

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY



FROM

History Fees

*Andrews*

Cornell University Library  
F 612F2 K47

+  
History of Faribault County, Minnesota

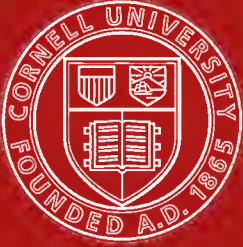


3 1924 028 912 941

olin

Overs

**FRED LOCKLEY  
RARE WESTERN BOOKS**



# Cornell University Library

The original of this book is in  
the Cornell University Library.

There are no known copyright restrictions in  
the United States on the use of the text.





# THE HISTORY

—OF—

# FARIBAULT COUNTY

MINNESOTA,

From its First Settlement to the Close of the Year 1879.

---

IN THREE PARTS.

---

FIRST PART.

The Annals of the County.

PART SECOND.

Historical Sketches of the Several Townships.

PART THIRD.

Historical Sketch of the Government of the County,  
and of the Several County Offices.

---

## THE STORY OF THE PIONEERS

BY

J. A. KIESTER,

Attorney at Law.

---

"Let me speak to the yet unknowing world,  
How these things came about." *Shakespeare.*

---

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
HARRISON & SMITH, PRINTERS.  
1896.

8

5337+

E60.6

A701655

---

COPYRIGHT 1896

BY

J. A. KIESTER.

---



## DEDICATION.



To the early settlers of Faribault County, Minnesota, who have conferred upon me many official positions of trust and honor, and favored me with their unwavering and earnest friendship, during many years, this book is inscribed by the writer as a slight token of his regard for them, and it is his earnest wish that they may be prosperous and happy, that their days may be long in the land, which their labors have done so much to build up, that their sons may be gifted and brave, and their daughters "as the polished corners of the temple," and that all, finally, may rise to a glorious immortality, in the great hereafter.

J. A. KESTER.

## PREFACE.

---

This book is not a narrative of the lives and deeds of those whom the world usually calls its heroes of great achievements, its Genuses, Statesmen, Warriors, Scholars and Princes of wealth.

It is rather the unpretentious story of plain people, in the humble walks of life, who have come to this fair portion of God's earth, from almost every land under the sun, to found homes for themselves and their children, and here fill the measure of their lives, and who, facing and conquering the hardships of frontier life, have in the course of years, taken up the lands, opened productive farms, instituted civil government, erected numerous churches and school houses and factories, established newspapers, built railroads and telegraphs and thriving towns, and organized all useful associations, converting the wilderness into a rich and populous county, in which are found all the blessings of an enlightened, Christian civilization. And such deeds too are worthy of historic record.

There are as many and as noble deeds of self-sacrifice, of unrequited toil, of enduring fortitude, of triumph over difficulties, in short, of real heroism, in humble life, everywhere, which never reached the historian, or found a place on his pages, as any that have ever been recorded, "since Hesiod wrote, or Homer sang."

The work was not written as a pecuniary speculation, but was undertaken many years ago, at the request of many of the early settlers of the county, and for the laudable purpose of preserving a correct account of the people, the times and events of the first settlement of the County. It was proper, too, that the record should be written by one of the old settlers. They have made and so shall one of their number write the history.

The work was not done in haste, but the leisure hours of many years have been employed in collecting, arranging and digesting the materials, watching and noting the progress of events and in writing the record.

The book embraces that portion of the history of the County—the first twenty-five years—which in the lapse of time was most liable to be lost or forgotten, yet which, in the course of years, becomes the most interesting.

It may seem premature to even write, but more especially to publish a history of so new a county as this, yet it is true that the first quarter of a century in the history of the County, now passed, seems in a great measure, to constitute a period, or epoch, complete in itself, covering as it does, the first settlement of the different parts of the County, and the origin of almost all its civil, religious, educational and industrial institutions.

It is, so to speak, the epoch of first things, now completed.

But, however little interest the book may now possess, the time will probably come as the years go by, and when the first settlers of the County shall have passed away, when its contents will acquire an interest and an importance, not now possibly comprehended or appreciated. In the future, questions will arise pertaining to the times and events covered by the history, which can be answered only by a reference to its pages. The book was written not for the present only, but also for the future, and it may contain something which may be helpful to those who are to make the history of that great future. A writer of history has very truthfully said: "The important duty of preserving local history and recording the events that attend the origin of institutions and communities, is too often neglected until a period, when truth becomes blended with fable and the original materials, one by one, disappearing, leave the analysis of events involved in an impenetrable mist of conflicting traditions."

Original and authentic sources of information have been referred to, in collecting the materials for the work, always preferring to rely on written or printed statements, rather than merely upon the uncertain memory of events long past. The official records of the County and of the several townships and villages, of religious and other societies, the files of local newspapers, standard histories of the State, official reports and the State archives have been carefully consulted. Where no record of events existed, reference was had to the actors, or eye-witnesses themselves, and no time, labor or expense has been spared to make every date and statement correct, yet in such a multitude of names and dates, there are doubtless some errors, but if so, they are of minor importance. That which purports to be history is worthless as such, unless it be true. Do not hastily question the accuracy of the work. The events of the first year of this history were mainly obtained from Mr. M. Sailor, himself, the first settler of the County.

Those of the second year were derived mainly from J. B. Wakefield, G. B. Kingsley, H. P. Constans, H. T. Stoddard, Andrew C. Dunn and others, who were the principal actors in the events of that time. From near the beginning of the third year, the writer himself, was personally present and noted events as they occurred. The writer had also a personal acquaintance with almost all the first settlers of the several townships and obtained the facts relating to their first settlement and other events, from them directly.

The history was not written from any local standpoint, or outlook, and no local, or personal prejudices warp or color any of its statements, but it was written "With malice toward none, with

charity for all" and for the whole County. Not wishing "To make or to mar any man's fortunes," the writer has on the one hand avoided the adulation of any one, and on the other, he has refrained from censuring the acts, or impugning the motives of individuals, or parties, even where the truth of history, in a few instances, seemed almost to demand severe criticism. There are some things, though true, and even of some importance, that had better sleep in oblivion. Let them rest. This book purporting to be a history and not a biographical repository, the brief personal and biographical notices given are of those only who were connected with the more important offices and events referred to in the history. No other rule of practical value could be adopted. Special notices, or biographical sketches of many omitted in this volume, will be given in the next.

The work is not a mere narrative of events and collection of biographies, but the writer has sought to weave into the record some observations, thoughts and suggestions, on various topics, connected with the history, which may be of value to some, and it was the design and hope that the volume might contribute something to the information of at least some of its readers on certain special subjects and be worthy of perusal in the family circle around the hearthstone, in the quieter and better hours of life, and be left as a brief memorial by our old settlers, to their children, of their lives and labors here.

Many subjects referred to in this work might have been treated more elaborately, but a low, small voice continually whispered condense, condense.

The work of writing the history was not little, nor without difficulties, and few can appreciate them who have not attempted such work. The book makes no pretention to literary merit, elegance of style or completeness of arrangement, and possesses but a local interest. It is hoped that it may be received and treated in the same candid and kindly spirit in which it was written.

The writer is under obligations to many friends for their kindness and courtesy in furnishing him with information required in writing the history, and who have, from time to time, inquired of the progress being made, and now to each and all of them, he tenders his sincerest acknowledgments. But the writer desires especially, to express here, the acknowledgment of his many obligations to the Hon. S. P. Child, for his valuable assistance in the publication of of this work, and to say that whatever may be the merits, or demerits of the book, Mr. Child is in no way responsible for any of its contents.

J. A. KIESTER.

Blue Earth City, Minn., August, 1896.

# INTRODUCTION.

---

## SECTION FIRST.

### A BRIEF SKETCH OF MINNESOTA.

*L'Etoile du Nord.*

---

The district of country known as Minnesota, of which Faribault county is a part, lies between  $43^{\circ}30'$  and  $49^{\circ}$  north latitude and extends in part from  $89^{\circ}39'$  to  $97^{\circ}5'$  west longitude. It is bounded on the North by the British Possessions, on the East by Lake Superior and the State of Wisconsin, on the South by the State of Iowa and on the West by Dakota Territory.

Minnesota originally, however, extended westward to the Missouri river and was once "The land of the Dakotas," who were the aboriginal inhabitants, and here lived and loved and warred and died, through centuries, the number of which no one will ever know.

Minnesota derives its name from the principal river within its boundaries—the Minnesota. The compound word Minnesota is composed of the Indian words Minne—meaning water and So-tah—meaning sky-tinted—the land of sky-tinted waters, because its numerous lakes and streams reflect, in their crystal depths, the clouds and blue of the over-arching skies.

Minnesota contains 83,531 square miles, equal to 53,459,840 acres of land, an area greater than all New England, and almost equal to the combined areas of the great states of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The geographical position of the State is highly favorable—it is the central portion of the Continent of North America, lying midway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans on the east and west, and Hudson's Bay on the north and the Gulf of Mexico on the south.

It is also in a large sense, the summit of the east half of the Continent—a high undulating plateau, table land or plain, having an average elevation of nearly one thousand feet above the level of the sea, and forms the water shed of the three great river systems

of a large part of North America—that of the Mississippi which flows southward to the Gulf of Mexico; that of the St Lawrence, which connected with the Northern lakes has an easterly direction to the Atlantic Ocean and that of the Red River of the North, which flows northerly to Lake Winnepeg, which has its outlet in Hudson's Bay.

A glance at the map of this grand territory—Minnesota—exhibits it lined all over by numerous streams of water, which furnish the most abundant water power, and six of which are, or were formerly, navigable, and the whole surface is dotted over with lakes, nearly ten thousand in number and ranging in size from fifty rods to thirty miles in diameter, and on its eastern border lies the largest lake of the world—Superior.

Few regions of the world possess more beautiful and romantic scenery than Minnesota, especially that along the Mississippi river.

The state has been appropriately named "The Star of the North" and "The Empire State of the New Northwest." It may also be as properly called The Mother of Rivers, The Land of the Lakes or The Summit State.

The soil of the State, speaking generally, is of great fertility. It is a dark, calcarious, sandy loam and abounds in mineral elements and the rich organic ingredients, resulting from the decomposition of the vegetable growth of untold ages and is from one to four feet in depth. *It is a valley soil.* It has been determined by climatologists, that "the cultivated plants yield the greatest products near the northernmost limits at which they will grow," and this law finds abundant illustration in the amount and perfection of the products of Minnesota.

The climate of Minnesota has often been unjustly disparaged. But a word will be said here in reference to this subject, it being more fully treated elsewhere. It is sufficient to say here, that Minnesota possesses a *modified mountain climate*, the seasons more or less distinctly marked, follow each other in regular succession. The atmosphere is pure, dry and invigorating and the climate is adapted to the growth of all the grains and the leading fruits of the middle states in their proper season, and the general healthfulness of the entire state, as the statistics fully show, is not surpassed by any other country on the globe. This is enough.

Though Minnesota is called a prairie state, yet about one third of its area is covered with native timber. Its pine forests in the northern part of the State are among the most extensive and valuable in the northwest and furnish an immense lumber trade. The "Big Woods" tract, lying on both sides of the Minnesota river and about one hundred miles long and of an average width of forty miles,

is the largest body of hardwood timber, of all varieties, between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Elsewhere timber is found in groves, bordering the streams and lakes, throughout the State.

Among the other natural resources of the State mention may be made of her inexhaustible raw material of iron, copper, slate, granite, clay, limestone, superior building stone, salt springs and glass sand. The statement is eminently truthful that Minnesota contains within itself, all the elemental requisites of a very rich and very independent state.

It is claimed that Minnesota was discovered in the year 1680 by Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan priest and his companions Picard du Gay and Michael Ako. In the spring of that year, coming from Canada by way of the lakes and the Illinois river, they ascended the Mississippi on an exploring expedition and were captured by the Indians and carried far north and in their travels discovered the Falls of St. Anthony, which Father Hennepin named. After wandering about with the Indians for three months they in June, on their return, met Sieur du Luth, a French explorer, and several soldiers under his command. In the fall they all returned to Canada. Two centuries later (1880), the second centennial of these events was celebrated in the splendid city of Minneapolis, with appropriate ceremonies and eloquent addresses.

It has also been claimed that Sieur du Luth, rather than Father Hennepin and his companions, was the real discoverer of Minnesota. But it is quite certain that long before any of these persons visited this country, two French fur traders, about 1654-9, visited Minnesota and spent some two years in this region.

In 1689 Nicholas Perrot, a man of much influence with the Indian tribes, was made commandant of this region of country and under a commission from the governor of Canada, took formal possession of the country, in the name and on behalf of the King of France. Louis the XIV, Le Grand Monarque then held the imperial scepter of France.

In 1700 M. Le Sueur, who had accompanied Perrot and had subsequently gone to France, returned with a company of miners and ascended the Minnesota river, as far as the mouth of the Blue Earth River, near which he built a fort and spent the winter. In 1727 a company of soldiers were sent in from Canada, accompanied by a number of traders and missionaries. They built a fort on the west shore of Lake Pepin.

The history of Minnesota from 1700, for more than half a century, is but a broken narrative of the adventures of explorers and traders, and of the toils and suffering of devoted missionaries in their efforts to plant the standard of the cross and proclaim to the savage nations the blessed gospel of Jesus the Christ. On the eighth

day of September, 1763, the French surrendered their posts in Canada and by the treaty of Versailles, in 1763, ceded the district of country embracing Wisconsin and that part of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi to England and west of it to Spain.

In 1766 Jonathan Carver, exploring the northwest, entered the Mississippi by way of the Wisconsin river and proceeded as far north as the "curling waters" of St. Anthony's Falls. He also ascended the Minnesota River a considerable distance and spent several months with the Indians, exploring the country. He subsequently went to England and published an account of his adventures.

By the treaty of peace at the close of the War of the Revolution (1783) England ceded her claims to all the territory south of the present British Possessions and east of the Mississippi, to the United States. This cession included all that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi river. George the Third was then King of England and our Continental Congress, which had given the king so much trouble, represented the sovereignty of the United States of America. The constitution had not then been adopted, nor had the first president been elected.

The Province of Louisiana, which included, with much other territory, that portion of Minnesota which lies west of the Mississippi obtained by Spain in 1763 from France, was retroceded by that power to France in 1800. During the Spanish supremacy, Charles the Third, a wise prince, and Charles the Fourth, an unwise one, sat upon the gorgeous throne of old Spain.

The same territory was in the year 1803 sold by France to the United States, for fifteen millions of dollars and is known as the Louisiana purchase. During the above period of three years, the great Napoleon was the sovereign ruler of the larger portion of Minnesota and at the time of the purchase Thomas Jefferson was president of the United States.

In 1805, General Z. M. Pike, an officer of the United States, explored this region and obtained from the Indians a grant of lands on which, in 1820, Fort Snelling was built. He proceeded as far north as Sandy and Leech lakes, where he found several forts occupied by English fur traders. He also found the flag of old England bravely flying over these forts, which in the eye of our General was inimical to the sovereignty of the United States and he, therefore, ordered these flags down and the Stars and Stripes set up, never to be lowered on this soil.

It may here be observed that Minnesota has, in time been subject to Great Britain (in part), Spain, France and lastly to the dominion of the United States, four of the most enlightened and powerful nations that appear in the world's history. But more, the first occupants of the soil, the aborigines, were among the



most numerous, haughty and warlike of the Indian nations that held sway over the continent, at the advent of the white man. To all this we may add the words of Judge Flandreu, contained in a late address before the Historical Society:

“Our state had rather a mixed origin. Its mothers were the Northwestern Territory and Louisiana. The first gave us what lies east of the Mississippi, and the last what we embrace west of that stream; and before we became Minnesota we were on the west side of the river, first Louisiana, then Missouri, then Michigan, then Wisconsin, then Iowa.”

On the east side of the Mississippi we were, first Northwest Territory, which belonged to Virginia and was ceded by that state to the United States; it was next Indiana, and next Wisconsin.”

During the war of 1812, the Indians in this region were generally opposed to the United States, being incited to this enmity by the British fur traders of the Northwest, but after the peace of 1815, they submitted to the federal authority.

In the year 1812, Lord Selkirk, a Scotch nobleman, established a small colony, mainly of Scotchmen, near the British line on the Red River of the North, in British territory, known as the Selkirk Settlement. Some years later a number of Swiss immigrants settled in the Colony. The settlement was greatly persecuted by the employees of the Hudson Bay Fur Company, and met with many misfortunes by fire, flood, grasshoppers and failure of crops, when about 1827, a company of the Swiss left the Colony and located near the site of St. Paul, and became the pioneers of agriculture in Minnesota and its first white settlers, other than United States troops and Indian traders.

The first Mill was erected in 1822, and in 1823 the first Steamboat that ascended the Mississippi, arrived at Fort Snelling, to the great astonishment of the natives, who thought it some horrible monster of the waters, having a voice like a demon, and on hearing which they scampered away and hid themselves

In 1832 the first regular mail was brought to Fort Snelling.

By the treaty made in——1837, the Indians ceded all their lands east of the Mississippi to the United States.

In 1841 a Roman Catholic Chapel was built on the site of what is now the live and rapidly growing city of St. Paul, the Capital of the State, a city with a grand future. The Chapel was dedicated to St. Paul, and hence the name of the city, the site of which was previously named “Pig’s Eye.”

And now we have reached in our sketch the period of those important events, which in America are premonitory of the birth of a great State—the fading out of the era of savage occupancy and the rule of the strong and bloody hand and the dawn of the era in-

augurating the supremacy of law—civil government and enlightened progress.

On the 3d day of March, 1849, Congress passed a bill organizing the "Territory of Minnesota," the Territory extending as far west as the Missouri river. Hon. Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, was appointed Governor by the President, Gen. Zach Taylor, and on the first day of June of that year proclaimed the territorial government organized with the following officers:

Governor, ALEXANDER RAMSEY.

Secretary, C. K. SMITH.

Chief Justice, AARON GOODRICH.

Associates, D. COOPER and B. B. MEEKER.

Marshall, J. L. TAYLOR.

U. S. Attorney, H. L. MOSS.

The inhabitants of the Territory then numbered 4,680.

On the 3d day of September, following, the First Territorial Legislative Assembly met at St. Paul, and among much other important business transacted, created nine counties which were named as follows: Itaska, Wabasha, Dakota, Cass, Chisago, Ramsey, Pembina, Benton and Washington.

By treaty in 1851, the Dakotas ceded to the United States all their lands in the Territory west of the Mississippi to the Sioux river and Lake Traverse, except a small tract on the upper Minnesota, kept as a Reservation.

Immigration now began to pour into the Territory in a mighty stream, compared with which the first settlement of other states was but insignificant. Lands were taken up, farms opened, great highways established, water powers improved, towns and cities grew up as by magic, apparent prosperity was seen on every side, speculation in wild lands and town lots ran wild, fortunes were being made in a day, so to speak, and everything was progressing for some years, at high tide, when suddenly the great commercial revulsion of 1857 came and the bubble of land speculation burst. Then dawned the real, permanent prosperity of Minnesota.

A Convention to frame a Constitution for the now proposed State, met at St. Paul in July, 1857, and drafted a Constitution, which was submitted to the people of the Territory at a general election held in October, following, and was adopted.

On the 11th day of May, 1858, the new state was admitted into the Union with its present boundaries, and Minnesota took its place in the great Union of States, as the thirty second state.

When the great Rebellion broke out in 1861, our State was the first to respond to the call for troops to put down the rebellion, and the State furnished during the war 24,263 soldiers. This was a

larger number of soldiers in proportion to population than that furnished by any other state, and no state of the loyal North made a more brilliant record during the war than Minnesota.

In August, 1862, there occurred on the western frontiers of the State, an appalling massacre of settlers, by the Dakota or Sioux Indians—the most atrocious butchery and destruction ever known in the history of Indian warfare. Hundreds of men, women and children were killed, thousands were driven from their homes and millions of dollars worth of property was lost, wasted and destroyed.

In 1863, the Sioux and Winnebago Indians were removed from the State by the general government, to localities on the Missouri river, and their old "reservations" here were subsequently thrown open to sale and settlement, and long since became the abode of large and prosperous agricultural communities.

It is unnecessary to the purposes of this work to trace the history further of this great State. It may be remarked, however, that from the beginning of the immigration and settlement of the State in 1851, the growth of the State in population and permanent improvements, notwithstanding financial revulsions, the great rebellion, the Indian massacre and grasshopper invasions, for several years, has been exceedingly rapid and probably without a parallel, and attests to the vast natural advantages and resources of the State and the indomitable and progressive spirit of its people.

