

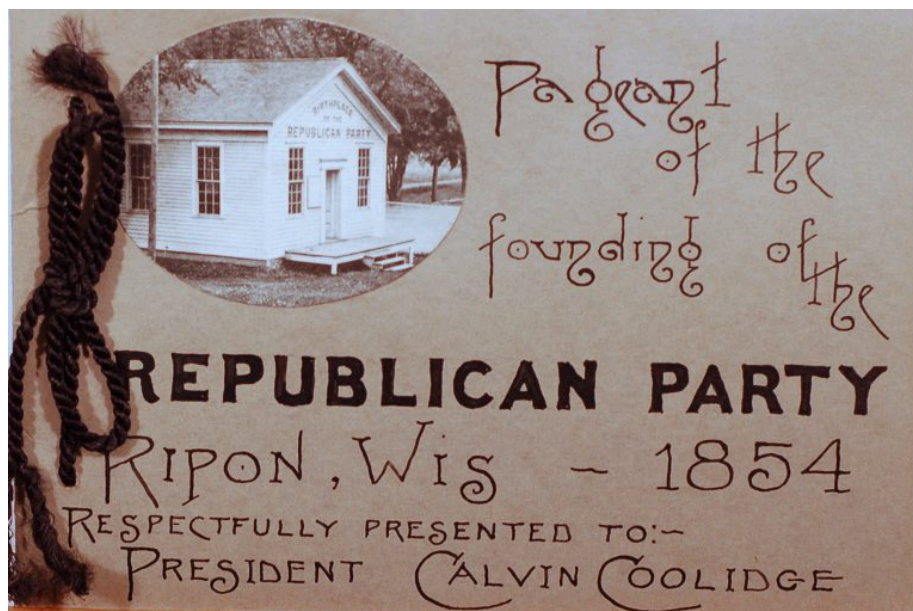


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RIPON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Since 1899



LOCAL HISTORY - BIRTHPLACE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



The Little White Schoolhouse, visited by many politicians over decades

There were two meetings held in Ripon which led to the naming of the Republican Party. The first held at the Congregational Church on February 28, 1854 included women. At that meeting it was agreed that in the event that the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was adopted, old political parties should be cast aside, and an entirely new organization should be established.

At the Little White Schoolhouse meeting on March 20 1854, Alvan Bovay spoke to the elect that the new party should, and in all probability would, be assigned the name Republican, but he advised against naming it at that time.

A committee was formed consisting of Alvan Bovay, Amos Loper, Abram Thomas, Jehdeiah Bowen, and Jacob Woodruff.

Amos Loper's son, A.A. Loper, attended the meeting out of curiosity and years later summarized it: "The predominant idea existing at that time in the minds of the prime movers was to prevent the further extension of slavery.



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