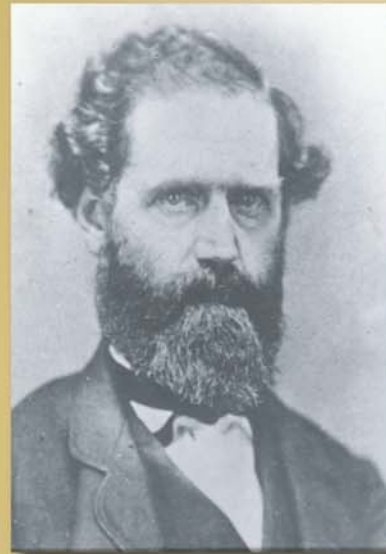


# The City's First Mayor

## The City's First Mayor



W.C.E. Thomas  
1854

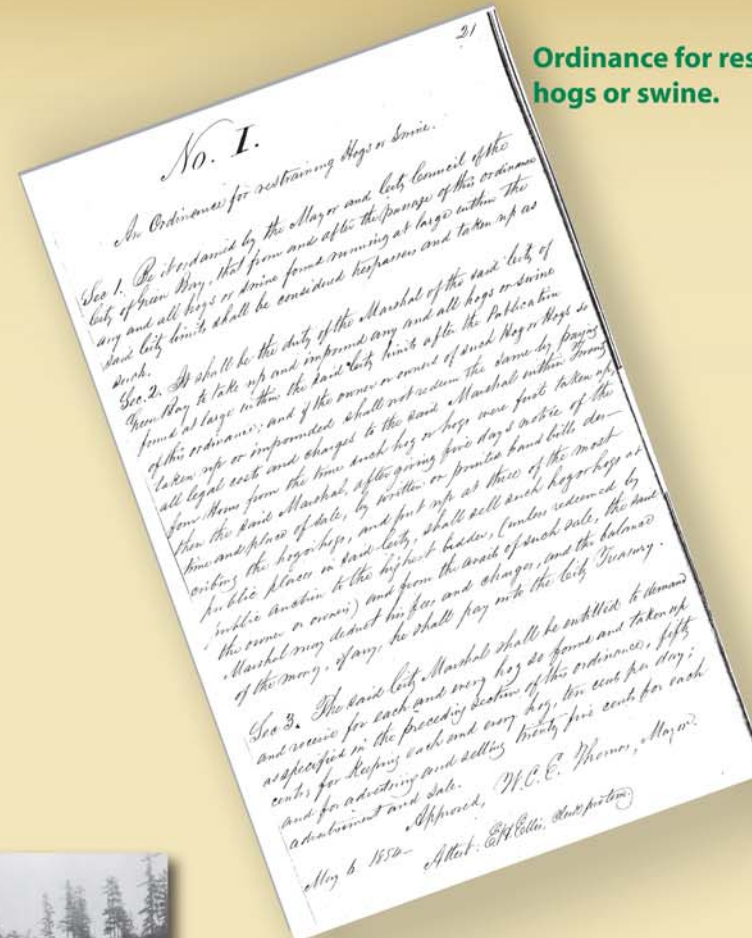
W. C. E. Thomas  
(1818-1876)

William C. E. Thomas was born in Muncy, Wyoming County, PA, November 21, 1818. He was educated at the Milton Academy, PA, and served an apprenticeship in the printing business in the same town. He worked for ten years as a copy person with the Galena Daily Gazette. In 1849, his health becoming impaired, he came to Green Bay and engaged in the tannery business with Cyrus Eames and Gen. C.R. Wadsworth, erecting a building near the Main Street East River bridge.

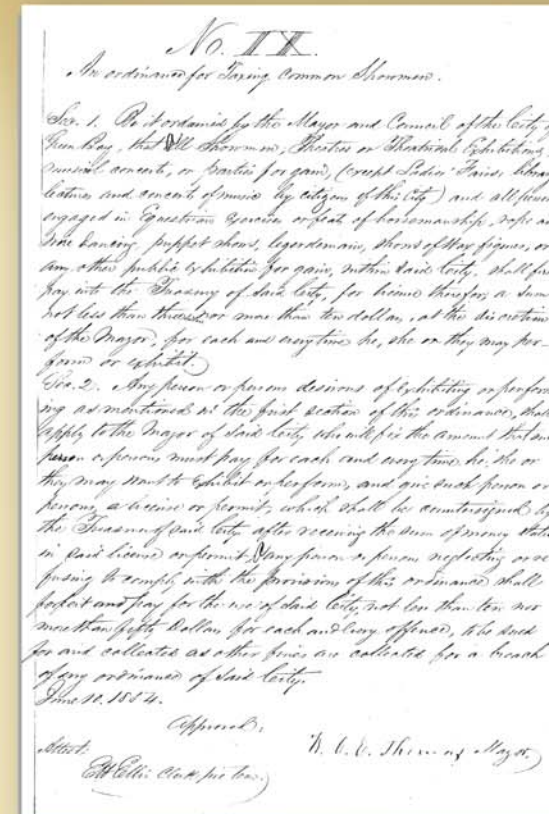
He remained in this building two years and then engaged in merchandising. In 1854, he was elected as the first Mayor of Green Bay and afterwards engaged in the forwarding and commission business. On the establishment of the American Express office here (about 1857) he was appointed Agent, which position he held until 1871. He held the office of City Clerk for Green Bay from 1858 to March 1873. He had been appointed by President Grant as Postmaster of Green Bay for a term of December 11, 1872 to January 17, 1884 and held that position until the time of his death.

It was said that no matter what position he held, he filled it to the acceptability of all. He was known as a thoroughly honest man, an exact, intelligent, well-informed social man strongly attached to his friends. He was a good neighbor, kind to his family, and an all-around good citizen.

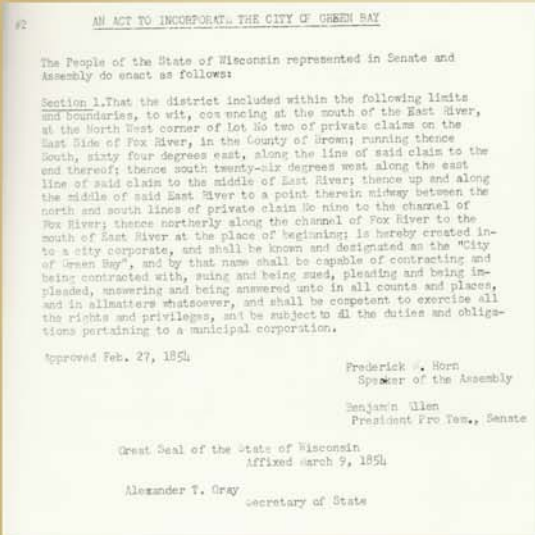
W.C.E. Thomas and his wife Jane E. had one son William E. Thomas



Ordinance for restricting hogs or swine.



An Ordinance for Taxing Common Showmen



Lumbering  
Neville Public Museum of Brown County

Green Bay in the 1850's

Lumbering was the main concern in Green Bay and the hand-hewn shingle business made Green Bay famous.

The population of Green Bay was 1,637 in 1855 and by 1895 grew to 18,292.

The 1850's brought immigrants from Belgium, Germany, Scandinavia, Ireland, and Holland.



GREEN BAY, WIS. MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST.

A. & E. Lehman, Green Bay, Wis.

"The history of Green Bay is a testament to what can be accomplished by a city dedicated to the values of perseverance, commitment to community, and hard work. I am proud that the USS Green Bay and its crew will be a part of that tradition."

- Sam Halloun, Longest serving Green Bay Mayor