Minnesotans are justly proud of their State and its wonderful development, and they look forward with confidence to a future, now not distant, when the State shall be one of the most populous and wealthy in the American Union.

Here, said that far seeing statesman, Wm. H. Seward, in his great speech in St. Paul in 1860, "Here is the place—the central place, where the richest agricultural region of North America must pour out its tribute to the whole world." But he said more, hear the grand prophecy! "I now believe that the ultimate last seat of government on this great Continent, will be found somewhere within a circle or radius not very far from the spot on which I now stand, at the head of navigation of the Mississippi river." Here is a splendid future foretold. Twenty years have passed away since the prophecy was uttered and the great statesman has been gathered to the fathers. In the meantime, what have we been doing? Let us take a brief retrospect. In this sketch we have been dealing with general facts, let figures now "be submitted to a candid world." They will show how broad, and deep, and strong the foundations of a great state have been laid, and how rapidly and amply the structure is being reared.

But thirty years have passed since the territorial government was organized and we had then a population of 4,680, and in 1880, by the national census, 780,806. In 1850 the area of tilled land was 1,900 acres, in 1880, 4,503,716. And the plow lay not idly in the furrows those years.

Here is the exhibit of certain staple agricultural productions, in bushels:

	WHEAT	OATS	CORN
1860	5,101,432	2,912,857	3,143,577
1865	9,475,000	4,000,000	
1870	17,283,121	10,588,689	6,092,230
1875	30,079,300	13,801,761	7,195,681
1879	31,218,634	20,667,933	12,939,900

The following is the statement of the live stock.

	1879
Horses.....	225,403
Cattle.....	557,914
Sheep.....	203,791
Hogs.....	216,913

The wholesale trade is estimated at Forty Million dollars annually.

#### MANUFACTURES.

The following statistics are taken from the United States Census of 1880:

There are 124 different manufacturing industries and 3,493 establishments.	
Capital employed.....	\$31,000,000
Average number of hands employed.....	21,247
Amount of wages paid during the year.....	\$8,613,094
Value of products.....	\$76,065,198

Ten different classes of manufactures produced each, over \$1,000,000 in value.

Truly Minnesota is destined to be a great manufacturing state.

The rapid increase in the wealth of the State, may be inferred from the following exhibit of the assessed valuation of taxable property:

1860.....	\$ 36,753,408
1865.....	45,184,063
1870.....	87,133,673
1875.....	218,855,743
1879.....	242,430,439

In 1857, congress made a large grant of lands in aid of a most magnificent railroad system. The first mile of road was not completed until 1862, but in 1880, 3,099 miles had been built, penetrating, as any map of the State will show, to all parts of the State and one line of which, the Northern Pacific, was designed to reach the Pacific Ocean, and has already reached its far western terminus.

All the Christian denominations are represented in Minnesota, and the clergy compare favorably with those of any country. Many of them are men of high culture and of great eloquence and efficiency.

No other state in the Union has such a magnificent provision for common schools and free education. Two sections of land in every township in the State, are set apart for this purpose, the proceeds of the sales of which are from time to time invested in interest paying bonds, the interest on which and on deferred payments on sales being applied to the support of common schools. The public school fund already amounts to \$3,500,000 and is constantly increasing from further sales of land. In 1879 there were 3,284 school houses, 4,872 teachers and 160,867 scholars. The State has also a state university in successful operation, which has a permanent fund of \$375,000, which will be increased by further sales of special grants of land.

The State has also three state normal schools and these have also a grant of 225,000 acres of land. In addition to all this, there are some sixty denominational schools, some of which rank very high. As a part of the educational system of the State, and as indicating something of the intelligence of the people, it should be stated that many excellent newspapers and periodicals are published in the State, almost every county having one, or more.

Among the other great public institutions, it must not be overlooked that the State has now two hospitals for the insane, an institution for the deaf, dumb and blind, a reform school and a state prison, all admirably conducted.

In all this but a very general exhibit is presented of the marvelous development and present condition of the State. It is a source of pride and hope and reviewing it the thought is suggested, what, at this rate of progress, with the vast possibilities evidently here, shall be the grand totals, which may be written, at the end of another quarter of a century?

And now we close this sketch with the testimony of a non-resident, impartial and well informed-witness:

“I will venture the general statement that no state in the Union has today the same proportion of people to its entire population, more thoroughly educated and refined; that no such proportion of fine churches, splendid schools and educational appliances of so complete a character and such general provision for everything, which pertains to healthy civilization and generous social culture elsewhere exists, as in Minnesota. The railway, the telegraph, the newspaper are everywhere. Everything is bright and fresh and new, and the gigantic and wonderful progress, which is here universal is universally stamped with such elegance and beauty, as have only come with half centuries in older communities.”

The writer is indebted for much of the substance of the above sketch, to Neill's History of Minnesota, Minnesota as it is in 1870, Footprints of Time, American Cyclopedia, United States Statutes, Tit. Treaties, History of St. Paul and Ramsey County and several state and other publications.

The foregoing statistics show the progress of the State up to the closing period of this history, 1879, soon after which time they were compiled.

But many years have passed since that date, and it is, therefore, proper to add now, a few additional facts and figures, exhibiting the advancement of the State, up to the present time—the year of publication of this work.

Population of the state in 1895,.....	1,574,619
Assessed value of real estate.....	\$553,157,461
Assessed value of personal estate.....	104,012,823
Total.....	<u>\$657,170,284</u>

#### STATE INSTITUTIONS.

University of Minnesota, including Department of Agriculture and Experiment Station.

Four State Normal Schools.

Eighty-eight State High Schools.

Over Six thousand District Schools.

There are also many denominational Schools and Colleges in the state.

Permanent State University Fund..... \$1,034,067.

Permanent State School Fund.....\$11,000,000.

And these funds are constantly increasing.

Institute for Defectives, embracing School for the Blind, School for the Deaf, School for the Feeble-minded. Faribault.

Three Hospitals for the Insane, and a fourth one to be erected immediately.

State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children. Owatonna.

State Agricultural Society, possessing extensive grounds and buildings.

State Reform School. Red Wing.

State Historical Society, having a Library of over 50,000 volumes. St. Paul.

State Soldiers Home. Minnehaha Falls.

State Library of 25,000 volumes, which is in fact the great State Law Library. St. Paul.

State Reformatory. St. Cloud.

State Prison. Stillwater.

There are now 7,000,000 acres of cultivated land in the State and 100,000 farms.

Production of three great cereals. (Taken from latest report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

Wheat.....	41,210,000 bushels.
Corn.....	24,192,000 “
Oats.....	43,578,000 “

By this report Minnesota is the greatest wheat growing state in the Union, except one.

NUMBER OF CERTAIN LIVE STOCK.

Horses, all ages.....	523,205.
Cattle, including cows.....	945,490.
Sheep.....	352,347.
Hogs.....	278,251.

There are six thousand miles of Rail Roads in operation in the State.

There are 146 State Banks and 79 National Banks, and numerous private Banks.

There are also many State Boards, Societies and Commissions, which we cannot name here.

IRON MINES.

Within the past decade it has been discovered that Minnesota possesses the greatest iron ore district in the world and to-day a great number of mines are open and worked, from which a vast output is shipped to the large iron manufacturing centers. The business is yet but in its infancy.

MANUFACTURES.

According to the national census of 1890, there were then employed in the State 79,629 persons, working in the manufacturing establishments of the State, to whom there was paid, as wages, \$38,189,239.

One of the great industries of the State is the manufacture of flour. The production of flour exceeds that of any other state in the Union, and in fact nearly equals the output of all the other states combined.

Ten million of barrels was the output for the year ending December 31, 1894.

The flour of this State is sent to all parts of the world.

The manufacture of lumber has reached enormous proportions. The lumber cut, at Minneapolis alone, for 1894, amounted to 491,256,793 feet, besides shingles and lath.

The still existing vast forests of pine, give the assurance of the continuance of this industry for years to come.

Numerous other manufacturing establishments exist throughout the State, such as paper makers, extensive brick yards, potteries, agricultural implement, sash and door and furniture factories, and others too numerous to mention.

#### DAIRYING.

The production of butter and cheese is already very great, annually, the former by the last report exceeded 46,000,000 pounds and the latter 2,000,000 pounds. Creameries are numerous throughout the State.

The reader may now compare these latter figures with those given for 1879, and he will be surprised and gratified at the truly wonderful advancement of the State and may indeed, say that here

“Progress swells on every breeze.”



SECTION SECOND.

---

LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS  
OF FARIBAULT COUNTY.

---

It has been wisely said "The physical characteristics of a land should be known, to correctly understand the history of its people." It is indeed true that the skies that are over them, the scenes that are around them, the climate they live in, even the food they eat and the very air they breath, all exert a powerful influence on the lives, the character and the achievements of a people.

Faribault county is situated on the southern boundary of the State, in the valley of the Blue Earth river, and in the center of the most southern tier of counties. It is bounded on the north by Blue Earth and Waseca counties, on the east by Freeborn county, on the south by Winnebago and Kossuth counties, in the State of Iowa and on the west by Martin county.

That portion of the State, now comprised within the boundaries of this county, with much other territory, was by authority of the general government, surveyed and divided into townships and lesser subdivisions in the year 1854.

The county is comprised of townships 101, 102, 103, 104 north, in Ranges 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 west, of the 5th principal Meridian, being twenty Congressional, or Land-survey townships, each six miles square, each township containing thirty-six square miles, each square mile being a section. Hence the county is thirty miles long, east and west, and twenty-four miles wide, north and south, and contains seven hundred and twenty-three square miles, or sections including fractions, and 463,184 acres of land, of which there is covered by water 9,151 acres. When the county was first formed, it embraced four more towns on the west, in Range 29, but they were detached and added to Martin County, by act of the Legislature passed May 23d, 1857.

The general surface of the county is not broken or hilly, but is slightly and desirably varied, or in other words, is gently undulating, or "rolling," thus affording natural drainage and facilities for artificial drainage, if desired. There is but little waste, or unpro-

ductive lands. The surface of the county permits the making of good, dry roads, of easy grade and at little cost.

And here some brief observations as to the geological formation and history of the land, embraced within the limits of the county, are appropriate.

The county is covered heavily by drift, or diluvium, and there is no where any out-crop of the bedrock, within the county.

But some of our readers may be pleased with some explanation of the term "drift," in this connection.

The following quotations, relating to this subject, are taken from Wells' First Principles of Geology:

"The theory of the drift, which has been originated by Lyell, Hitchcock and other authorities, and which is now accepted by most geologists, is substantially as follows: It is supposed that about the close of the tertiary epoch, a subsidence of land took place in the Northern Hemisphere, which was accompanied by a great reduction of temperature, and that as in consequence of this access of cold, Glaciers formed upon most of the northern mountains and as in Greenland, at the present day, extended to the sea.

"Large islands and bergs of floating ice, laden with detritus (clay, sand, gravel and rock-masses) were also moved southerly, from the Polar regions, by oceanic currents.

"When the ice bergs and floes melted, their burdens of detritus, including fragments of rock, both large and small, which had been frozen into them, as parts of glaciers or coast ice, would fall to the bottom of the ocean and in this way boulders, as well as finer materials, would be scattered over extensive areas." P. P. 304, 305.

"Finally, it is supposed, a gradual elevation of the submerged lands took place and that during their re-emergence the materials which covered them, were still further modified by exposure to the disturbing and stratifying action of waves, ice, tides and currents." pg. 305 "In America the drift extended from the Polar regions, as far south as about latitude, forty degrees." pg. 297.

And now a further word in reference to boulders, or lost rocks, so many of which are scattered over the surface of our county. "The boulders which are everywhere characteristic of the drift formation, vary in size from a few pounds, to masses of hundreds, or even thousands of tons weight. They are generally more or less rounded in form, as if water worn, and are unlike the rocks in place, which underlie them."

"In short \* \* \* the most superficial observer could hardly fail to arrive at the conclusion, that they are foreign to the localities where they occur and must have been transported from a distance, by some powerful agency;" such as that above indicated. (Pg. 298.)

It is, perhaps, proper to say that other theories, explanatory of the drift phenomena, have been proposed from time to time.

For what is further said here, in reference to this subject, the writer is indebted to that admirable work, "The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota," volume I, chapter 14.

"The whole of Faribault county lies within the basin of the Blue Earth River, which flows northerly; \* \* \* while the east fork of this river, formed by Jones and Brush Creeks, in the southeast part of the county, flows west \* \* \* and joins the main stream. The middle part of the north third of the county, is drained by the head streams of the Maple river, which is tributary to the Le Sueur and through that to the Blue Earth River. The northeastern township is drained principally by the Big Cobb river, also reaching the Blue Earth through the Le Sueur river. The general slopes of the surface thus descend northward; from the southeast part of the county westerly to Blue Earth City, and from its west boundary easterly to the Blue Earth river."

"The thickness of the drift upon this county, probably varies from 75 to 200 feet, averaging 125, or perhaps 150 feet. It is composed mainly of till, which encloses occasional veins and beds of gravel and sand."

"The streams have channelled from thirty to one hundred feet into the drift."

"The bottom land, five to twenty feet above the streams, is mainly from a quarter to a half mile wide, bordered by steep bluffs, that rise to the \* \* \* expanse of till \* \* \* which covers the whole county, excepting two belts of morainic hills. One of these extends from (the town of) Kiester, in the southeast corner of the county, northwestward, nearly to Delavan; and the other, which lies mostly in Iowa, includes the southern edge of Elmore and Pilot Grove."

"The mean elevation of the county is 1,130 feet, very nearly above the sea. The highest points, the hills in section 3, Kiester, are about 1,400 feet above the sea, and its lowest land, in the valleys of the Blue Earth and Maple rivers, slightly less than 1,000."

In conclusion of this subject here, it is interesting to learn that in the Ice Age, the basin of the Blue Earth river covering almost all of this county and portions of adjoining counties, there existed a great glacial lake, dammed on the north by the barrier of the waning ice-sheet of the last glacial epoch, during a considerable time, in which this was retreating northward and northwestward from the south line of the State, and from its eastern moraine, until its recession uncovered the present avenue of drainage, to the northeast, by the Minnesota river. Until this avenue of outflow was opened, "the outlet of this glacial lake was in Kossuth County, Iowa, at the

head of the most southern branch of the Blue Earth river, where Union Slough occupies a continuous channel from the head-waters of the Blue Earth to Buffalo creek and the east fork of the Des Moines." The depth of this lake in the north part of this county, ranged from fifty to one hundred and twenty-five feet.

But unnumbered centuries have rolled away since the tremendous "ice age," of which our knowledge at best, is but conjectural. Let us resume the description of the county, as it is known in our own time.

The county is well watered throughout, the number and distribution of the streams and lakes being admirable, as will appear by a glance at the map of the county. The main streams are the Blue Earth, Maple and Cobb rivers, and Coon, Badger, Otter, South, Middle, Elm, Foster and Brush creeks, and many small, nameless rivulets. There are also the following lakes: Minnesota, Bass, Maple, Pilot Grove, Ozatonka, Walnut, Swan and two Rice lakes, besides a number of small lakelets not named. Minnesota lake is the largest body of water in the county. In digging wells water is usually found in abundance at fifteen to seventy feet depth. The well water is very pure, clear and cold, and is slightly impregnated with lime. The streams are indeed "living waters," pure and cold, and usually running with rapid current, over gravelly beds. The lakes are beautiful sheets of water, from twenty rods to three miles in diameter, and are famous for their crystal purity, reflecting in their depths the changing foliage of the groves upon their banks, and the blue and clouds of the summer skies. There is a strange fascination in the silent beauty of these placid mirror-like sheets of water with their frame-work of dark green timber borders. And when it is remembered that here the Indian, not long since, was often seen in his swift canoe skimming over the surface, and that about these lakes he lived and loved, made war and followed the chase, imagination needs add but little, to invest the scenery with romantic interest.

Timber is very well distributed throughout the county for a prairie country and is found in sufficient quantities to supply the demand for fuel and other purposes for many years. The facilities for procuring coal from the South and building lumber from the North, by rail, lessens constantly the demand for native timber.

The timber is confined mainly to the borders of the lakes and streams and is of great practical advantage to the country besides adding to the beauty of the landscape in breaking up the monotony of "the billowy sea of land."

It consists of basswood, burr-oak, black-oak, black-walnut, butternut, cherry, hickory, ash, red-elm, water-elm, ironwood, box-elder, cottonwood, poplar, hard and soft maple, hawthorn, dogwood,

hackberry, willow and several other varieties. The predominant and most useful kinds are basswood, oak, walnut, maple, cottonwood and elm. In addition to the above, the prairie farmers, throughout the county, have set out groves on their lands, of one to ten acres of rapidly growing varieties of forest trees, which add greatly to the beauty of the country and what is more important, to their comfort and convenience, such groves affording agreeable shade in the heat of summer and protection from the storms of winter. The people of the villages too, have set out vast numbers of shade and ornamental trees, about their premises, along the lines of their streets and on the public squares. The prediction may well be made, that twenty years hence there will be more timber in the county than at its first settlement and that owing to the extent of the groves, and the long lines of trees along the highways, the winds will be tempered and the climate greatly modified, and that the whole county will present the pleasing appearance of a natural arcadia.

The soil of the county is a black loam, having a considerable mixture of sand, rendering it warm and causing a very rapid growth of vegetation. It abounds in mineral elements and is rich in organic ingredients, originating from the decay of the vegetable growth of many centuries. It cannot be surpassed in fertility and ranges in depth from two to four feet. The sub-soil is clay. The day will never come, probably, when it can be said that the soil of this county is "worn out." Wheat, oats, barley, corn, and potatoes are the principal productions. Rye, buckwheat, beans, millet, sorghum, broom-corn, flax and tobacco are raised with success. Garden vegetables, in great variety and perfection and in vast quantities are annually produced. Clover, timothy, red-top and other tame grasses are raised successfully, but up to the present time, have not been much needed, owing to the great abundance and nutritive quality of the native grasses, which have proved abundantly sufficient, for pasturage and hay. All the cereals, grasses and vegetables raised in the middle states can be raised here and under the higher and better cultivation, which a large population and ample means will effect, in the future, this county will become one of the most productive and wealthy agricultural districts in the world. The real extent of the producing power of this soil, under high and careful tillage, is yet practically unknown, but it will be seen at no distant day and with astonishment.

The climate of this county is that, speaking generally, of the State, but modified somewhat by the fact that the county is situated in the extreme southern part of the State. It is true the winters are usually longer and colder than in the more southern latitudes of the temperate zone, and some winters are colder, longer and

stormier than others, but it often occurs that there is a milder winter here than in northern New York or in the New England states. And the winters here have ever been as bright and cheerful and marked with as much business activity and social and domestic enjoyments, both indoors and out, as they have been in any country north of Mason and Dixon's line. It is also true that when great storms of wind, snow or rain occur in Minnesota, they also usually occur in states much further south or east, and are equally severe; and while the mercury sinks very low sometimes, unquestionable records prove that the climate here is much more equable, and subject to less sudden changes, than that of many other countries, with which no fault is ever found. But whatever disadvantages, if any, there may be in the winters being longer or colder than in more southern latitudes, they are amply counterbalanced by many great advantages. This is pre eminently the land of health and of physical and mental activity. The atmosphere is pure, dry and bracing. There are no tainted winds; no stagnant waters and sluggish streams; no malaria, no fevers, agues or pulmonary diseases. The bright eye, the ruddy cheek, the swiftly coursing blood and vital energy, the abounding health, which characterize the great majority of the people of this country, tell a story worth far more than "The balmy breezes," the "soft and fragrant air," and the "Pulseless languor" of "the Sunny South."

Considerable attention has been paid to the cultivation of tame fruits. At an early day it was thought by some, that the climate was too severe to raise any fruits here with success, but this like many another absurd notion has been abandoned. Nature itself indicates that many varieties of fruit may be cultivated here as well as elsewhere. Among the wild fruit growing in abundance are crab apples, grapes, plums, cherries, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries. Tame fruits are now raised throughout the county. Among the varieties of apples most generally successful, besides numerous seedlings, are the Duchess of Oldenburg, Red Astrachan, Fameuse, Golden Russets, Fall Stripe, or Saxton, Haas, Tetofski, Wealthy, Sweet Pear apple and Tallmon Sweet.

Several varieties of plums, pears and cherries, the Siberian crab, transcendent, hyslop and various seedlings, prove successful, and the small fruits such as currants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries and grapes are raised in great abundance, and in wonderful perfection.

