

## Sgt Amos (George) Lovejoy

Born

Died:

Period of Service: Civil War

Source: J Miner *Early Days*,  
*B10 F2*

He was a sergeant. He lived on Rock Island from 1836 -1856. Served 5 years in the Regular Army and was stationed at Ft Howard in Green Bay. It is said he fought in the Florida and Mexican wars, and settled at the mouth of Sturgeon Bay in 1836, and built boats. The first boat he built was laid up for the winter and was so sodden with the rains and snows that it was hard to get it free, and then they found porcupines had gnawed holes in it, causing that area to be called Hedgehog Harbor.

Miner says he was a great ventriloquist with a comic touch. Where the Indians were ice fishing he would make the trout lying on the ice "talk", to the amazement of the Natives.

He was rather shy, according to Miner. "He was afraid of the women on Rock Island. Sometimes he would play the violin. He boarded at my Uncle Tom's. In the winter of 1848-49 the young folks heard how he could play the violin, so they surrounded the house one fine evening and then began to talk on one side of the house and kept still on the other side of the house. Lovejoy heard the female voices and made a break for the other side of the house and ran into the still crowd. They asked him to go back in the house and play for them. He said 'No, but you set a date about a week from now and come in a decent manner and I will play for you to the best of my ability, and I hope you will have a good time.' They came at the appointed time. Mr. Lovejoy stood at the door, welcomed them in with the old Southern manners, and at the end of the entertainment, he ushered them out in the same way. Now when the young folks thought it over and contrasted their boisterous ways the time they came before with his dignified behavior and manners, they did not feel like asking him to play for them again, but they had a splendid time and a lesson in manners they never forgot.

"I will remember the time and the day that Mr. Lovejoy left Rock Island. My father went to Rock Island and took me with him. I was six years old (1856). We found Mr. Lovejoy with his brother who had come to take his brother home with him. Father had fished with Mr. Lovejoy, and expected to have quite a talk with him before he bade him goodbye, but Mr. Lovejoy was very sober and dignified, so father bid him goodbye. We soon heard that Lovejoy had gone home with his brother and a year or so afterward we heard that he had got married, and I suppose lived happy ever after." (J Miner)