community and the community at large throughout this tragedy.

If you don't know about the Steamboat Dinner this month, I'm sure Tom P. and Ed K. would be mortified. They have been doing an excellent job with publicity. Many thanks to all who make this event possible. Look for your assignments out on our website.

Please consider receiving your Trestleboard via email. Info on this is also available on this site. Now for some history. Henry S. Baird was the first professional lawyer to practice law in Wisconsin. One of the issues he dealt with was the establishment of civil authority in the Green Bay area.

The military was the law in the early days of settlement and there were several commanding officers who demanded obedience to their every whim. In his writings in the Wisconsin Historical society's archives, he talks of two people who were arrested for daring to land on the riverside of the fort there without the commander's explicit permission. The officer in charge was prosecuted and fined in one of the first exercises of civil authority in the district. Civil Law was established by the U.S. congress in 1824, the same year that Bird moved to the Green Bay area. More on this next month.