The varieties of fish and game of this region are treated of further along in this book, but a word must be said of the birds; yes the birds. Who would live in a country where there are no birds? They are indeed a part of the great economy of nature for man's blessing. They have followed us up to this new land. From early

spring, until late in the fall, the woods and groves are vocal with the notes of these airy choristers; and some remain with us during the winter. The robin, cat-bird, wren, blue-jay, martin, swallow, tom-tit, yellow birds, blue birds, sapsuckers, red birds, doves, humming birds and the chickadee, come about our houses, build their nests, rear their broods and sing their summer songs. But we have many others not so friendly—the black bird, pigeon, woodpecker, the lark, king birds, owls, snow bunting, thrush, hawks, crows and the other varieties that are sought as game, and mentioned elsewhere. They are all welcome here, for they all have a useful purpose to fulfill.

The natural scenery of this county is not such as is usually designated as grand or striking, but it is picturesque and beautiful. The wide-spreading prairies dotted over with oak openings and green groves—the distant meandering lines of dark blue timber, bordering the streams—the silvery lakes glittering in the sun; deep, dark old forest glens and nooks; green hills and quiet vales, and the luxuriant and bright green foliage and vegetation, and the wealth of wild flowers, all through the spring and summer and the no less bright and manifold colored leaves of autumn, all viewed in the pure, bright atmosphere, must delight the eye of the most fastidious admirers of the beautiful in nature. Neither the poet nor the painter, here need hunger or thirst.

And now, after this introductory chapter, in which it has been attempted to describe, briefly, the splendid territory—the arena—within whose boundaries the events to be recorded have occurred, we may enter upon the history proper of the county.





# PART FIRST.

---

## THE ANNALS

OF

## FARIBAULT COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

---

### CHAPTER I.

ANNO DOMINI, 1855.

“ Spirit of Memory!

Thou that hast garnered up the joys and tears,  
And all the human spoil of buried years,

We bow to thee:

O, lift the vail and bid the past appear.”—*Anon.*

The history of this county properly begins with the events of the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-five. It was in that year the county was named, its boundaries defined and its first settlement made by civilized men. But the present occupants of the soil were preceded by other races and it is a matter of profound interest to learn what is now known of them.

At least two races of men, wholly different in origin, language, religion, habits and customs from each other and from our own race, have appeared here and each performed its part, in a great drama of national, or tribal and individual life, through unknown centuries and at last retired, the curtain, thick and dark, falling upon scenes and hiding them forever.

In the eloquent words of Senator Ramsey, it is truthfully said that, “Not a foot of ground that we tread but has been trodden by nations before us. Tribes of men have marched their armies over the sites of our towns and fields; fierce battles have been fought where churches now rear their spires; our plow-shares turn furrows amidst the graves of buried races and our children play

where perhaps generations of children have played, centuries before them."

When will the drama end and the curtain drop upon the higher and grander scenes being enacted here by the present race? Never! exclaims the hopeful and confident. Yet, who in the light of all past human history, may answer thus? But who were our predecessors here? What manner of men were they? What of their deeds and destiny?

#### THE MOUND BUILDERS.

No mounds, or tumuli, have yet been discovered within the limits of this county to indicate that the mysterious and lost race of the Mound Builders ever existed here, but several small copper implements and articles of pottery, such as is usually believed to be the remains of that forgotten race, have been found, and at some distance south of us, in the state of Iowa, and in several of the counties on the east, north and west of this, their undoubted works exist; from all of which it may be confidently inferred, that they knew and probably inhabited, this intervening territory.

It may reasonably be expected that still more conclusive evidences will yet be discovered, in, or near, this county, that they once existed here.

They were a pre-historic race and but little is now known of them. Almost all memorials of them have perished from the earth. Even their true name, as a race, or people, is lost and they are now known and named only from the great and curious mounds, extending through the Mississippi valley from the Great Lakes to the gulf, which were the works of their hands.

From what remains of them—these mounds—their contents and other evidences, it may fairly be determined that this "Ancient population was numerous and widely spread, as shown from the number and magnitude of their works and the extensive range of their occurrence." That they were not nomadic, but lived in villages and settlements, generally near great rivers and their tributaries. They were far in advance of the American Indian in their knowledge of arts and in civilization. They were agriculturists and wore clothing of woven cloth and had comfortable dwellings. They had a variety of articles of food, of which fish was the principal one. They were industrious, even very laborious, and possessed considerable mechanical and artistic skill. They had some knowledge of the arts of war and of the construction of fortifications.

They manufactured beautiful vases and other articles of pottery, and they could model clay into a variety of objects, such as birds, quadrupeds and the human face.

They used sun-dried bricks. They mined for copper and other precious ores. They had a definite standard of measurement and they had tools of copper, silver and stone. They had axes, chisels, knives, mauls, hammers, crucibles, spear-points, slates and cups, beads and bracelets, all well finished.

Though they cultivated the soil, it appears that they had no horses, oxen or carts.

They had a system of hieroglyphic, or picture-writing, but unintelligible now, and knew something of practical surveying. They had commercial relations with some now unknown and distant nations. They made toys for their children and had some articles of fine workmanship, for the adornment of their persons and the embellishment of their homes and temples. They had a sense of the humorous, as appears from the caricatures and grotesque figures they sketched on vases and other articles.

They had a peculiar art, that of building mounds of earth, some of which were of vast size and of considerable height; some were circular, others square and others were circular enclosures. Some of their mounds, made on the level ground, were in the shape of animals, birds, bows, arrows and human figures. Some represented elephants, or mammoths, the turtle and immense serpents, and some the hide of some animal stretched on the ground. In some localities these mounds and figures occupied as much as twenty acres of ground. It is supposed that some of these curious shaped earth-works, were used as fortifications, others as burial places of the distinguished dead, and others as places of sacrifice and religious worship.

The mounds built by the Indians, are quite different from those of the Mound-builders. It is a curious fact that the skulls found in the mounds of the Mound-builders, are of a shape entirely different from those that characterize the Indian, and the shin-bones resurrected from the same place, singularly flat, a peculiarity not noticed in the bones of any other tribe or race of people.

The Mound-builders had a system of religion—they were worshippers and believed in immortality and had many sacred places and temples for religious worship. And here our summary must end. They have passed away into the deep darkness and voiceless silence of the long past centuries. From whence they came, who they were and whether, as has been said, they “Migrated to remote lands under the combined attractions of a more fertile soil and more genial climate, or whether they disappeared beneath the victorious arms of an alien race, or were swept out of existence by some direful epidemic, or universal famine, are questions probably beyond the power of human investigation to answer.” It seems prob-

able that they disappeared because, as the poet Bryant has graphically said—

“The red man came,  
The roaming hunter-tribes, warlike and fierce,  
And the Mound-builders vanished from the earth.”

Some late investigators have, however, claimed with much assurance, that the Mound-builders were not a race, or people, separate, or distinct from the Indian, but were, in fact, the ancestors of the Indians, who have degenerated. If so, the degeneration must have been very great indeed. At all events, the differences in the character and civilization of the Mound-builders and those of the Indians, were so great that, practically, they may well be deemed different races of men.

But the day may come, probably will, when the pyramids of Egypt, the ancient ruined cities of the East and America and these mounds shall give up their secrets. Yea, the deep, deep sea shall some day surrender up the story of the lost Atlantis, even the story of the lost Lemuria.

#### THE RED MEN.

The occupants of this region of country at the time of, and probably for many centuries prior, to the advent of the white man, were certain bands of the Indian nation, known as the Sioux or Dakotas. The Dakotas were among the most populous, warlike and powerful of the many savage nations which have inhabited the western continent.

They occupied a vast territory, including nearly all of Minnesota, the Dakotas and a region of country west of the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains, and northward to the British Possessions. This great nation was divided into many tribes, four of which occupied nearly all of the country now comprising the state of Minnesota. These tribes were named the Medawakonton, Wapeton, Wapekuta and Sisseton Sioux, and each of them had its own hereditary chief. Each of these tribes was sub-divided into bands, each band having also its chief, and all these various bands had their own separate territory, or hunting grounds, but their claims of territory were often indefinite and conflicting. They are a confederate nation. It appears from a consultation of the best authorities on the subject, that the territory on the head-waters of the Blue Earth river and adjacent on the west, was anciently claimed by the Wapakutas, or Leaf-Shooters and the Sissetons. In the year 1700, when M. Le Sueur erected a rude fort, near the mouth of the Blue Earth river, referred to elsewhere in this work, this country was in possession of bands of the “Sioux of the west,” known as the Ayavois (Iowas) and Otoctatas (Ottoes). But little is known of any of these

people and there is much confusion, some contradiction and a great deal of uncertainty in the very meagre records of the aboriginal inhabitants. Of the origin of the American Indian, as little is known as that of the Mound-builders.

The Dakotas have ever been a barbarous and nomadic race. As to their physical characteristics, they are of a red copper color, variously shaded. The men are of middle stature, large boned and well made, eyes black, half closed and lodged in deep sockets; high cheek-bones, nose more or less aquiline, mouth large, lips rather thick and the hair of the head black, straight and coarse. In many tribes they pluck out all the hair of the beard. The general expression of the countenance is gloomy; stolid and severe. The women are usually short in stature and have broad, homely features and low foreheads, and while they sometimes have an expression of mildness and pleasantness, beauty is rare among them. They are the slaves and drudges of their race. Both the men and women are great lovers of ornaments, and are usually loaded with beads, rings, bangles and tinkling gewgaws.

The Indian has a fair understanding, a quick apprehension, a retentive memory and very acute senses and assumes a peculiar air of profound indifference, in his general appearance and actions.

President Sparkes, of Harvard, says: "With a strength of character and a reach of intellect unknown in any other race of absolute savages, the Indian united many traits, some of them honorable and some degrading to humanity, which made him formidable in his enmity, faithless in his friendship, and at all times a dangerous neighbor; cruel, implacable, treacherous, yet not without a few of the better qualities of the heart and the head; a being of contrasts, violent in his passions, hasty in his anger, fixed in his revenge, yet cool in counsel, seldom betraying his plighted honor, hospitable, sometimes generous. A few names have stood out among them, which, with the culture of civilization, might have been shining stars on the lists of recorded fame."

The Indians of this region are strangers to letters and wholly untutored. They know but little of the simplest arts and nothing of science, and leave behind them no records, monuments, or other memorials, except traditions of bloody deeds and some of their names given to states, mountains, rivers and localities. They are polytheists and their religion is a strange medley of superstitious incantations and sorceries, but yet has some redeeming, though crude, central ideas.

Speaking generally of their religion, the wild Indians believe in a good God, known as the Great Spirit, and a bad God, both equal in power. They have, also, some minor Gods. They think the good God wants no thanks or prayers, but the bad one they hate

and fear, bribe and entreat. They believe in the immortality of the soul, and that their final destiny is the "Happy Hunting Grounds." They also believe in the existence of spiritual beings that are neither good nor bad.

But these Indians are devoid of any moral sense, or sense of moral obligation, or accountability, as connected with their religion. They have no code of morals. Their ideas of right and wrong are very shadowy and there are many differing shades, in their religious beliefs.

Their clothing is made of dressed skins and, since their acquaintance with the white man, cheap cloth and woolen blankets, and their dwellings are rude, temporary shelters, made of skins and bark, called wigwams, or tepees, and are moved from place to place.

They live by the chase and on wild rice and fish, and they also plant a little corn and raise a few potatoes, but they are much more skillful in planting a knife in a foe's back and in raising scalps. They are indolent and provide only for to-day. The men think labor degrading and hence the women do all the work. The war-path and the chase are the occupations of the men and when engaged in these, they are active, persevering and untiring. The phrase, "poverty, hunger and dirt," describes their normal condition. The attempts to civilize and christianize these Indians have proved an almost wasted labor. Yet of late years some little success has crowned these beneficent efforts.

The Dakotas like most other Indian peoples, delight in deeds of cunning, treachery and blood, but there have been a few notable individual exceptions. It really seems that "the only hope for the Indian is to educate him, make him a citizen with a citizen's rights and responsibilities and absorb him into the body politic." Recognizing and treating with the Indian tribes within our jurisdiction, as separate nations from ours, they remaining subject to their own barbarous laws and customs, must always prove a failure, in all attempts to civilize them. Of those who inhabited this land in the long ago, there is dimly shadowed in old and wild traditions, recounted by the early trappers and voyageurs, visions of wild orgies and deeds of such darkness, indecency and cruelty, that they may not be written and of which "it is more blessed to be ignorant." We may know, however, that here in our own county have been heard the twang of the bow and the sharp crack of the rifle and the wild war-hoop of this wily savage—that here they lived for centuries, hunting over our prairies and fishing in the lakes and rivers and that this soil has witnessed the advance and retreat and drank the blood of many contending foes, and

"Here too that eloquence was heard  
Around the council light,  
Which made the sturdy warrior bold  
And nerved him for the fight."

But wasted by incessant wars, starved by famines, swept by pestilences, poisoned and demoralized by drunkenness, eaten up by loathsome diseases—always the helpless prey of greedy plunders—decimated to mere remnants and these forced to retire, bearing the burdens of great wrongs suffered, as well as done by them and chanting their weird dirges, so suggestive of the dark and hopeless future of their race, they are “moving on,” toward the setting sun and final extinction.

Upon no subject-race, except that of the Negro, perhaps, have ever been imposed such shames and frauds and wrongs, since the world began, as have been heaped upon the American Indian, and on the other hand, no oppressed race has ever struck back with such fiendish and persistent malignity as his, and in this matter of our dealings with the Indians, if God be just and man be immortal, and if all wrongs done by individuals and nations, must be righted, certainly, there is an awful day of reckoning coming sometime and somewhere, for somebody.

But we must proceed, another and a mightier race is advancing to occupy the vacant lands.

“I hear the tread of pioneers  
Of nations yet to be;  
The first low wash of waves, where soon  
Shall roll a human sea.”

#### THE NATION.

Let us look about us for a moment. Casting an eye over the national field, we find that in 1855, Franklin Pierce was President of the United States. The nation then had a population of about 27,000,000 of people. The Missouri Compromise of 1820, which had restricted slavery, within certain limits, had been repealed and the Compromise of 1850, which, with other provisions, embodied the odious Fugitive Slave Law, had practically proved a failure in the North, and the contest in regard to slave, or free territory, a feature of the “Irrepressible Conflict,” was the great absorbing national question of the times, and finally led to civil war in Kansas, which raged for nearly three years. Stephen A. Douglass was then promulgating the doctrine of “Squatter Sovereignty.” The old Whig party had become extinct and its former adherents in the North, uniting with all the parties and factions opposed to the extension of slavery into the territories, was rapidly forming the great Republican party preparatory to the presidential contest of the next year.

#### MINNESOTA.

Turning our attention to Minnesota, it will be observed that a great tide of immigration had for several years been setting toward this territory, most of the new-comers locating in the eastern and

and central counties, and the territory was enjoying an era of great prosperity. Willis A. Gorman was then governor of the territory, and Henry M. Rice was our delegate in Congress.

On the third day of January, 1855, the sixth territorial legislature assembled at St. Paul. An important part of the business of the session was that of carving out of the grand domain of the territory, many new counties.

#### THE COUNTY.

On the twentieth day of February, an act was passed entitled "An Act to Define the Boundaries of Certain Counties." By section six of said act, it is enacted, "That so much territory as is embraced in the following boundaries, be and the same is hereby established as the county of Faribault: beginning at the southwest corner of township one hundred and one (101) north, range twenty-three (23) west, running thence west on the boundary line between the territory of Minnesota and the state of Iowa, thirty-six miles to the township line, between ranges twenty-nine (29) and thirty (30) west; thence north on said township line twenty-four miles to the township line, between one hundred and four (104) and one hundred and five (105) north; thence east on said line thirty-six (36) miles to the township line between range twenty-three and twenty-four west; thence south on said township line twenty-four (24) miles to the place of beginning."

An apportionment of the territory was made at the same session of the legislature, for legislative purposes. District number ten (10), was composed of the counties of Le Sueur, Steele, *Faribault*, Blue Earth, Brown, Nicollet, Sibley, Pierce and Renville, and was entitled to one councilman and three representatives.

#### THE NAME OF THE COUNTY.

The county of Faribault was so named in honor of Jean Baptiste Faribault. Gen. Henry H. Sibley, a gentleman of distinguished character and abilities, and as well acquainted with the early history of the State, its prominent men and public affairs, as any other person in the State, and a member of the legislature, at the above session, in a letter answering an inquiry on this subject, says:

ST. PAUL, MINN., May 13, 1872.

J. A. KIESTER, Esq.,

Dear Sir: I have your favor of the 9th inst., and in reply beg leave to state, that while I have no positive information on that point, my strong impression is, that your county was named for Jean B. Faribault, he having been one of the oldest of our pioneers, and reference to that fact being the basis upon which some of our counties were designated. You are right in the statement that the city of Faribault was named for his son, Alexander Faribault, who was the founder of the town and still resides there. I think you will not go wrong in assuming that Faribault County was named for the senior of that name.

Very truly yours,

H. H. SIBLEY.







J. B. FARIBAULT.

In reply to a letter subsequently addressed to J. F. Williams, Esq., the courteous and efficient Secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, the following answer was received:

ST. PAUL., Dec. 26, 1872.

J. A. KIESTER, ESQ.,

My Dear Sir: I am still unable to ascertain anything definite, or satisfactory, relative to the naming of Faribault County. I have talked with several who (I thought) ought to know, but strange to say, they cannot tell any more than we can. I have written to others with even less success. \* \* \* What I can learn, however, leads me to conclude that Faribault County was named for Jean Baptiste Faribault. It would seem natural, reasoning on general principles, that it should have been named for him. He was one of the very earliest pioneers of Minnesota. \* \* \* He was a man of fine education, good abilities, considerable means and great influence, both among whites and Indians, at an early day. If, as was done frequently, counties were named after pioneers and early explorers, he would be the one selected. I am perfectly satisfied as much as if I knew it, that Faribault County was named for Jean Baptiste Faribault.

I remain yours truly,

J. F. WILLIAMS.

And who was

JEAN BAPTISTE FARIBAULT?

We find the following brief notice of him in the Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, vol. 1. "He was the son of Bartholomew Faribault, who was born in Paris, France, and who became an eminent jurist in that country, but emigrated in 1754, to Canada, and held office there until the downfall of the French dominion in America.

"His son, the subject of this sketch, was born in Canada. At the age of 17 he entered on mercantile pursuits, at Quebec, and remained until 1796, when he yielded to his adventurous and active disposition and entered the Indian trade, engaging in John Jacob Astor's "North-Western Fur Company," as an agent. He was sent to Mackinac first, and soon after came to the upper Mississippi river, and after a brief stay at a post near the mouth of Des Moines river, became a resident of what is now Minnesota. He carried on a trade with the Indians for about half a century, the last forty years on his own account. He married in 1814 a half-breed daughter of Major Hanse, then superintendent of Indian affairs. Mr. Faribault espoused the cause of the United States, during the war of 1812, and lost many thousand dollars thereby, as well as narrowly escaping with his life on several occasions. He labored all his life to benefit the red man, teach him agriculture and the arts of industry, and how to protect his interests. He had an unbounded influence over many of them; his advice was never disregarded. He was prominent at all the treaties and councils and rendered the United States many valuable services."

In an address delivered by Gen. Sibley in 1856, we find the following further facts, in relation to Mr. Faribault. "He removed to this country in 1798. His career in this region was marked with more of adverse fortune, than usually occurs, even in the perilous life of an Indian trader. Shortly after the close of the war with Great Britan, he was robbed by the Winnebagoes, at Prairie du Chien, of a large stock of goods, for which he never received any remuneration. Some years subsequently he fixed his residence upon Pikes Island, near Fort St. Anthony (now Snelling) and had barely established himself in his vocation of trader, when he was forced, by the Mandate of the Commandant of the Fort, to abandon his buildings and betake himself with his movable property to the bottom land on the east side of the Mississippi, where he erected new tenements. The following spring, the water, which was unusually high, carried off his houses and live stock, he and his family escaping in boats, by means of which he was fortunately enabled to save his goods and furs from destruction. Still undiscouraged, he built a house at the point now known as Mendota, where he resided many years, except during the winter months, when he assumed charge of his trading post at Little Rapids, on the Minnesota river. He acquired a considerable fortune though having met with so many reverses."

In person, Mr. Faribault was below the medium height, of prepossessing appearance and of much dignity and frankness. It is said of him that he was a gentleman of the old French school, of Parisian style and of great affability and urbanity of manners and that, notwithstanding his long residence among savages and at the out post of civilization, in the far northwest, he never lost his accomplishments and character of a well bred gentleman. It appears from a letter received from his grandson, that Mr. Faribault, in very early days, in company with General John C. Fremont and General Sibley, visited this region of country, on an exploring and hunting expedition, and that they were near what is now the locality of Blue Earth City, for some days. He lived to a great age and spent the last years of his eventful life with his sons, at Fairbault, in Rice county, in this State. He died Aug. 20th, 1860, and was at the time of his death, the oldest white resident of what is now Minnesota. Our county is indeed worthily named and its people should, some day, erect an appropriate memorial, in honor of him whose name the county bears.

A brief notice of Alexander Faribault, the oldest and most prominent of the sons of Jean Baptiste Faribault, may be of interest. In a letter from a friend, who, at the writer's request, visited Mr. Faribault, we find the following statements: "He was born at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, in 1806. He is one-half French blood,





ALEXANDER FARIBAULT.

one-fourth Scotch and one-fourth Sioux Indian. He settled at Fort Snelling in 1819, and removed to Faribault (Rice County) in 1853, where he still resides (December 12, 1871). He is the father of ten children, seven of whom are now living. He possesses a good business education and speaks the English language very correctly. Since his removal to Faribault, he has adopted the manners and customs of the whites and is a good citizen, public spirited and generous to a fault, and has ever taken an active and lively interest in the growth and prosperity of Faribault, which was named for him. Mr. Faribault is quite actively engaged in business, and owns one of the best flouring mills in Faribault, which was built by him some eight years ago at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. His wife is a full blood, of the Dakota, or Sioux tribe of Indians, and still retains the dress and customs of her tribe. Mr. Faribault was chief of the Wabasha band of Sioux, up to the time of his settlement in Faribault."

It appears that Mr. Faribault once visited this region of country. It is stated in the history of Rice county, Minnesota, that he, "in the spring of 1833, followed the Indians south, to their hunting grounds, located in the present county of Faribault. (Should have added Martin.) The place had an Indian name signifying chained lakes."

He was a member of the second territorial legislature, being one of the representatives of legislative district number seven.

He died November 28, 1882.

The following tribute to his memory was written by one who knew him well.

"He was a man of the kindest feelings, the most inflexible integrity and an evenness of temper, which was seldom ruffled. A man more universally beloved and respected has never departed from among us."

The county being now bounded and named, we shall proceed to relate

#### THE STORY OF THE FIRST SETTLER.

Moses Sailor was the first permanent settler of Faribault county. He was born in Monroe county, state of Ohio, in the year 1808, and was married at the age of twenty-four years. He has always been a farmer by occupation. Immediately after marrying he emigrated to Elkhart county, Indiana, which was then quite a new and sparsely settled country. Here he continued to reside for twenty-two years. His wife died in 1849, leaving him with nine children. In the fall of the year 1854, he emigrated, with his family, to Chickasaw county, Iowa, where he took up quarters for the winter, in the village of Bradford. Finding that the country there had already been mainly taken up and, as he says, "Not being new enough to

suit his pioneer tastes," and desiring to get lands for his boys as well as a home for himself, he concluded to prospect further, as soon as the weather would permit in the spring. Having heard very favorable accounts of the territory of Minnesota, he, near the first of April, 1855, in company with James Little and John Love, carrying their guns, provisions and blankets, started on foot from Bradford, on an exploring expedition into Minnesota. After a day's journey, neither roads nor settlements existed, but striking out boldly into the wilderness, they directed their course by the aid of a pocket compass and a map, for the head waters of the Blue Earth river, as that stream was somewhat indefinitely laid down on the maps of that time. The first point at which they struck the Blue Earth river, was on the east branch, about two miles east of the site of Blue Earth City. Here they stopped and built a fire on the eighth day of April, at about eleven (11) o'clock in the forenoon. Leaving Mr. Little here, Mr. Sailor and Mr. Love proceeded across the prairie for the west branch of the river, to examine the timber and lay of the country. They reached the west branch on section twenty, in town 102, range 27, as was indicated by the section stakes and quite near where Mr. Sailor subsequently took his "claim."

After prospecting for a few hours and being much pleased with the country, they returned to Mr. Little and then all proceeded to the junction of the two branches of the river, afterwards known as "the forks," near which they were so fortunate as to find a small, rough log cabin, on the north bank of the stream. It was very rudely built, quite low and not more than ten by twelve feet in size, and had evidently been built as a mere temporary shelter.

This cabin had been erected by one Thomas Holmes, of Shakopee, a famous explorer and town-site locator, in the early days of the territory of Minnesota. He was in this region in 1854, and erected this cabin, with the intention of making a claim of the land adjoining, with a view of eventually laying out a town in the vicinity. This he never did, however, but went so far as to employ two men, whose names are now forgotten, to go upon the land and who occupied this cabin a short time. But Mr. Holmes not coming with provisions, as agreed, they returned to Shakopee and the project of laying off a town was given up by him. This cabin was the first advance made in the building of a human habitation, on the capacity and architectural style of an Indian tepee. It was the first house erected in the county. To return to our company, it being now near night, they concluded to camp here. This country at the time, presented a very favorable aspect. The snow of which there seemed to have been but little during the winter, had all disappeared.







MOSES SAILOR,  
The First Settler.

The ground was dry and the grass just starting. The streams were very low and easily forded. A bright, warm sun, cloudless skies and a mild and balmy atmosphere, welcomed our explorers to this new land.

The next morning they started northward to Mankato, exploring the timber and adjacent prairies and camped in the evening near Jackson's lake, in Blue Earth county. The next day they reached Mankato, which they found to be a small village of some fifteen houses, large and small, and a frontier hotel, where they stopped. This town had been laid out some three years before. Here they learned that it was currently reported that the Winnebago Indians, who were soon to be removed from their location in the more northern part of the territory, were to be located upon a "Reservation" on the head-waters of the Blue Earth river, in Faribault county. Should this occur, our pioneers would, of course, have to abandon any intention of settling in this county. They then proceeded to prospect the country for a few days on the Blue Earth, Maple and Cobb rivers, in Blue Earth county, with which they were highly pleased. At this time there were but a few scattered settlers in Blue Earth county and but one small village—Mankato. At an election held in that county, in the fall of this year, but eighty-six votes were polled. There were but a few settlers in Freeborn county, and this county and all the territory west, and northwest was vacant.

Being entirely satisfied with the country, our company returned by their former route, through this county to Bradford and determined to remove into Blue Earth county, immediately in the vicinity of Mankato. In pursuance of this conclusion, Mr. Sailor, on or about the 8th day of May, started from Bradford with his family of children consisting of five sons, Jacob, Able, Daniel, William and Manuel and three daughters, Esther, Amanda and Roxina, all of whom subsequently remained here as residents of the county. He was accompanied by one Solomon Myers and Archibald Morris and family. They travelled in covered wagons heavily loaded with household goods and provisions, each wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, the great motive power of new countries. They had decided to settle somewhere on the Maple river, in Blue Earth county, and the route they travelled lay by Clear lake, in Iowa, Walnut lake and Minnesota lake, in this county. This country as before intimated was then a trackless wilderness, no roads, or bridges, no human habitations and the "trail" made by Mr. Sailor and his company, was the first wagon track made in the county, by any settler. They stopped on the Maple river, about ten miles from Mankato, where Mr. Sailor left the company in camp and proceeded to Mankato. Here he found that the Indians had selected their Reservation in Blue

Earth county. He then concluded to return and settle on the headwaters of the Blue Earth, in this county, but Mr. Morris decided not to accompany him and remained in Blue Earth county a short time. Mr. Sailor accompanied by Mr. Myers travelled on his return by the route he had taken when prospecting, there being no track, or road however, and on the twenty-fifth day of May, near noon, he had reached his journey's end and stopped on the west half of the southwest quarter of section twenty, which with the south half of the southeast quarter of section nineteen, adjoining, all in township one hundred and two, of range twenty-seven, he determined to claim.

On locating Mr. Sailor proceeded to break up about five acres of land, which he planted to corn and potatoes, camping in the meantime, in his wagon and a large tent, which he had brought with him.

This sod corn produced plenty of "roasting ears," and fodder sufficient for one horse and a dozen hogs during the succeeding winter. The potatoes yielded abundantly and were of a superior quality. After getting in his crop, he proceeded to erect a log house. This building was eighteen by twenty-four feet and one story high and was completed in about a week, except the roof, which was partly covered by the tent cloth. And this was the second house in this county.

Provisions now getting scarce, Mr. Sailor went about 120 miles into Iowa, for a supply. He was gone some twelve days and on his return he finished up his house, putting on a "shake" roof. This old house long since disappeared, but it was once the headquarters of the county—the only hotel, or stopping place, in a vast region for sometime—the first resort of new comers—the scene of many a hospitable entertainment and of many a frontier dance and social gathering in the early days. The boys set to work to break up some ten acres more of land in the early summer and a small additional tract was broken in October, which Mr. Sailor says did not prove valuable, as the sod instead of rotting, dried in tough strips and pieces like old sheep skins and lay about for some three or four years. He says he knows more about "breaking" now, than he did then.

During the year many Indians, sometimes as many as two hundred, or three hundred, in a company, would call on Mr. Sailor, generally wanting tobacco, sugar, pork and sometimes "fire-water," which latter article he never let them have. In fact the country was full of small bands of roving Indians, who were engaged in hunting and fishing and sometimes on the war-path, but he says they were always peaceable and well disposed towards him.

In those days he says game and fur-bearing animals were very plenty, especially wolves, foxes, mink, otter and elk, though but few deer. There were squirrels, rabbits, gophers, prairie chickens, geese, ducks, cranes, some few black bear, panthers, wild cats, wood chucks, musk rats and skunks, and the lakes and streams were stocked with fish. He further says that on his arrival he found no buffalo, but observed a stamping or herding ground near the state line, where a large number of buffalos had stopped during the preceding winter. During the year the health of himself and family was very good, and the weather until winter set in, unusually pleasant.

He has continued to reside on the land he first took up. His farm has been largely improved and he has long since erected a comfortable frame house and large barn. Mr. Sailor is of medium stature, well built and has black hair and a long dark beard, now well sprinkled with gray; dark eyes and dark complexion, and in his prime was a man of great muscular power and endurance—hard working and courageous. He belongs to that race of hardy adventurous pioneers, known only in the far west, who have the courage to abandon the advantages of old settled countries and go upon the extreme frontier, or plunge into the wilderness and amid want and hardships and privations, surrounded by many dangers, open up the ways of settlement and civilization.

He remarried some years ago (1869), and is passing his declining years in ease and comfort, owing no man anything, strictly honest in his dealings, hospitable and a Jackson democrat. In the early days of the county, he served the public well and faithfully for some years as County Commissioner. But he now takes no interest in politics, or public affairs, except to vote. He says he has no ambitions to gratify and hates turmoil and strife. May the evening of his days be cloudless, and his sun of life set in tranquility and peace, preludeing a still brighter day that may break for him on the other shore.

Since writing the above sketch, Mr. Sailor departed this life. He died February 14, 1896.

#### OTHER SETTLERS AND VISITORS OF 1855.

A short time after Mr. Sailor had located, Austin R. Nichols and Harry G. Roberts, called upon him, having followed his wagon track from the north.

In a letter to the writer Mr. Nichols says, his and Robert's actual residence (or settlement) dates June 8th, and that Mr. E. Crosby came in a few days after their settlement.

These persons located in town 104, range 28, now Winnebago city township.

Mr. Archibald Morris, having concluded to follow Mr. Sailor arrived about this time. In June also came Henry T. Stoddard and Newel Dewey, and selected claims. As they had only come to look out the land, they remained but a short time, but about the first of November following, Mr. Stoddard returned, accompanied by his wife and his father, Mr. Dewey and Henry R. Walker. They all settled in town 103, range 28, now Verona.

A man by the name of White, with whom Mr. Sailor had become acquainted on the Cedar river, in Iowa, came to the county with his wife and son, about the first days of June, and took a claim near Walnut lake, in town 103, range 25. He erected a "shanty," broke up several acres of land and planted a few potatoes, but soon went back to Iowa. He returned in the fall and harvested his crop—some fourteen bushels—and brought them to Mr. Sailor. At this time he discovered that he had taken his claim on a school section and could not hold it. He left the country again and never returned.

Benjamin Gray and family and Aaron Mudge and family, became residents of the county this year. Orlow Webster, James L. McCrery, J. G. Whitford, W. H. Furness and Rufus Nichols, visited the county and selected claims, and the next year brought in their families and remained. James Johnson was among the settlers of this year. Alexander Johnson visited the county but did not remain. The next year he returned and became a permanent resident.

In the latter part of August, Levi Billings, Sr., and Albert Billings, John Boon and his sons Nelson and William and Crawford W. Wilson passed through the county and called on Mr. Sailor. Mr. Wilson returned in the fall with his family, accompanied by Jacob Miller, and took a claim in town 101, range 27, now Elmore.

Mr. Billings, Sr., and one Dickinson and Rufus Clark, all residents of Iowa, had for a number of seasons previous to this, been in this county hunting buffalo calves and elk, which they shipped to Chicago, Illinois, and sold at large prices. Mr. Billings was thoroughly acquainted with the country and determined to locate a town near the "forks" of the Blue Earth river, either on the same ground, or in the vicinity of the present location of Blue Earth City. In pursuance of this design, in the autumn of this year, he sent in a number of teams loaded with provisions and the irons and castings for a saw mill, which he designed to erect near the forks, on the east branch of the Blue Earth, the next spring. With these loads came Albert Billings, Levi Billings, Jr., William M. Scott and one Rouse. Several of these parties designed to remain here during the winter, but for some cause, after engaging Messrs. Gray and Mudge, to get out the mill timbers, during the winter, which they did, they all returned to Iowa, all purposing to come again to the county in the spring.

Owing to various unfavorable circumstances, Mr. Billings' intention of laying off a town and erecting a mill was never carried out, and the timbers, designed for the mill, were subsequently used for a bridge across the east branch of the Blue Earth river, near Blue Earth City, and was the first bridge across that stream.

During this autumn, Henry Schuler, also, made a flying visit to the county, and was so well pleased with the country that he returned the next spring. On his return, an accident occurred to him, which nearly cost him his life. He had selected a claim across the Blue Earth river, west of Stoddard's, where he was stopping. The water being very high at the breaking up in the spring, he had constructed a rude raft of logs, on which he passed back and forth to his work on his claim. On one occasion, some time in March, when far out in the stream, his raft swamped and he went down, but fortunately caught hold of some limbs and tops of small trees. After a long struggle in the water, which was very cold, swimming, and wading to his neck, he reached the west bank, nearly exhausted. He rested a moment, but found he should freeze to death, very soon, as the wind was very cold. He could not re-cross the stream and there were no residents on the west side. He must keep moving, and as there was no other way of saving his life, he started northward, but was compelled to wade, or swim, a number of streams, until at length he reached a house, near Vernon, in Blue Earth county. He was so worn out and chilled, that he could not have gone a mile further. Here he recuperated somewhat and then went to Mankato. At Stoddard's, as Schuler did not return, it was concluded he had been drowned and Stoddard proceeded at once to Mankato also, where was the nearest blacksmith shop, to have some grappling hooks made to drag the river for Schuler's body. Stoddard had arrived at the shop and had just given his order, for the hooks, which were to be made at once, when suddenly Schuler stepped into the shop! The hooks were not needed.

The names above given include all those, so far as the writer has been able to learn, after the most careful inquiry, who settled in the county, or visited it with the intention of locating here, in 1855.

The list of actual settlers is very short.

It is curious to observe, as we proceed with this history, how and when, the men who have taken a large part in the public affairs of the county and in its growth and development, appeared here upon the scenes of their life work. And it is worthy of record, as a valuable historic fact, that this county has been fortunate, beyond most others, in the character of its inhabitants generally from the beginning. With but rare exceptions, they have ever been an intelligent, law-abiding and industrious people. Among them too, even from the earliest years, have been quite a number of men of more

than ordinary ability and of very liberal education in the schools and professions. And these facts have had their legitimate results, apparent on every hand.

PRODUCTS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Nothing more than a few garden vegetables and some sod corn were raised during the year and the improvements made, consisted only of a few log cabins and some acres of breaking. The winter set in about the fourteenth day of December. The snows fell deep and the cold became severe and the year closed in a hard winter.

The monotony in the lives of the few lonely residents here during that winter, was broken occasionally by visits among themselves and the Indians favored them with a few calls, which, however, were never returned. But very important events were near at hand, as will be seen in the next chapter.



## CHAPTER II.

A. D. 1856.

The year 1856 was an eventful and ever memorable one in the history of this county. The record of its events reads like a romance.

While during the winter of 1855-6, the few settlers here were living quietly awaiting the events of the future, and not knowing what was in store for them, far away from the borders of the county, plans were being laid by men who had never been within its limits, which were greatly to affect its future and control the lives and shape the destinies of many people.

The first important matter of the year demanding our attention was the project of certain persons whom we shall name, the

## TOWN-SITE PIONEERS.

On a cold stormy night in the last days of January 1856, James B. Wakefield, Henry P. Constans, Spier Spencer and Samuel V. Hibler, with several others, whose names are not important to this history, were assembled in a small store by a warm stove, in the town of Shakopee, in Scott county, Minnesota. All were poor in purse, but in youth, health and courage, were rich and hopeful.

This was a year ever memorable in Minnesota of inflated prices of land and of wild speculations. Immigrants had been coming into the territory in great numbers and for several years past great improvements had been made and fortunes acquired in a day, by speculators in lands, town-sites and corner lots. The prospects for the year just beginning were very flattering. The conversation of this small company turned upon these interesting subjects and the project was proposed of striking out somewhere and founding a city. Others were doing this very thing and were rapidly acquiring wealth and why should they not do the same? The company was "impecunious" it was true, but what of that—"where there is a will there is a way." So it was then and there agreed to go forth into the wilderness and find a suitable place for a town-site, survey and plat it and settle down as permanent citizens and build a town. Speculation was not the sole motive of this project. A desire to secure permanent locations, the establishment of business and to contribute their mite, toward the building up

and development of the country, as well as the bettering of their financial condition, induced this determination.

The first intention was to go into Freeborn county, but on examining the map of southern Minnesota, the valley of the Blue Earth river, fixed the attention of the company. The buffalo and elk hunter, the trapper, the Indian and the explorer, had already told their stories, of the beauty and fertility of the Blue Earth valley. Thomas Holmes, heretofore mentioned, had talked in glowing language of the forks of the Blue Earth river, as an eligible location for a town and so to the head-waters of the Blue Earth river, our company decided to go.

The winter had been long and cold. It was now the beginning of February and the snow lay twenty inches deep on the level and great drifts were piled in every direction, but what are such difficulties to western energy, bent on great projects?

Our little company nothing daunted, hired one Huffman, with his team and sled, which might have been named the *Argo*, and gathered together a few provisions, consisting of flour, pork, beans, some culinary utensils and a ten gallon keg of a peculiar fluid extract of rye, which latter article had been recommended by solicitous friends, as a valuable medicine in cases of frost-bites, snake-bites, chills, or general prostration, and well armed with guns, pistols and plenty of ammunition, they started for the forks of the Blue Earth, across a trackless region, like the Argonauts in pursuit of the golden fleece, across unknown seas.

The cold was intense and the roads, where there were any, were blockaded. South of Mankato no roads existed then and after a tedious journey, on the 6th day of February, 1856, our company near evening crossed the lands where Blue Earth City now stands, and proceeded about a mile further south, to the cabin of Moses Sailor, the first settler, whose hospitality they claimed for the night.

Having travelled all day over trackless prairies, plunging through deep snow drifts, sometimes breaking the way for the team, our pioneers were well nigh exhausted and they enjoyed the hearty welcome, the warm fire, the corn bread and bacon of the first settler. Having fully explained their designs to Mr. Sailor, the next morning our pioneers, with Mr. Sailor in the lead, entered upon the lands where the future city was to be built and Mr. Sailor, knowing the ground well, pointed out to them in glowing language, the beauty and adaptability of the location for a town-site. But few words are necessary with men of business and it was forthwith decided, here on the north-half of section seventeen in township one hundred and two of range twenty-seven, to found the town. This decided they were shown the small log cabin spoken of in the pre-

ceding chapter in which they stored their goods and took up their abode for the present.

On the following day Wakefield and Spencer started out with the team, on their return to Shakopee, leaving Constans and Hibler to hold possession of the country.

The weather, as before intimated, was cold and the snows deep, but in all countries "business is business" and delays are said to be dangerous. Certain matters of great importance required immediate attention and hence the hurried return of Wakefield and Spencer. The Eden of Minnesota had been found, a town was to be built, a county organized, a county seat located. The territorial legislature was then in session at St. Paul, the capital, and thither Mr. Wakefield proceeded.

Constans and Hibler were left alone and went to work to render themselves as comfortable as possible in their cabin. Their usual amusements were chopping wood and carrying it up the steep bank of the river, to their cabin, keeping fire and cooking their victuals. Frequently informal visits would be made to Mr. Sailor's, where they would get a warm meal, which visits would be kindly returned by Mr. Sailor in a day or two, and these courtesies were usually, according to the strict etiquette of the times, rendered mellow and agreeable, by "a little something to take." All times have their follies and fashions and there are many things easily excusable, in the ways and manners of the pioneers of a new country.

Thus the time passed until about the seventh day of March, when Mr. Wakefield returned with a pocketful of official commissions and accompanied by another new settler, George B. Kingsley. Mr. Spencer did not return. During Mr. Wakefield's absence, he secured the passage of an act by the legislature, dated February 23rd, 1856, organizing the county of Faribault, of which the following is a copy:

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

AN ACT TO ORGANIZE THE COUNTY OF FARIBAULT AND TO ESTABLISH  
THE COUNTY SEAT OF SAID COUNTY.

(Passed February 23, 1856.)

SECTION 1.—Be it enacted by the legislative assembly of the territory of Minnesota: That the county of Faribault be, and the same is hereby declared to be, an organized county, and invested with all the rights, privileges and immunities to which all organized counties in this territory are entitled by law.

Sec. 2.—That "Blue Earth City," situated between the forks of the Blue Earth river, as laid out and named by James B. Wakefield and others, be and the same is hereby declared to be the temporary county seat of said county and

the county commissioners to be appointed, as hereafter provided, shall have full power to locate the county building thereon.

SEC. 3.—That the Governor shall appoint and commission three suitable persons, the same being qualified voters of said county, to be a board of county commissioners for said county, with full power and authority to perform all acts and discharge all duties devolving upon the board of county commissioners of any organized county in this territory. And that he shall also appoint and commission one sheriff, a register of deeds, and two justices of the peace for said county, who shall hold their offices respectively until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified.

SEC. 4.—The said county of Faribault shall be attached to the county of Blue Earth for judicial purposes.

SEC. 5.—That at the next general election, the inhabitants of said county shall determine by vote, where the county seat of said county shall be located and all male inhabitants of said county, over the age of twenty-one years, who have acquired an actual residence in said county, shall have the right to vote on the location of said county seat.

SEC. 6.—This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

#### OUR FIRST MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

This county was first represented in the legislature, after it was named and its boundaries defined in 1855, by Charles E. Flandrau, of Traverse d' Sioux, a lawyer, in the council, and by Parsons K. Johnson, of Mankato, a tailor and Aurelius F. De La Vergne, of Le Sueur, a shoemaker, and Geo. A. McLeod, of Traverse d' Sioux, a merchant, in the house of representatives, they appearing as the representatives of the tenth district (of which this county was a part) in the seventh territorial legislature which assembled January 2d, 1856.

#### THE FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS.

In pursuance of the act above mentioned, his excellency, W. A. Gorman, then territorial governor, appointed and commissioned the officers provided for in the act as follows:

For County Commissioners—James B. Wakefield, Chairman; Henry T. Stoddard, Moses Sailor.

For Register of Deeds—Samuel V. Hibler.

For Sheriff—Henry P. Constans.

For Justices of the Peace—George B. Kingsley and Newal Dewey.

The commissions of all these officers bear date Feb. 25th, 1856. They all qualified, except Mr. Dewey, and entered upon the discharge of their official duties, which, it should be remarked, were not specially burdensome, nor were the emoluments great. The county was now organized, the county seat located and officers ready for business.

It is true that at the time of the organization of the county, there were not probably more than fifteen voters in the county, nor

was Blue Earth City in existence when the county seat was located there, nor was there any county business to be done, but these were small matters to men of large and liberal views and comprehensive purposes. All these things were to come and these energetic pioneers looking into the future went ahead in these little formal matters to prepare the way.

It is a little remarkable, that no record now exists of any meeting of this board of county commissioners during the year 1856. It is well known, however, that the board took no action worthy of historic record.

But to resume the narrative: our pioneers, now four of them, Wakefield, Constans, Hibler and Kingsley, all living in the small cabin, decided that their quarters were too small and uncomfortable and determined at once to build a larger house. This they proceeded to do and, after a week or two of hard work and the assistance of the Sailor boys the result was, "The Elkhorn," erected on the proposed town-site of Blue Earth City. It was the first house on the town-site. The building was constructed of rough logs and was very roomy, being sixteen by twenty-two feet, one story high, large chimney, puncheon floor and one civilized window. As soon as completed they removed into this commodious tenement and it became the general rendezvous, and head-quarters of the county for some time.

Spring set in about the middle of March and the snow soon entirely disappeared, but it was still cold, and right about this time we reach in the history of these pioneers, one of those "times that try men's souls." Provisions had run very low and our Sailor friends had also exhausted their store. The weather continued cold—the ice in the streams was breaking up—the waters getting high and traveling was impossible. Day after day even weeks passed but no one came bringing provisions, nor could anyone go after a supply. Starvation stared the company in the face. They were at last reduced to buckwheat "slapjacks," the flour being stirred up with water, and as a rarity occasionally seasoned with ground cinnamon bark. This was the only article of food for some weeks, except that on several occasions some wild game—a squirrel or a rabbit—was shot by the nimrods of the party.

And to add greatly to their miseries, their stock of tobacco became entirely exhausted—not a crumb left. Oh for one chew! just one smoke! was the repeated exclamation. Barks and roots were tried but gave no relief—pockets were worn out with the involuntary search for the weed and in the silent hours of the night weird dreams came to them of jolly "plugs" of pure "Cavendish," great smoking Meerschaums and Royal Havanas, dancing in the air. How strange that people will subject themselves to such habits!

During this trying time, however, an event occurred which threw the company into great excitement—a fine fat coon was discovered in a tree top, at a short distance! Here now was something of real importance. It had of course to be taken by some means—“they were out of meat.” It was one of those great emergencies, where presence of mind, steady nerves and skill alone triumph. So the mighty hunter Constans, by far the best marksman in the party and a dead shot, was deputed to bring down the coon. He approached the game with that silence, stealth and cunning, known only to the skilled hunter. He took deadly aim with a rest, he fired—the coon did not stir. Quickly loading again with great care and circumspection, he shot again but strange to say there were no signs of trouble in that tree top. The coon did not say as Crockets did “I’ll come down.” And now, alas, it was found that the shot were all exhausted. What was to be done? Our nimrod wore a vest, on which were some round buttons, out came his knife and off came the buttons—this thing was growing serious—no more fooling Mr. Coon. The gun was reloaded heavily. Mr. Constans concentrating his powers, took another deadly aim—fired and down came the coon and down also came the hunter. The gun killed, or nearly so, at both ends. It had kicked him fair on the nose, knocking him over, and that useful organ, being quite prominent, was badly smashed and dilapidated. But they got the coon and had a fat time.

Life in Fairbault county during the times of which we write was not specially attractive and began to hang heavily upon our pioneers. No amusements—but few neighbors, no mails, nothing to do, except the cooking of their meals and carrying in their wood and water. Their stories had all been told a dozen times, invention even was exhausted, no reading matter but that which had been read and re-read until it had become disgustingly stale. A vocal band was organized and much time spent in singing. Quiet games of cards were played, with no other purpose than to kill time, or as was often the fact to determine definitely who should bring in the next bucket of water, or back in the next load of wood. The last days of the month arrived and with it the occurrence of a great and long hoped for event.

#### NEW SETTLERS APPEAR.

Wm. M. Scott, Levi Billings Jr., Albert Billings and Zimri Butler, arrived from Iowa at this time, with a load of stores and provisions. Daniel L. Harrington, Levi Billings Sr., with Mrs. Billings and Mrs. Scott, were several days behind, with another load of stores. This latter company, however, had got lost and wandered off to Walnut Lake, and not arriving as expected, a party consisting

of J. M. Sailor, Constans, Scott, Albert Billings and Butler, went in search of them. They were found and brought in, except Mr. Billings Sr., after a number of days of terrible suffering from cold and hunger. Mr. Billings Sr., in feeble health and almost blind, when he found that they were lost, had hired an Indian whom they met, to bring him to the forks of the Blue Earth, to get assistance to bring in the others, but the Indian proved treacherous, or ignorant, and they wandered about some days and nights on the prairies, when at last he too arrived at Blue Earth City. A new order of things were now inaugurated. Mr. Billings and family took possession of the old cabin on the north bank of the river, until a new house could be built, while Mr. Scott and wife commenced housekeeping in the "Elkhorn," taking our four pioneers as boarders, the Elkhorn thus becoming the first boarding house in the city.

We must here break the chain of this personal narrative, to relate, in the order of time, a tragical event.

#### THE FIRST HOMICIDE—A MYSTERY.

"Blood has been shed ere now i' the olden time,  
Ere human statute purged the general weal;  
Ay, and since too murders have been performed  
Too terrible for the ear."—*Shakespeare*.

During the month of April, 1856, three young men came to Blue Earth City, remained a short time at the Elkhorn, and then proceeded, by way of H. T. Stoddard's, in Verona, a settler of the preceding year, where they remained several days, to the vicinity of Mapleton.

Their names were J. C. Ackley, a young merchant from Connecticut, who had come west to Caledonia, in Houston county, in this state, and Frederick Fisher, who had been a clerk in a store at Caledonia for several years, and E. C. Young, a farmer and resident of Houston county for some years. They were looking for land, desiring to take claims. Ackley took a claim somewhere on the Maple river and went to work. Fisher and Young concluded to look further, and, finally, returned to the house of Mr. Stoddard.

After prospecting several days, Young took up a claim about a mile south of Stoddard's, and Fisher found a tract to suit him, about two-and-a-half miles northwest of Stoddard's, in town one hundred and four, of Range twenty-eight (now Winnebago City township). They boarded with Stoddard, and worked on their claims together, until Young accidentally sprained his right knee, very seriously, and was confined to the house for a week or more. During this time Fisher worked on his claim alone.

On Friday, the day preceding the date of the death of Fisher, while Stoddard's family, including Young and Fisher, were at din-

ner, a number of Indians came to the house. The company comprised a few Sioux, several Winnebagos and a half-breed of bad repute. It appears that these Indians, with quite a number of others, had a large camp near Fisher's claim.

While the Indians were staring in at the door and window, during the dinner, Fisher jokingly made a remark to one of the Indians, which greatly insulted him, but he did not, at the time, seem to specially resent the insult. Fisher went to work on his claim after dinner. About noon of the same day, three white men, named respectively Benson, Humphrey and Sinclair, also came to Stoddard's, looking for land. They went away in the evening, going as they alleged to their boarding place, Tobias Miller's, just over the line in Blue Earth County, but returned the next Wednesday to Stoddard's, when Stoddard hired Benson and Humphrey, and Young hired Sinclair to work. During the afternoon the Indians returned to their camp.

Fisher returned home in the evening as usual. The next morning, Saturday, May 10th, Fisher, accompanied by one Brace, a boarder at Stoddard's and a claim holder, who was going in the same direction, some distance, started for his claim to split rails, taking his dinner, axe and wedges with him. Fisher did not return in the evening as usual, and after waiting until quite late, Stoddard and H. R. Walker on foot, and Young on horseback, went to Fisher's claim, in search of him, but found no traces of him.

On Sunday morning, they with several others, went out again but found nothing of him, except the beetle and wedges. No rails had been split. It was then evident that Fisher had given up his intention of splitting rails, or that something had happened to him on Saturday morning. It was suggested that he might have gone to Ackley's, for clean clothes, where he and Young had left their clothing. But Fisher not returning on Monday, Young sent his hired man, Sinclair, to Ackley's place, to see if Fisher had been, or was then there. It appeared that he had not been at Ackley's and Ackley returned with the messenger to Stoddard's, when another search was made for Fisher, but no further trace of him was found.

The disappearance was unaccountable and foul play began to be suspected. The question arose, naturally, did he have any money with him? It was known that he had a gold watch. Some persons alleged that he had considerable money, as much as three thousand dollars in gold.

It was even said by some, that he had as much gold as would fill a shot bag. But others, who had the best opportunity of knowing, said he did not have more than five dollars, if so much, and that Ackley had loaned him some money, at Austin, on their way coming west. Some days passed, but no tidings came of the missing man.



The man Benson then took Fisher's claim, on condition, that if Fisher appeared, the claim would be given up to him.

Ten days residence on the land was required by law, at that time, and certain improvements, before title could be perfected. Benson completed the improvements and Fisher still not being heard from, Benson, Ackley and Young proceeded to the United States Land Office, then located at Brownsville, Houston County, in this state, and "proved up" on their several claims. Young advanced the means to pay the Government for Benson's claim. Benson, after proving up, sold the land to Young for fifty dollars advance on the cost.

Young remained in Houston county until the last of August, when he returned to Stoddard's' and he became a permanent resident of the county. In the meantime, and about the 10th day of June, or perhaps a little later, Fisher's body was found in a small ravine, on his claim, by Patrick H. Allen. Fisher had been murdered. It was plainly evident how it had been done. He had been stabbed twice in the neck—once in the side and once behind—and was thrown into the ravine and covered with dirt and leaves, lightly, and several small willow withes, sharpened at the ends, were bent over him, in the form of a bow, the ends being stuck into the ground.

Mr. Allen immediately reported the finding of the body, when a small burial party, consisting of Mr. Allen, A. D. Mason, H. H. Bigelow, J. Roberts, T. Maxson, N. Dewey, H. T. Stoddard, H. R. Walker, J. M. Stow, the Rev. J. G. Whitford, most of whom were new settlers in the vicinity, repaired to the locality of the body, and buried the remains near by.

It may be stated as a singular fact, that the gold watch, which Fisher owned, was still on his person, but his boots and hat were gone. Col. Samuel McPhail, of Caledonia, was subsequently appointed administrator of the estate of Fisher, and the watch which had been placed in Stoddard's care, was, by order of the administrator, delivered to Young and was sent to Fisher's brother, residing in Rochester, N. Y.

Suspicion attached to several persons, as the perpetrators of this foul murder, but the most careful and impartial investigation but proved that the suspicions could not be correct, and were but the suggestions of mistake, or malice. Within four months after the homicide, a committee of citizens carefully investigated the affair, and some four years afterwards, the grand jury of the county formally inquired into the case, through all the obtainable witnesses to the facts known, but neither the committee nor the grand jury could learn anything as to the murderer, or any accessory to, or instigator of the crime.

Many circumstances connected with this sad affair, indicated that an Indian did the deed, probably the one offended by Fisher. Nearly a score of years have passed away, but notwithstanding the old adage that, "murder will out," yet no further light has ever been thrown upon the horrible crime and the perpetrator will probably never be known, until the great books shall be opened in the last day. The details of this case, have been given, as they were learned from those who knew most about it.

In the spring of 1874, being some years after the above article was written, a statement appeared in the *Mankato Review*, which was copied into the *Blue Earth City Post*, that a rumor was current to the effect that a short time before that date, a man had died, in Colorado, who, just before his death, confessed that he and another person had committed the murder of Fisher, at the instigation of a person whom he did not name. Several weeks after the above statement was made, the *Review* said that it had learned that the person who was alleged to have made the confession and died—Tobias Miller—was alive and well and that "the whole thing proves to be only a sensational story."

In justice to Mr. Miller, it must be said, that there were never any suspicions, in the early days, that he had anything whatever to do with the crime, and no evidence that he was implicated in it has ever appeared since that time.

The incidents attending this great crime are given so fully here, because it was the first known homicide occurring in the county and has always been a great mystery and, lastly, because at least two lives, besides that of poor Fisher, have been wrecked by aspersions growing out of the event.

And now to resume the story of our pioneers: Good weather had fairly set in, in May. Our company began to prospect the country and make their arrangements for laying off the town and building certain houses, or pre-emption shanties, which were necessary under the pre-emption laws, to hold the town-site lands.

#### THE FIRST MAIL SERVICE.

The want of communication with the outside world was severely felt and it was determined to have, among the first things, regular weekly mail service between Blue Earth City and Mankato. The government was applied to and Mr. Kingsley was appointed post master—the first one in the county—and an arrangement was made with one Simon Dow, who had first come into the county, to carry the mail weekly, for a stipulated sum per trip, to be paid out of the receipts of the offices on the route and such additional sum as the settlers might be induced from time to time to contribute. This plan continued in force until late the next year, when the govern-

ment assumed the entire business of carrying the mails. The mail was carried on horseback most of the time and this means of communication proved a great convenience, as the first mail carrier was a man of a trafficking turn of mind and always returned from Mankato loaded with coffee, tea, pork, *cordials*, tobacco and many other small articles of prime necessity. Passengers by this line "footed" it, but had the company of the mail carrier, who occasionally gave the passenger an opportunity to ride. The writer came into the county by this conveyance.

#### SURVEYING THE TOWN SITE.

Settlers now began to come into various parts of the county rapidly and locate. A number of claims were taken and cabins erected, and as the pleasant month of June arrived, the ground became settled and the great work of surveying the town-site was begun.

Thomas Hood, of Shakopee, a first-class surveyor, was employed and a surveying corps was organized, consisting of Mr. Hood as chief, with Messrs. Kingsley, Constans, Hibler, and one Osgood, a new settler, as assistants, and Wakefield as a general advisory member. The surveying and staking out of the city required about a month's labor, and was completed in the first days of July.

#### THE FIRST STORE.

In the mean time and in the month of June, one Cornelius Garretson arrived with an assorted stock of merchandise, and proceeded to erect a hewed log house. This important building was erected on the southeast quarter of section seventeen (17), adjoining the town-site; and was some twenty feet square and one and one-half stories high. It had, also, actually two floors, two windows, a counter and shelves. Here now was a house as was a house, and the style and finish were the subject of remarks throughout the whole settlement. Here Mr. Garretson displayed his goods—an excellent assortment too—and this was the first store in the county.

#### THE METROPOLITAN.

And now our pioneers had established their town and had built various houses—log cabins. They had a store and a boarding house—the Elkhorn—and a weekly mail, and each of them had secured a "claim" to a quarter section of land and the prospects were glowing. But there was one thing lacking to give character to the place—there was no regular hotel. Immigrants were coming in, land hunters were traversing the country, visitors were calling to see what a country this was, but there was no hotel. A consultation was had. The enterprise was important and expensive. Money was scarce and town lots were not selling yet. Who would undertake this great work? Here our friend Constans, with the

indomitable energy and active industry which have always characterized him, came to the rescue. "Boys," said he, "I'll build and keep the hotel," But it was remarked that he was not married and to keep a hotel required the supervision of a landlady as well as that of a landlord. "I'll manage that matter," said he blushing profusely at the suggestion, as his mind doubtless reverted to a dark eyed Swiss girl, modest and neat, "The girl he left behind him."

In the month of August the hotel was built. The main building was twenty by forty feet, with a wing in the rear, sixteen by twenty-two feet, and the whole building was one and one-half stories high. The house was built of hewn logs and about three thousand feet of hardwood boards were used in the flooring and for other purposes, at a cost of one hundred dollars per thousand feet. The building was completed in the fall and named the Metropolitan. New York had its St. Nicholas, Washington its National, St. Paul its International, why should not Blue Earth City have its Metropolitan? In the fall Mr. Constans was married and fitted up and opened the hotel for the reception of guests.

This house—the first hotel in the county—disappeared several years ago, but it long stood as a land mark of the early days. Within its walls were born all the children of Mr. Constans, now all grown to manhood's years.

It was the first home in this new land of the writer, and of many others, and many were the days, in the long ago, spent by him beneath its hospitable roof, when the winter winds were fierce and cold and in those darker times of Indian troubles, when the ruthless savage went prowling along the frontiers, murdering and burning, this rough old log house was the last and best refuge in all the land.

And here we shall leave these pioneers to be named hereafter as others, only incidently as they may be connected with this history. The thought may be stated here that little does the citizen of to-day, surrounded by all the comforts and blessings of civilized life, know of the hardships, dangers and privations of those early years, and little too of the fortitude and courage with which they were borne by the first settlers, ever hopeful and confident in the rose-colored future.

#### THE FIRST PUBLIC RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

We now proceed to relate a pleasant and memorable event—the preaching of the first sermon at Blue Earth City, and probably the first in the county. The morning of July 13, 1856, broke bright and clear over this new land. It was the Sabbath—the day of rest and worship.

"But the sound of the church-going bell  
 These valleys and rocks never heard—  
 Never sighed at the sound of a knell,  
 Or smiled when a Sabbath appeared!"—*Cowper.*





THE METROPOLITAN,  
The First Hotel.

It was a day of peculiar loveliness. The wide, silent prairies were blooming with innumerable flowers, the neighboring forests and groves seemed more green than usual, and the summer air more balmy. Silence and peace rested like a blessing upon all nature, while the sun in a blue and cloudless sky, shone forth as the central glory and beneficence of the universe, the scenes reminding the beholder of that far gone golden age, sung by the poets, when men led a quiet, pastoral life on the plains of the East—when peace and good will reigned supreme on the earth—when heaven and earth were nearer together and the Sons of Light came down to walk and hold converse with the sons of men.

At such a time and amid such scenes, were the first religious services in Blue Earth City held. A small company, comprising a large majority of the settlers of the county, assembled about ten o'clock in the forenoon, in a shady grove on the plot of the young city. The preacher was the Rev. James G. Whitford, of the Methodist Episcopal Church—a plain unlettered man—sporting no high sounding titles, but possessing a heart full of zeal for the salvation of men—one of those good self-sacrificing men, who, ignoring a life of ease—the allurements of wealth and fame, go forth into the by-ways and hedges, and into the wilderness and amid toils and privations, preach the blessed gospel of the Redeemer and—

“Spend their sweat and blood and tears  
To cultivate Emmanuel's land.”

With reverend and uncovered heads the services commenced, and all joined in the simple but pathetic hymn of praise announced by the preacher, and then all bowed low as the humble prayer of thanks and invocation went up to the great white throne. The text, a part of the 16th verse of the first chapter of Second Peter—“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables”—was read. And then the preacher, in simple and earnest language, told the story of the Cross and pointed out the way of salvation and showed how these were not fables, cunningly devised, but the most blessed and important truths, which had in the course of all the ages, been proclaimed to man. The sermon ended, they all again united in a hymn of praise, and kneeling once more, the preacher poured forth an impassioned prayer to the God of nature and revelation, for the blessing and final salvation of all this little company, and then the benediction was pronounced and the first public services were ended.

The reader may have stood beneath the mighty dome of St. Peters—he may have heard ten thousand voices unite in the praises of the Most High in that grandest Cathedral of all the earth, made by human hands, and may there have witnessed the most awe inspiring ceremonies of religious worship known among men, but here

was a grander Cathedral—nature's temple of the ever living God—a temple bounded only by the distant horizon and whose dome was the clear, blue summer skies—whose floor was not made of the polished mosaics of art, but was the solid earth, clothed and garnished by nature. And here too, was a worship grand in its simplicity, affecting in its pathos and acceptable in its humility and sincerity.

#### THE PIONEERS OF THE MINISTRY.

But regular religious services were not yet established in the county. That work was left for the Rev. J. W. Powell and Rev. R. A. Judd, of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a little later the Rev. J. E. Conrad, of the Presbyterian Church, who soon after preached regularly in the county, and were the pioneers of the ministry in this county.

Mr. Judd died many years ago, having given his life to his country during the great rebellion. The others are yet living. And they still, as the years go by, continue to call men to repentance and a preparation for the life to come, and will doubtless labor on in this highest and holiest of all callings, whatever may betide, until the great Master shall say to each of them, it is enough, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

"The path of the just is as the shining light,  
That shineth, more and more, until the perfect day."

#### CROPS.

There was no harvest in this county in 1856. It is said that no wheat or oats were sown, or if any, so little that no account was taken of it. The principal crops raised during this year, were some seed corn and small patches of potatoes and a few garden vegetables. The great bulk of the provisions, flour, pork, beef, beans, corn meal and other articles were imported, mainly from Iowa.

And now next in the order of time, is the story of the founders of

#### WINNEBAGO CITY.

In September, of this year, five energetic young men, then in St. Paul, moved by the spirit of the times and impelled much by the same motives which had actuated the founders of Blue Earth City, also conceived the idea of establishing a town somewhere in the great Territory of Minnesota. Their names were Andrew C. Dunn, Warren N. Dunham, Elijah H. Barritt, James Sherlock and Charles H. Parker. Having determined on this project, they at once purchased a team and outfit, and all except Mr. Parker, started out to find an eligible location. They laid their course for Lake Albert Lea, in Freeborn county, adjoining this county on the east, and ar-



rived there about the first of October. But on reaching that point they found that the only suitable location for a town had already been taken up by George Ruble and others. They endeavored to get an interest in this location, but failed. The question then arose to what point should they now direct their course? Mr. Dunn remembered having met, during the summer of this year, at Mankato, Grover C. Burt and Hiram L. Young, who were at the time living on the Blue Earth river, in this county, and who had given him very glowing descriptions of the Blue Earth Valley and strongly invited him to visit this region. So they started for the Blue Earth, where they safely arrived and made inquiry for Mr. Young, whom they found living in a tent on the lands of Capt. H. H. Bigelow, adjoining what is now the site of Winnebago City. Mr. Young and one B. K. Burt were then "claiming" the two quarter sections on which the village of Winnebago City was afterwards located, but on learning that our company were desirous of founding a city, they surrendered their claims and took others. Our company camped with Mr. Young about six weeks, while making the claim and locating the town. The town was located upon the south-east quarter of section thirty-four and the south-west quarter of section thirty-five in town one hundred and four of Range twenty-eight west.

The final surveys were made in January, 1857, by Messrs. Wellman and Johnson, civil engineers, of St. Paul, and the plats were filed soon after, in the office of the register of deeds of the county. Mr. Young having the logs hewed for a small house (12x14) was induced by the company to erect the house on the town-site, which was done in November and was occupied by an agent of Mr. Parker, with a small stock of goods during the winter of 1856-7. This was the first house in the town and the first store in the city.

A hotel building next demanded attention. One Dr. W. N. Towndrow, assisted by the town proprietors, undertook this important work. This structure was twenty by thirty-six feet and one and one-half stories high. The boards for the floor and roof—green basswood and elm—were purchased at Mankato, at an expense of about seventy-five dollars per thousand feet. The building, however, was not finished until the next year, but served a good purpose as a fort, during the Indian excitement, in the spring of 1857. A steam saw mill was also purchased in Chicago, by the company during the year, but did not arrive until the following spring. The further history of this young city will be found in the historical sketch of Winnebago City township.

Here now was another village, between which and Blue Earth City there sprang up in after years, contests and rivalries like "The Wars of the Roses," and lasted a long time. No blood was shed, indeed, but in political figuring, bitter denunciations, heated con-

tests and prodigious blustering, resembled somewhat, on a small scale, the old wars of the houses of York and Lancaster. But the old feuds have now happily passed away.

#### THE FIRST ELECTION.

On the second Tuesday, the 14th day of October, the first election in the county for civil officers occurred. It was held at Blue Earth City, the county seat. The whole county was then one election district. The question also of the permanent location of the county seat was voted upon as required by law, and resulted in the unanimous choice of Blue Earth City. The judges of election were Moses Sailor, J. B. Wakefield and H. T. Stoddard. The whole number of votes cast was eighty-two. It seems that no votes were cast for members of the legislative council and house of representatives, in this county at this election. County officers only were elected as follows:—

For County Commissioners—Moses Sailor, Crawford W. Wilson and William M. Scott.

For Register of Deeds—James B. Wakefield.

For Surveyor—Orville Kimball.

It cannot now be determined whether any other county officers were elected at this election, or not, as no record of the election can now be found. This was the year of the eighteenth presidential election, but as Minnesota was then but a territory, no vote was cast here for presidential electors.

The presidential candidates were James Buchanan, democrat, John C. Fremont, republican and Millard Fillmore "know-nothing." Mr. Buchanan was elected, but had only what is called a plurality popular vote. This was the first great contest of the new republican party and the election was an exciting one. The main issue between the republicans and democrats was that of the further extension of slavery. The great plank in the platform of the know-nothing, or American party, was that none but native Americans should be put in office. The real contest, however, was between the two former parties and various causes rendered it a lively one. A great principal was involved, in which the troubles in Kansas heretofore referred to, intensified the interest. An event had also occurred in Washington of such significance as to add fuel to the fires. In May of this year, on the floor of the U. S. senate chamber, Charles Sumner, senator from the state of Massachusetts—a noble and honored statesman, one of the foremost men of the age and a great champion of human rights, while sitting at his desk, was, because of some words spoken in debate, brutally assaulted and beaten over his bare head until he fell to the floor insensible, gashed, bleeding and powerless, by a detestable coward named Brooks—a

representative from South Carolina. It was a most infamous deed and without a parallel anywhere in history. But to return to our local election. It was as above stated the first in the county and we are happy to say it was a model election. Those were the days here of republican (or if you choose democratic) simplicity and purity of the ballot box. There were no parties, nor partizan politics involved at this election. It was not preceded by "packed" caucuses in the townships. There were no county conventions managed by party wire pullers, or political demagogues, dictating for whom the people should vote by setting up candidates. There were no country school house meetings and no riding up and down the county, canvassing the electors and extolling the vast abilities and immaculate virtues of one set of candidates and the prodigious villainy and utter incompetency of the other set. Office hunters and office hunting were unknown and the candidates were the free choice of the electors. The honors of office were unsought and were borne by the recipients with modesty and diffidence. Blessed days were those; but never to return again. Alas! alas! how the times have degenerated! But we must now turn from these subjects to deeds of violence and death nearer home and recount the

#### SECOND HOMICIDE.

Samuel V. Hibler, the register of deeds of the county and one of the original town proprietors, was holding the southwest quarter of section seventeen in township one hundred and two, range twenty-seven, adjoining the town-site of Blue Earth City, as a claim under the pre-emption laws. He had erected a small log cabin and made some other improvements on the land. Not probably living up to the strict letter of the law as to residence upon the land and the land then being deemed quite valuable, one Theophilus Bowen "jumped the claim," as it was called in those days and determined to contest Hibler's right and ordered trial at the local land office, then located at Chatfield, Minnesota. In Hibler's absence Bowen had gone upon the land and taken possession of the building. The jumping of claims was in those days, very unpopular and was viewed as a gross infringement of private rights, which warranted extreme measures. Many persons in those early days lost their lives in this territory because of claim jumping. In many places on the frontiers law and order in the first settlement of the country is not well established, and but little respected and persons considering themselves trespassed upon, often seek to right their wrongs "by the strong and bloody hand."

Hibler returned and on the fifteenth day of October, taking several friends with him, proceeded to the house on his claim and ordered Bowen off of the premises. A young man named Alfonso Brooks,

was in the house at the time with Bowen. High words followed between Hibler and Bowen, and they got into a scuffle, when Brooks interfered and Hibler, who had a stout cane in his hand, struck Brooks over the head. Brooks stooped down to pick up a piece of brick from a small pile in the corner and as he arose, Hibler struck him again on the head several times. Brooks fell and died in about an hour. His skull was broken. Mr. Brooks was buried in the graveyard at Blue Earth City, the Rev. J. G. Whitford preaching his funeral sermon. It was indeed a sad affair. A young man of good habits, intelligent, of inoffensive character and not one of the principal parties to the quarrel, stricken down in the prime of life.

Bowen immediately went to Mankato, in Blue Earth county, to which this county had been attached for judicial purposes, and made complaint against Hibler and some others, whom he considered implicated. The complaint was made before a justice of the peace, who forthwith issued a warrant for the arrest of Hibler and the others. They were arrested and taken before the justice for examination. Thomas J. Galbraith, an able lawyer of Shakopee, and James Dow, an attorney residing at Red Wing, were retained as counsel by Hibler and his friends, and Lewis Branson, of Mankato, who afterwards became judge of the sixth district, appeared as prosecuting attorney. When the case was called, Mr. Galbraith moved the court to discharge the prisoners on the ground that the justice had no jurisdiction over the territory (in the county) where the offence had been committed, the statute of the time enacting that the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace should be "Co-extensive with the limits of his county and no other or greater." They were discharged. Mr. Hibler never returned to this county. He went to Shakopee where he remained a short time, and then returned to Pennsylvania, his native state. The others, being no more than mere spectators of the homicide, came home. Bowen subsequently pre-empted the land in dispute, the larger part of which, in after years, was laid out in additions to Blue Earth City. The current opinion of the time was, that the killing of Brooks was mainly an accident and that Hibler was not seriously to blame under the circumstances.

#### THE WEATHER.

The weather, during the summer and fall of this year, was very pleasant until the winter set in, on the twenty-second day of November, coming down suddenly in the shape of a foot of snow, and became very severe. The winter of 1856-7 will long be remembered over the whole north, as one of the longest, coldest and stormiest ever known in the northwest.

## FROZEN TO DEATH.

But the tragedies of the year are not all told. About the first of December, Daniel Schneider, a resident of the county, and a man named Porter, started for Twin Lakes in the state of Iowa, to bring in a load of provisions, which Porter had succeeded in getting that far, but being unable alone to get further with his load, he had come to the residence of Schneider to get assistance. It was very cold and the snows deep, but they safely reached Twin Lakes and got ready for starting, but were delayed one day as a great snow storm was raging. There was then no one living at Twin Lakes, and they had to camp out.

While at this place there came there a man named Jones, and another man quite advanced in years, whose name is now forgotten, who were on their way to this county. They soon found that they could not move with their load, owing to the great additional depth of snow and the drifts, and the cold becoming very severe, they were compelled to leave everything and seek some human habitation or perish. They turned their oxen loose to shirk for themselves and all started for the residence of one Adams, in the Big Brush, near Forest City, about fourteen miles distant over the open prairies. All were frozen to death on the way, except Jones, who, almost exhausted and with feet and hands badly frozen, reached the cabin of Adams. It appears that Schneider was the first to fail on that terrible journey, as he gave out and laid down to die about six miles from Twin Lakes. Porter kept along some miles further and wandered off the road in the direction of Coon Grove, where he sank down in the sleep of death. The old man whose name is unknown, next succumbed, not far from their destination. A party went out from Forest City in a few days after and brought in the body of Porter, but the others were not found at the time. It was said that Porter had about one thousand dollars in gold with him, but no money was found on his body. Schneider's remains were found the next April, by his father. He was lying on his back, his limbs quietly composed, as though he had gone to sleep. His face and hands had been eaten away by wolves. His pockets had been turned inside out and his wallet lay upon his breast, empty. Whether the remains of the old man were ever found and what became of the oxen and load of provisions, the writer has never been able to learn.

## IMMIGRATION.

Many permanent residents came into the county during the year, and great improvements were made, but there is no means of knowing what the population of the county was at the close of the year.

The first settlements were made during the year in the towns afterwards known as Minnesota Lake, Lura, Delavan, Walnut Lake, Foster, Emerald, Jo Daviess and Seely, as will be seen by reference to the historical sketches of the several towns. The times were prosperous, the future promising and the people active and hopeful.

## CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1857.

---

“Whoop after whoop with rack the ear assailed,  
As if unearthly fiends had burst their bar.”

—*Gertrude of Wyoming.*

---

The year 1857 begun in the midst of one the severest winters ever known in this country. The snows lay very deep on the level prairies and great drifts, lying in every direction, rendered traveling almost impossible.

During the winter, there was nothing to break the monotony, even in the two so-called villages, except the arrival of the weekly mail, bringing letters and papers from the great world, from which the people here were as much isolated as if they were situated on a distant island of the ocean. Sometimes the mail carrier, venturesome as any man, owing to the deep snows and unbroken roads, failed to get through for days after his expected arrival, causing great disappointment and many surmises.

## THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The only event of public, or private importance, occurring during the winter, was the meeting of this board, and is the first meeting of which any record exists. The members of the board were Moses Sailor, C. W. Wilson and William M. Scott. They assembled on the fifth day of January and organized by electing Mr. Scott chairman for the year. James B. Wakefield was clerk. The board proceeded to divide the county into three districts for assessment purposes, but this act was simply a matter of high formality, as it was not intended to have an assessment, or levy any tax, and none was levied, until the next year. A few petitions for roads were examined. The only existing roads then were Indian trails. After a session of a few hours the board adjourned.

## LEGISLATION.

The Eighth Territorial Legislature assembled at St. Paul, January seventh and adjourned March seventh. An extra session was held in April and May. The tenth district, of which this county

was a part, was represented at this session by P. P. Humphery in the council, and Joseph R. Brown, Francis Baasen and O. A. Thomas in the house. No one of them resided in this county. The legislation at this and the extra session following, relating directly to this county, consisted of the following acts:—

An act to incorporate the town of Winnebago City, approved February 19th, section 2 enacted, “That for the good order and improvement of said town, Andrew C. Dunn be and hereby is appointed president; E. H. Burrit, C. H. Parker, James Sherlock and W. N. Dunham be and hereby are appointed trustees.”

An act passed May 19th, incorporating Blue Earth City in these words:—“That so much land as is contained in the plat of Blue Earth City, in the county of Faribault, as the same is platted and recorded, be and the same is hereby created a town corporate, by the name of Blue Earth City.” This is probably the shortest, most indefinite and unsatisfactory incorporation act on record.

An act detaching this county from Blue Earth county, to which it had been attached for judicial purposes in 1856. It was thought that this county had now become able to stand alone. But little business of a judicial character, originating in this county, had been transacted during the union. For many years however, after the separation, persons who were committed by the courts in this county, were sent to the common jail of Blue Earth county and this county footed the bills. An act placing this county in the third judicial district, passed May 23d. By this act the judge of the district court was authorized to hold terms of court in this county and also, in his discretion, to appoint a clerk of court for this county.

Also an act passed May 23d establishing the county of Martin and defining its boundaries, by which one tier of four townships, on the west end of this county, being in range twenty nine, was detached from this county and included in the territory of Martin county. The people of this county were asleep, even snoring, or grossly negligent at this particular time, especially the proprietors of Blue Earth City. The interests of Blue Earth City at least, demanded that the eastern tier of townships—range twenty-four, should have been taken off, if any, and the western tier, range twenty-nine, retained as that would have brought Blue Earth City, the county seat, very near the geographical center of the county, and save a world of trouble afterwards. The proceeding was in fact a bit of sharp practice, quite current in those days and which bore the euphonious name of “Sculduggery.”

It was at this session of the legislature that the famous act was passed for the removal of the seat of government—the Capital—from St. Paul to St. Peter. But the bill very mysteriously disappeared before it became a law and the whole project fell through



to the great joy of St. Paul. The great questions of public interest, among the leading politicians and others, during the winter and spring, were the procuring of a state organization and grants of public lands from the general government to aid in the construction of railroads. Accordingly the "Enabling Act," authorizing the people of the territory to form a constitution preparatory to the admission of Minnesota into the Union, was passed by congress, February 26th, and later in the session, a large grant of lands was made for railroads. These important events necessitated an extra session of the legislature which met on the 27th of April and adjourned May 25th.

#### LOCAL AFFAIRS.

Turning again to our county affairs, we quote briefly, as illustrative of the local events of the times, the conditions of the country and the progress of settlement, from the Journal of an old settler, who came into the county in the spring of this year:

April 2d, 1857. Set out this morning early from Mankato for Blue Earth City, forty-five miles distant, on horseback, in company with Mr. Dow, the Blue Earth City mail carrier and a Mr. A. C. Dunn, a young lawyer and one of the town proprietors of Winnebago City. Made but twenty-two miles to-day and stopped for the night at a lonely log cabin in the edge of the timber, the proprietor of which, is a Mr. Gregory. The roads are terrible. I was never so tired, besides having had nothing to eat all day, I was as hungry as a wolf when I got here. When I reached here, I thought I had never seen in my life a house look so friendly and hospitable as this old cabin. We soon had a warm supper of salt pork, beans, slapjacks and barley coffee and felt much revived. This seems a very sparsely settled and desolated region. But it is time to retire, as we start early in the morning.

April 3d. We got a good breakfast and started early this morning. Mr. Dunn remained at Gregory's, being ill. Dow and I had but one horse and a very poor one at that. We rode and walked alternately, but both mainly walked. The roads were very bad, even worse than yesterday. We waded sloughs from one to three feet deep in soft snow and water. At other places the mud was from six to twelve inches deep. The wind blew quite hard and chilly all day. It was about ten o'clock when we crossed the north county line, of this county, to which fact Dow called my attention, as though it was a matter of grave importance. I did not observe anything very remarkable. On the right in the timber, was a small log cabin, on the east a boundless prairie and right before us was another wretched slough to be crossed, which was full three feet deep of water, ice and snow. We pulled through it on foot and also pulled the horse through, as he was blind.

About twelve o'clock we reached Winnebago City, but there is no city there, to speak of. In fact there is no town at all, but there is a magnificent, roomy place to build a town. I should think they could build a town there the size of London and not be cramped much. I observed there only a log house of some size, one-and-one-half story high and apparently not finished, which Dow said was intended for a hotel, also one other small log building at which we stopped. It proved to be a store kept by one T. Foley. He has a few dry goods, some tobacco, soap, cod fish and a barrel of whisky. Foley is post master and he overhauled the mail and seemed entirely happy and insisted on treating

several times. The driver, I observed, took some, after which we moved on our way much refreshed by the short rest. We reached another cabin about one o'clock, where we eat a prodigious dinner of salt pork, beans, potatoes and some good bread. This settler's name is Stoddard, and he said that he was the first settler in that locality. After dinner we moved on for our destination and after a hard tramp of a couple of hours, reached the east branch of the Blue Earth river, which we crossed through a foot of water on the ice and about four o'clock we entered on the sacred soil of the town site of Blue Earth City and stopped at this hotel, which is called the Metropolitan. And this is Blue Earth City! It strikes me that the reputation of these western towns generally, is much inflated. Tomorrow I shall look the place over. It is quite plain now that I should have gone to St. Paul, as I first intended, instead of drifting so far out on the frontier.

April 4th. After a hearty breakfast this morning of potatoes, beans, slap-jacks and tea (the pork has run out), I felt quite well and ready to prospect. I walked out and took a view of the Metropolitan, which is quite a large log building. It has a wing in the rear, which is used for a kitchen. The kitchen and a part of the main building only, appear to be finished. They say this is the largest building in the county and the only one entitled to the name of house. Nearly opposite the hotel is a one story log building, about fourteen by twenty feet, which is occupied by Messrs. Grout as a frontier store and dwelling, being the only store in the county, except the one at Winnebago City. Prospecting further, I found that there are six other small, one story, log cabins scattered about within a circuit of about half a mile. The population of the place is about twenty-two, large and small, and this is about all there is of this much talked of "city." After dinner had a talk with the landlord. He says his name is Constans and that he is one of the town proprietors and that he came here over a year ago—says he came from France, via the Atlantic ocean, New Orleans, the Mississippi river, St. Paul, Shakopee and several other places, to this county. He speaks with a strong Franco-German accent. From our conversation I learn that there are as yet, in the county, no newspapers, no courts, no schools, no churches, no doctors, no mechanics at work, no laid out roads, no bridges, and that there are but a few settlers and they are settled in the timber and about the lakes, and that the prairies are all vacant. It appears that there are not ten farms in the county of ten acres of plowed land; that the people are all poor and that nobody is doing anything, and no one wanting to do anything, but, as the landlord says, all are contented and happy in the prospects of the future. Prospects, that is it, everything rests on prospects. Was introduced by Mr. Constans to one George B. Kingsley, a boarder at this hotel. Mr. Kingsley says he is a New Yorker—has some interest in the town and a claim near by—says he is postmaster here, but the business does not warrant keeping an office and hence he carries the mail matter in his pocket, for convenience and safety—says that he is justice of the peace, the first and only one in the county, but that he has never had any business in that line and don't want any. He seems quite frank and very hopeful of the future. Here two other men came in, one Wakefield, who is a very large man, and one Tennesen, quite a small man. The curious thought struck me, that if these two persons were equalized they would make two averaged sized men. I was introduced. I learned that Mr. Tennesen is a settler holding a "claim." Mr. Wakefield is also one of the town proprietors—a lawyer by profession, and is the Register of Deeds.

The conversation continued in relation to the county and the prospects of this town. All seemed to think this county one of the best in the territory,

having a good soil, fair distribution of timber, good water and healthy. The village too is quite near the center of the county and is now the county seat. It was said also that the Keokuk, Fort Des Moines and Minnesota railroad, was now being built in Iowa, and will run from Fort Dodge to Mankato, this town, being on the direct line and the road will undoubtedly be built as far as this place, within two years at the furthest! They say the assurances are also very good that the United States land office, now located in the eastern part of the territory may soon be removed to this place, that is in a year or two probably. After some farther talk we all went over to Grout's store—was introduced to Lewis P. Grout. While there a Mr. Sailor came in and was introduced to him, as the first settler of this county. He gave me his hand and a hearty welcome to Faribault county. All present expressed the wish that I should decide to remain here. Soon after I returned to the hotel and went to tea and am now spending a quiet evening by the stove, jotting down the events of the day. While I can hardly believe that all the hopes of these people will be realized, yet I will say that I am much impressed with their courteous manners and affable conversation. I suppose I shall have to conclude to remain here, for a while at least. In the first place I am about out of money. In the second place the roads have become nearly impassable and in the third place, while everything here seems to be "prospects" the prospects certainly rest on the substratum of a good country. I shall leave the decision until to-morrow.

#### THE COUNTY FATHERS.

The commissioners met again on the 6th day of April. A new election district was established comprising all the territory of the county lying north of a line commencing at the northwest corner of section nineteen, township one hundred and three, range twenty-nine and running thence east to the boundary of the county. This district was named Winnebago City Precinct and W. N. Towndrow, H. T. Stoddard and E. Crosby were appointed judges of election and H. H. Bigelow, constable. The remainder of the county constituted Blue Earth City Precinct, and Albin Johnson, Allen Shultis and Benj. Gray were appointed judges of election and S. B. Miller, constable. Prior to this division the whole county constituted one election district. The county was now also divided into three road districts and Philip Chesley, O. N. Gardner and Dewitt Paddock, were appointed road supervisors. The board appointed Jas. B. Wakefield, judge of probate, L. P. Grout, county treasurer and H. P. Constans, sheriff. The petition of John Clabaugh and others, for the formation of a school district—the first one in the county—was presented and acted upon. The commissioners subsequently held meetings, as follows, on July 6th and 25th, Sept. 6th, Oct. 26th and Nov. 2d. The public interests required frequent meetings of the board. The action of the board at these several meetings of historical interest, is noted elsewhere.

## THE INDIAN EXCITEMENT.

Early in the spring occasional rumors reached the few settlers scattered through the county, of coming Indian troubles and afforded grounds for serious apprehensions. Immediately on the north of the county, lay the Winnebago Indian reservation and not more than seventy-five miles distant, on the upper Minnesota, was the Sioux reservation. Peace had long existed between these tribes and the whites, but the Indians were restless and dissatisfied, especially the Sioux. The people here were without any special protection and the Indians roamed over the country unmolested, hunting and fishing. They disturbed no one and peace and quiet reigned within the county, but troublous times were near at hand. That the reader may have a proper understanding of the events about to happen, it is necessary that a brief account should be given of

## THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE.

This statement is taken from that valuable work, Neill's History of Minnesota:

In northwestern Iowa, a few miles from the Minnesota boundary, there is a lake known as Spirit Lake. In the spring of 1856, persons from Red Wing, Minnesota, had visited this place and determined to lay off a town. In the winter of 1857 there were six or seven log cabins on the border of the lake. About fifteen or twenty miles north in Minnesota, there was also a small place called Springfield. For several years Inkpaduta, a Wapekuta Dakota, had been roving about with a few outlaws, being driven away from their own people by internal difficulties. These Indians were hunting in northwestern Iowa, when one was bitten by a white man's dog, which he killed. The whites then proceeded to the Indian's camp and disarmed them, but they soon supplied themselves again. After this they arrived on Sunday, the 8th of March, at Spirit Lake. They proceeded to a cabin where only men dwelt, and asked for beef. Understanding, as they assert, that they had permission to kill one of the cattle they did so and commenced cutting it up, when one of the white men came out and knocked down one of the Dakotas. For this act the settler was shot and another one coming out of the cabin he was also killed. Surrounding the house, the Indians now fired the thatched roof and as the men ran out all were killed making the whole number eleven. About the sametime, the Indians went to the house of a frontiersman, by the name of Gardner and demanded food and all the food in the house was given them. The son-in-law and another man left to go and see if all was right in the neighboring cabin, but they never came back. Toward night excited by the blood they, the Indians, had been spilling through the day, they came back again to Mr. Gardner's house and soon killed him, dispatching his wife, two daughters and grand children, carried off Abby, the surviving daughter. The next day they continued their fiendish work and brought into camp Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Noble. \* \* \* On Thursday, the 12th day of March, an Indian who had been on friendly terms with Marble's family, called at his house and told them that the white people below them on the lake had been *nipped* (killed) a day or two previously. \* \* \*

The next day (the 13th), quite early in the forenoon, four Indians came to Marble's house and were admitted. They proposed to swap rifles with Marble

and the terms were soon agreed upon. After the swap the chief suggested that they should go out on the lake and shoot at a mark. Marble assented. After a few discharges they turned to come in the direction of the house, when the savages allowed Marble to go a few paces ahead and immediately shot him down. Mrs. Marble saw her husband fall and ran to him. The Indians seized her and told her they would not kill her, but would take her with them. They carried her in triumph to the camp whither they had previously taken the three other white women. \* \* \* Inkpadata and party now proceeded to Springfield, where they slaughtered the whole settlement about the 27th of March. \* \* \*

The four captive women were forced by day to carry heavy burdens through deep snow and at nightfall they were made to cut wood and set up the tent and after dark, to be subject to the indignities that suggested themselves to savages.

Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Noble were soon after killed and Mrs. Marble and Miss Gardner were rescued, all having suffered cruelties too atrocious to name.

The reports of these diabolical deeds spread consternation throughout the territory, but especially along the frontiers which were entirely unguarded. No one knew to what extent the massacre would be carried nor of how many of the Indians were engaged in it.

How the news reached Blue Earth City and the consequent excitement and general results in this county, with many other interesting facts of this time, is best stated in the words of the Old Settler's Journal written at the time, from which we quoted above.

April 13th. We were suddenly awakened last night about twelve o'clock by the arrival of C. W. Wilson and A. Morris, who had been to Mankato on business, who informed us in a hurried and frightened manner of terrible murders by the Indians and that the Sioux were now coming upon us from the north and that the settlers along the river were being murdered and their cabins burned. They had abandoned two loads of provisions on the way, which they had bought at Mankato, as they could not delay to bring them on. They urged us strongly to leave at once and then hastened on to inform the people southward on the river, to flee for their lives. The question arose for decision at once, what shall be done? There was here in the hotel, Mr. Kingsley, Mr. and Mrs. Constans and myself. Messrs Wakefield and Tenneson and the two Grouts were in their cabins near by. They came in, when a hurried consultation was had. We were few in number and we had but few arms and but little ammunition. Would it not be best to go? On the other hand the night was dark, quite cold and the wind blowing very hard and there was but one way out, that is into Iowa and we should have to cross wide, unsettled prairies for forty miles to any known habitation, and we had no conveyance of any kind. Here, too, in the village were six or seven women, two of whom are ill. If we went they would have to be abandoned. We decided to stay, gather all into the hotel, fort up the best we could at once, and fight it out. Before daylight some thirty men with their families arrived from the neighboring settlement, but many others insisted on going on, and struck out over the prairies for Iowa. God help them! They must suffer much, yet they may be taking the wisest course. None knows what the result will be. We proceeded to fortify the

house the best we could with our limited means, and when daylight came, we found we had sufficient arms and ammunition, with what had been brought in, to stand a pretty long siege. More people arrived during the day with additional arms and ammunition. A terrible dread and suspense seems to rest upon all. A strong guard will be placed out to-night.

April 14th. Evening. [A sort of military organization was effected this morning. J. B. Gillit, who says he was in the "Patriot war" in Canada, was elected captain, and S. B. Miller, who saw service in Mexico, was chosen lieutenant. These are the only men present who have had any military experience. A portion of the company was set to building a barricade at a distance of about thirty feet from the house, and another party was directed to build a sort of rude bridge across the east branch to facilitate the passage of the people from the north and east to the fort. Not expecting an attack during the day, the people were distributed among the various cabins for convenience, but all to return to the fort in the evening. A number of settlers came in to-day and there is much excitement and many rumors. Many from insufficient clothing are suffering from cold. The children look half frozen. I was once on guard last night and guards will be stationed out to-night again. Each guard remains out one hour, which, considering the cold, is long enough. There are five on each watch stationed around the house at a distance of fifteen to twenty rods. The practical use of these guards I don't see, but our business is to obey.

April 15th, 10 A. M. I was twice on guard last night and have slept but three hours since the beginning of the excitement. No one could sleep much here; the very dead would almost wake up in the hubbub and turmoil of screaming children, crying women and incessant running to and fro. No further news has been received this morning, but it was concluded to send a messenger to Mankato, to learn the condition of affairs. Mr. Dow volunteered to go and has gone, but it is thought quite risky. Two others went out in quest of several persons who went to their homes yesterday and were to return last evening, but did not.

6 o'clock P. M. The party sent out after the missing men found them and all have just returned together. They report that they saw no signs of Indians but early this morning they heard four or five gun shots in the distance in a locality which the settlers had all left and are now here at the fort, and it is thought the Indians are skulking about there. I am much rested having had a sleep of two hours this afternoon, though the bed was not a very good one—only a blanket spread on the floor in the corner of the room. Just had supper—salt pork, just brought in, fried, potatoes considerably frozen, boiled, corn bread and fat. Board five dollars per week and "accommodations the best the country affords."

April 16th, 9 A. M. On guard once last night. No further news this morning. A squad was just sent out for some kind of provisions. Slept but little last night. Noise, noise, confusion, all the time, night and day. Getting very tired of this and who is not.

12 M. Three strangers—hang dog looking fellows—just arrived from below and say that the reports we have heard are greatly exaggerated and that there is no real danger. They are going on south. There is something in the manner of these men that is not just right and it is believed that they are lying for some purpose. I think myself, however, they are not far from the truth as to the reports.

3 P. M. William Granger, one of the founders of the Spirit Lake settlement and another gentleman of the same name, have just arrived from Spirit Lake, sixty miles west. They report that forty persons were slaughtered at

Spirit Lake and Springfield, all the settlers there, but four women, who were taken prisoners. All the other women were outraged and killed. Messrs. Grangers say that the Indians are prowling all along the frontier, in small bands, and that we must keep the closest watch. These men reside in Red Wing, and being interested in the Spirit Lake settlement, when they heard of the massacre went there at once. After a brief rest they proceeded on their way to Red Wing. This news being reliable, the people are much alarmed and it seems reasonably so. The officers say that there will be two guards on each beat placed out to-night. Why have there been no troops sent on to the frontier?

April 17th, 9 A. M. Last night we had the windows strongly barricaded and guns loaded and placed around the walls, ready for instant use. I was on guard but once last night. I tried during the night to get some sleep on the floor by the stove, and some others tried the same experiment. It was chiefly a failure. There was an incessant howling of dogs all night, crying of children up stairs, ceaseless jabbering and punching of the fires. Was there ever such a bedlam outside of a mad house? But I cannot blame the people much; I am beginning to feel a little ugly myself.

3 P. M. Dow has just returned from Mankato. He says many of the settlers are leaving the country. Some few have decided to stay and are forting up at various places along the river. Quite a number are fortified up at Winnebago City and at Stoddard's. He says that at Mankato and other places many say they believe there will be a general attack by the Indians all along the frontier and they are preparing for it. Two persons just arrived from Walnut Lake. They say that they saw a number of Winnebagoes near the lake, who were returning to their reservation and who informed them that the Sioux were coming in four days. Tomorrow will be the fourth day.

7 P. M. This evening a few of those who had fled to Iowa returned having found secure places for their families there and they have come back to render what assistance they can and to look after their effects. They report a terrible time of suffering—frozen hands and feet, starvation and fright.

Capt. Gillit announces that the provisions are about out. I thought they were about out for some time past. Kingsley thinks "Hank" ought to give us some deduction on the price of board, as he and I are the only regular cash boarders and the others all get their frozen potatoes, barley coffee and johnny cake for nothing.

April 18th, 7 P. M. This was a cold stormy day. Scott to-day brought in a sack of white flour, some good potatoes and some other articles of food, which he has kept hid somewhere until to-day. Hank told us privately, that we should have a good dinner and we had. To-day the case of Adams vs. Ahrens was tried before Geo. B. Kingsley, justice of the peace. J. A. Kiester appeared for the plaintiff and one Haggin for the defendant. Judgment was rendered for the plaintiff. Wakefield, Amicus Curiae, assisted the court in settling points of law. It was a queer time and place for a law suit. Quite a large number of spectators were present and considerable interest was manifested in the matter. I am informed that this is the first law suit which has ever occurred in the county. If the savages desolate the country, it may also be the last for some years at least.

April 19th, Sunday evening 6 P. M. I was on guard twice last night, but got some sleep near morning. The people here are wearied out and they rested quietly all day until evening, when now the excitement is as great as ever. Several persons who have to-day been out in the country, have returned and report having seen, about eight miles out, six Indians, who fired upon them, but fortunately they had not been hit. They made all haste to get in and believe the red devils are coming. The people are gathering in and are much

alarmed. I must say it looks much as though the hour had come. Must these fair and fertile lands and new homes be given up to savage occupancy?

April 20th, A. M. No guards were placed out last night, as it was thought too risky. I have thought all along that the guards were of little use in case of an attack. Soon after dark last evening, a meeting was called for consultation and after an immense amount of jangling, it was concluded to send the women and children away in the morning, under a strong guard, unless indeed we should be attacked during the night. But no Indians have appeared yet.

12 M. Great division and dissatisfaction exists among the people. Some talk of risking the possible danger and leave the country. Others want to remain. What is best to be done is the question. We cannot forever remain here fortified up. It will wholly ruin three fourths of our people to remove. Many are very poor and have large families and all have spent their ready means in living during the winter and in getting ready to do something this spring and summer. Where shall they go to, and exposed as they shall be on the roads may they not be attacked and killed. It was concluded impracticable to send the women and children away, as talked last night.

9 P. M. This afternoon about a dozen of the farmers concluded to return to their lands with their families, take the risk of whatever danger there may be and go to work. They decided that this is the best of the only two practicable ways, either all leave the country, or all remain and put in their crops and raise something to live on. But they returned to their homes very reluctantly and with many fears. They are not to be blamed. There are many difficult questions connected with the situation just now, which no one can solve. The Indians may, or may not be, very near us. We have no definite knowledge on any point upon which we can act. In an hour from now the demoniac war-hoop of the savages may be heard. There is nothing to prevent their coming. There are still some fifteen men here in the fort and we could show a pretty strong resistance to an attack, but how would it be with those who have gone to their homes?

April 21st, 6 P. M. All retired to rest last night at a late hour and put out no watch. All claim that they slept soundly and perhaps safely and to-day was spent lounging about in the easiest places we could find. Oh the wearing suspense. If we could only learn something definite.

April 22d, 10 A. M. Slept well last night. Quite a number of people leaving this morning and others are talking of going. There are many contrary opinions. Some say there are no assurances of any degree of safety here. The people are all scattered now, and we have no protection and the very silence and comparative quiet which now exists, may be like the calm before a storm. One man with a very large family of children, all small, begs with tears that the younger men will not go away. He says he cannot go—has no money, no conveyance and no place to go to. There are many others in equally poor circumstances. These people cannot be deserted and most of those who talked of going, say they will stay. Is the government doing nothing? It has always been too slow in protecting the western frontiers.

4 P. M. Just received news from the north of a reliable character that the Indians are now not near us and that the United States troops are on the way to the west and northwest of us to be there stationed for the protection of the country. This is indeed good news. Several persons start out into the country to carry the glad tidings to the people. Some of those who left this morning, having heard the good news on the way, returned this evening. The confidence of the people much restored and a quiet joy beams from every face. God bless the good old government, after all. Thus ends, for the present at least, this mean, fearful, bloodless, dirty, hungry, cold and wretched Indian excitement, the first in the history of the county and I hope the last.



Alas! how futile this hope. Had the writer of the Journal possessed the power of the seer, to know the future, he might have seen in his visions, the red specter of an infuriated demon, brandishing a tomahawk dripping in blood, prophetic of a coming day, not long delayed, of death and desolation. But it should not be thought that the people felt entirely secure—far from it. Nothing but stern necessity drove them to their homes and kept them there. Much the same dread and fearful apprehensions were upon all for many months, notwithstanding the troops were now in the country. The barking of a dog in the silent hours of the night, unusual noises borne upon the winds, the light of fires reflected in the midnight sky, unusual delay in the return of the absent, the reports of gun firing in the distance, unusual stillness, even the peculiar whistling of the wind around the log cabin, the calling of birds, or the dismal howl of the wolf, created uneasiness with the nervous, lonely settler on the frontier, and not without reason, for often in the traditions of the border, these things proved to be the omens of death, for the Indian is a silent, sudden, crafty and cruel foe, whose artifices and cunning few can match. Much the same experiences were had, during the Indian excitement at Winnebago City and one or two other places, as those detailed at Blue Earth City.

#### STEAM SAW MILLS.

During the spring of this year, a steam saw mill was erected at Winnebago City, being the first one in the county, and about the middle of June another was erected and put in operation at Blue Earth City. The starting of these mills was an important event in the business affairs and prosperity of the county. Prior to the erection of these mills building was almost impossible, as lumber could only be had at great expense. Only log houses had been built before, but now frame dwellings could be erected. Each of these mills could turn out lumber at the rate of about 2,500 to 3,000 feet per day. An average of about forty dollars per thousand feet was charged. The effects were soon apparent, especially in the villages. New houses were built, log houses repaired, fences put up, and these signs of improvement greatly encouraged the people. These mills were the first manufacturing establishments in the county. The proprietor of a saw mill in those days, was deemed a "great man" and a power in the land. But we have long since ceased to use native lumber. As railroads were built it became convenient to get pine. The old mills long ago disappeared and so also have the original mill proprietors.

## WEATHER AND CROPS.

The spring of this year was late and cold. Cold weather and high winds continuing until about the middle of May. It was the latest and coldest spring which has yet been known here. The ground did not become fit for seeding until near the last of May. A little seeding, however, was done on the higher grounds as early as April 27th. Some remnants of the deep snow drifts of the winter, were seen as late as the fourth day of July, on the north side of the river bluffs, in the timber, near Blue Earth City. Yet vegetation never obtained a ranker, or more rapid growth, than it did in that year, and the crops in Minnesota were very abundant for the area cultivated. As there was yet but little land under cultivation, the crops in this county were merely nominal.

## PRICES.

It may be of interest to some to know the prices current of staple articles at this time. Flour was \$4.50 and corn meal \$3.00 per hundred; corn \$1.00 and potatoes 75 cents per bushel; butter 30 cents, salt pork 25 cents, tea \$1.00, sugar 18 cents, coffee 25 cents, chewing tobacco \$1.00, smoking tobacco 60 cents each per pound; sheeting 18 cents per yard; whisky 30 cents and brandy 75 cents per pint and pint flasks 15 cents each.

For prices current in the earlier years of the county, the writer is indebted to the account books of Mr. Isreal S. Mead, who was engaged in mercantile pursuits during a number of those years.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

Under the Enabling Act above referred to, a Constitutional Convention to consist of one hundred and eight members (each Council district to elect two for each Councilman and Representative, to which it was entitled), was authorized to meet at the Capital on the second Monday of July, to frame a State Constitution and submit the same to the people of the Territory. The election for members was held on the first Monday of June.

On the 13th day of July, the delegates met, but owing to a disagreement as to the hour of meeting, the Republican members met and organized one body and the Democratic members also organized separately. Each of these bodies claiming to be the legal Constitutional Convention, proceeded with the work of forming an instrument to be submitted to the people. After some days an understanding was effected between them and by means of committees of conference the same Constitution was framed and adopted by both bodies. On being submitted to the people at the general election October 13th, it was ratified.

## NEW APPORTIONMENT.

The Constitutional Convention redistricted the Territory for Legislative purposes, by which action the counties of Faribault and Freeborn were constituted the Fourteenth Senatorial district and was entitled to one senator and three representatives.

## INDIANS AGAIN.

About the middle of July, the frontier settlements were again agitated and put in great fear by rumors afloat on the borders, that the Indians were preparing for another attack on the white settlers. Government had failed as yet to punish the Spirit Lake murderers and the Indians generally of the north-west had grown insolent and made many threats. On the 20th, a meeting was called of the people of Blue Earth City and vicinity, to effect some sort of military organization. A company was formed, of which James Decker was elected captain, J. A. Kiester, first lieutenant and H. P. Constans, second lieutenant, and it was determined to build a large block house, for a fort. The company roll and subscription list of work and money for the block house, are still in the hands of the writer. Arms and ammunition were to be procured from the Governor, but the arms never came and the fort was not built, and in a few days the excitement died out, to be renewed again about the 9th of August. On that day several settlers who resided at Chain Lakes, arrived at Blue Earth City and reported that the Indians were about the Lakes and that one Indian and one white man—a Mr. Britt—had been shot and the people there wanted assistance. The people at the lakes had built a fort of logs and named it Fort Britt. It was a building of six sides, each side being twenty feet long. It was one story high and had a battlement around the top six feet high, which projected over the lower story all around, some six feet. It had required a great deal of labor and has quite a strong and commodious fortification. As requested, a small company on horseback went from Blue Earth City to the Fort where they found most of the people gathered and much alarmed. It appeared that Mr. Britt, who had been down in the timber several days previous, had been shot at by one of a company of Indians and slightly wounded, and he returned the fire and probably killed the Indian, as he was seen to fall when the others fled, and Mr. Britt hurried home. The company scoured the woods and the country about the lakes, but found no Indians and they returned home next day just as well satisfied as though they had got into a fight and been scalped. These rumors and excitements occurred at intervals during the whole year and kept the people in a state of constant anxiety and dread.

To be attacked and defeated by a civilized foe, is bad enough, but to be beaten by these Indian savages and suffer the horrible

atrocities of maiming and torturing, which they usually inflict upon their victims, is quite another thing, and it is not a matter of surprise that when apparently well founded rumors that the savages were coming, reached the people of the frontier, scattered and unprotected, that the cheeks of strong men turned pale, and women grew wild with terror. And he is much of a braggart and more of a coward, who would affect to sneer at or ridicule the alarm of the people under such circumstances.

#### THE FINANCIAL PANIC.

Probably the most extraordinary, violent and destructive financial panic ever known in America occurred in this year. The times for some years preceding the panic were characterized by the great amount of debts of individuals and corporations and almost incredible extravagance and wild speculations. Cities, corporations, banks and individuals, were drained of money to construct unproductive railroads, or to invest in western land speculations. The whole western country, especially the territories, was swarming with land speculators, dealing in wild lands, paper cities and great schemes of improvement. Lands and lots were sold often at fabulous prices. Great railroad lines were projected, companies formed and stock sold. These operations with others of a similar character, made money scarce everywhere where it was properly needed and diverted thousands of men and millions of capital from legitimate and productive business. The inevitable result came, the great bubble suddenly collapsed. The Ohio Life and Trust Company, an immense moneyed institution, led off sometime in August in the failures. Then followed the banks, companies, corporations and individuals, all going down in bankruptcy and ruin. In the graphic words of a writer on the subject "all over the land, east, west, north, south, the dark days of fear, alarm and ruin settled down upon the people and panic raged like a pestilence." The excitement became terrible. Crowds of depositors and others interested, rushed upon the banks and other institutions demanding their dues, and mobs gathered in the streets of the cities. Thousands of men accounted rich became beggars. Almost all the great industries ceased and tens of thousands of laboring men were turned out of employment. Bank paper became worthless and gold and silver exceedingly scarce. After raging some months the panic began to subside and financial affairs to right themselves. But untold ruin had been wrought and the country did not recover from its effects, for years. Minnesota was of course in the maelstrom with the rest of the nation. In this county, then so sparsely settled and the money being mainly gold and silver, the great panic was not so suddenly and disastrously manifest, but it had its effects in a year

or two after, as will be presently seen. But the rumbling of the thunder in the distance was distinctly heard here.

#### THE FIRST CENSUS.

The Enabling Act authorized the taking of a census, or enumeration of the inhabitants of the Territory for the purpose of determining the number of members of Congress the proposed State would be entitled to on admission into the Union.

Andrew C. Dunn was appointed deputy marshal, to take the census of this county. The work was completed in September and the population of the county was at that time, as appears from the State files, six hundred and eighty-nine, though it was otherwise reported to be over seven hundred.

It was merely an enumeration of the inhabitants. No other statistics were taken. The writer has made repeated but fruitless efforts to obtain a copy of this census. It would be of great interest as exhibiting the names of the residents of the county at that time.

#### THE "GREAT AWAKENING."

In this and the following year occurred one of the most wonderful and general religious revivals ever known in America. It has been well said that "It was in a word the American Pentacost, the great religious epoch of the national century, unequalled in earnestness, union and universality by any similar movement that had preceded it in the history of the western world." It was not confined to any particular class of people, or religious bodies. Even among religious denominations unaccustomed to what are termed "revival meetings," the movement exhibited itself very early in acts of co-operation with others, in earnest prayers and in great and daily labors for the promotion and success of the work. It surpassed in many of its aspects, the religious movement commenced many years later (in 1875) under the auspices of Messrs. Moody and Sankey.

This great religious awakening, notwithstanding its wide extent and influence, did not reach this immediate region.

#### POLITICS—THE FIRST COUNTY CONVENTION.

We have now, in the course of events, reached the first political campaign known in the history of the county.

On the 19th day of September the first political convention ever assembled in this county met at Blue Earth City. It was a republican mass convention and was called for the purpose of nominating candidates for legislative and county offices. Prior to this time no political questions had been raised.

It was claimed that the democrats were in the majority in the county, and it could not be disputed, as the party lines had never been drawn and the test made.

Two republicans at Blue Earth City concluded to test the matter and called this convention. It was well attended and harmonious. A declaration of principles was adopted, nominations made, a county central committee elected and the party organized, which organization continues to this day.

By a previous arrangement between the leading republicans of the two counties, it was agreed not to hold a joint convention for the nomination of legislative candidates, but that Faribault county should nominate two candidates for representatives and Freeborn county should nominate the candidate for senator and one representative. The following nominations were made by this convention :

For Representatives—J. B. Wakefield, of Blue Earth City ; W. N. Dunham, of Winnebago City.

For County Treasurer—Albin Johnson.

For County Surveyor—J. A. Kiester.

For Sheriff—Thos. R. Foley.

For Judge of Probate—J. B. Wakefield.

For Coroner—J. B. Gillit.

For County Commissioners—M. Sailor and E. Crosby.

No nomination was made for the office of Clerk of Court.

The Republican convention of Freeborn County, nominated Dr. George Watson for Senator and A. H. Bartlett for one of the Representatives, both of Freeborn County.

The Democrats in a few days after, also placed candidates in the field for the several offices, as follows:

For Senator—E. C. Stacy, of Freeborn county.

For Representatives—A. P. Swenford, of Freeborn county, Andrew C. Dunn, of Faribault county, Geo. B. Kingsley, of Faribault county.

For Treasurer—C. W. Wilson.

For Surveyor—H. L. Young.

For Sheriff—Perry Lamphere.

For Judge of Probate—H. P. Constans.

For Clerk of Court—Jno. M. Jackson, jr.

For County Commissioner—E. M. Ellis.

One Leander Lee was an independent candidate for sheriff and O. G. Hill for treasurer.

The election was held on the 13th day of October, and resulted in this county as follows:

For Senator—Geo. Watson.....	128
E. C. Stacy.....	91
For Representative—A. P. Swinford.....	77
A. H. Bartlett.....	122
W. N. Dunham.....	66
A. C. Dunn.....	51
J. B. Wakefield.....	169
Geo. B. Kingsley.....	146
For County Commissioner—M. Sailor.....	124
E. Crosby.....	102
E. M. Ellis.....	94
For Treasurer—Albin Johnson.....	118
C. W. Wilson.....	4
O. G. Hill.....	39
For Sheriff—Thos. R. Foley.....	62
P. Lamphere.....	54
L. Lee.....	46
For Surveyor—J. A. Kiester.....	121
H. L. Young.....	33
For Coroner—J. B. Gillit.....	123
No opposition.	
For Judge of Probate—H. P. Constans.....	87
J. B. Wakefield.....	116
For Clerk of Court—Jno. M. Johnson, jr.....	46

James L. McCrery, Allen Shultis and Geo. K. Moulton were elected Justices of the Peace. Theo. Bowen, G. S. Converse, Henry R. Walker and B. Madison were elected Constables and Geo. D. McArthur, D. J. Sparks and Ed. Sumner, Road Supervisors, and Albin Johnson, John Haggin and H. T. Stoddard, Assessors.

The Republican Legislative candidates except one, had a majority in the district.

This election showed that the whole vote of the county was about two hundred and twenty in this year and that both the legislative district and the county were Republican in politics.

W. W. Phelps and James M. Cavanaugh were elected Representatives in Congress.

#### THE FIRST WEDDINGS.

On the 6th day of November two weddings occurred at Blue Earth City, which were doubtless the first in the county and as such are entitled to a place in this history. The parties were Fred. Middlesdorf and Miss Dora Miller, and Henry Miller and Miss Mary Drager. The marriages were solemnized by James L. McCrery, Esq., Justice of the Peace. It is written "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh."

“As Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together.”

The following clever lines are from the pen of a good deacon, a good jurist and evidently a good poet:

There is a problem to the schools unknown,  
Whereby two added gives the product *one*;  
Whereby the more their sorrows they divide,  
So much the more their joys are multiplied,  
And love subtracted from the willing soul,  
Gains while it gives, and thus augments the whole,  
Nor stop we here, for when these lovers marry,  
Soon off it happens that there's one to carry!  
Yea two, three, four, to fill the house with joy,  
And down the stream of time to bear the name of—Roy.

In an old paper printed a century ago, we find the following on matrimony:

Oh, matrimony, thou art like  
To Jeremiah's figs;  
The good is very good—the bad  
Too sour to give the pigs.  
I never dreamed of such a fate,  
When I a—lass was courted—  
Wife, mother, nurse, seamstress, cook, housekeeper, chambermaid,  
laundress, dairy-woman, and scrub generally, doing the work  
of six.  
For the sake of being supported!

#### THE LONG PARLIAMENT.

The first State Legislature, though the State had not yet been admitted to the Union, assembled at the Capital, December 2d, 1857, and continued in session until March 25th, 1858, when a recess was taken until June 2d, when it again met and continued in session until Aug. 12th, when it finally adjourned. The State had in the meantime been admitted. The transition from a Territorial to a State government and many great public interests, demanding attention, created the necessity for much legislation. The acts passed at the session having special reference to this county are named in the history of the next year.

The representatives of this district, appearing at the opening of the “long parliament,” were Geo. Watson in the Senate and J. B. Wakefield, A. H. Bartlett and W. N. Dunham in the House. Andrew C. Dunn, of this county, was secretary of the senate. Mr. Geo. B. Kingsley, however, claimed the seat occupied by Mr. Dunham and proceeded to contest the same. The facts in relation to the matter were as follows. By the official canvass of the votes cast for



representatives, Mr. Dunham, it appeared, had four hundred and nineteen votes, and Mr. Kingsley four hundred and thirteen votes in the entire district and Mr. Dunham received the certificate of election. But it appeared from the testimony taken on the investigation, that the entire vote of Bear Lake Precinct No. 5, in Freeborn county, in which Mr. Kingsley had received thirty-eight votes and Mr. Dunham seventeen votes, had been rejected by the canvassing board of Freeborn county, on the ground that nine illegal votes had been cast and other irregularities had occurred in the election. The legislature decided that the returns from this precinct were improperly rejected by the canvassing board, and now deducting the nine illegal votes from the thirty-eight received by Mr. Kingsley left him twenty-nine votes, which added to the four hundred and thirteen votes cast for him elsewhere in the district, and adding the seventeen votes for Mr. Dunham to the four hundred and nineteen votes received by him elsewhere in the district, and the result was for Kingsley four hundred and forty-two, for Dunham four hundred thirty-six, leaving Kingsley a clear majority of six votes all of which appearing satisfactorily to the House, Kingsley was admitted to the seat.

At this Session, Henry M. Rice and James Shields were elected United States Senators, the former for six and the latter for two (2) years.

#### IMMIGRATION.

Notwithstanding the Indian excitement, the great financial revulsion and some other unfavorable circumstances, the immigration during the summer and fall was large and the population of this county was greatly increased and the building and other improvements were extensive and permanent. It was really the first year of substantial and encouraging progress. It was indeed a year among the most eventful in the history of the State and the county, but the events of the time are already fast growing dim in the memories of the people, while many of the principal actors in the events of both the State and the county are now sleeping in their graves.

## CHAPTER IV.

A. D. 1858.

## THE WORK OF THE SOLONS.

The laws passed by the first State Legislature referred to in the preceding chapter, specially relating to this county, were the following :

An act to locate a State road from Chatfield, Fillmore County, to Winnebago City in this county.

An act to locate a State road from Brownsville, Houston County, to Winnebago City.

An act to establish a State road from Blue Earth City to Shell Rock City in Freeborn County.

In those days, before the existence of railroads, state roads were deemed of great importance, being usually established between important points and across two or more counties. The fact that a village was a crossing point, or the terminus of a number of state roads, was held to be a matter of great consequence, and the legislature was often asked to authorize the establishment of these highways. Some of these roads, attracting and directing the course of travel and traffic, in natural and convenient channels, served to create the necessity for, and prove the practicability of certain great lines of railway, subsequently built, of which they were the forerunners. State roads are seldom ever heard of now.

## THE COUNTY BOARD.

The commissioners met at Blue Earth City on the 9th day of January. At this session the first lists of grand and petit jurors were selected. The lists consisted of fifty grand and seventy-two petit jurors. The task of selecting these numbers of suitable persons for jurymen, at that time, was rather a difficult one, and the lists embraced about all the talented, ablebodied and respectable settlers in the county, not in the legal and ministerial professions. None of these jurors were, however, called upon to serve, as no term of court was held this year.

The board met again on the fifth day of April. More business was transacted at this session than at any preceding one, and it was much the most important session yet held. A new election precinct

was formed and named Walnut Lake precinct, and E. M. Ellis, P. C. Seely and L. J. Whitney were appointed judges of election.

An act having been passed by the legislature establishing in each county a board of road commissioners, to which everything pertaining to public roads should be referred, the county board appointed W. J. C. Robertson and J. L. McCrery road commissioners and they, with the county surveyor, then J. A. Kiester, who was by law ex-officio a member of the board, constituted the board of road commissioners. A number of the principal county roads still existing, were established by this board.

The county commissioners at this session, after a great deal of discussion and profound meditation, decided to have a general assessment made of all the taxable property of the county and levy a tax for public purposes. It had become impossible to conduct the affairs of the county longer, without paying the expenses.

Accordingly for the purpose of making assessments, Winnebago City precinct No. one was assigned to H. T. Stoddard, assessor. Blue Earth City precinct No. two was assigned to Albin Johnson, assessor, and Walnut Lake precinct No. three was assigned to John Haggin, assessor. Mr. Stoddard appointed Grover C. Burt, deputy, who made the assessment of district No. one and Mr. Haggin appointed Albert Tower, deputy, who made the assessment of district No. three and Mr. Johnson made the assessment of his district, No. two, personally, and these three gentlemen were the first assessors in this county.

At this session also the first batch of bills against the county was audited and amounted in all to \$174.40. There have been few, if any, sessions of the board since that day, at which the auditing of bills was not the chief business. The other action of the Board at this session is noted elsewhere.

#### SPRING RAINS AND FLOODS.

The spring was late and stormy and the rains were so incessant that the farmers could scarcely get in their crops, though some little wheat was sown early in April. Only the highest grounds could be cultivated and much seed rotted in the ground. This year will ever be memorable with the old settlers as the wettest in the history of the county. All low lands were overflowed. Creeks became rivers and the rivers widened out over the bottom lands into seemingly permanent lakes, but still it continued to rain. The roads became impassable and overflowed in every direction. Some prophesied another deluge. Everything was wet and dripping and on every hand were fathomless mud and seas of water. Occasionally for a day the sky would clear up and the blessed sun would shine, but it afforded no hope and it had become a truthful, as well as a standing remark, "Well it has cleared up for another shower."

The following lines from the *Dublin Mail* are quite appropriate here:

Dirty days has September,  
 April, June, and November,  
 From January up to May,  
 The rain it raineth every day.  
 All the rest have thirty-one,  
 Without one blessed gleam of sun,  
 And if any of them had-two and-thirty,  
 They'd be as wet and twice as dirty.

However, about the last of July it began to dry up and the remainder of the year was not so bad.

#### MOSQUITOES.

To add to the discomfort of the times, great clouds of mosquitoes filled the air, as evening approached and annoyed the people beyond endurance. Sultry heat, constant rains, deep mud and swarms of mosquitoes, were the characteristics of the spring and summer. And the reader should know that the mosquitoes of the early years of this county were not the puny little husks which a breath would demolish, such as we see occasionally now-a-days. They were large, bony fellows, with long nibs, ferocious songs, a diabolical aspect and blood thirsty instincts, and possessed of a courage that baffled the most heroic defence. Great smudges of chips, dry grass and green weeds, making a smoke strong enough to tan a hide, had to be built in the summer evenings to protect the devoted settlers from the attacks of these cannibals.

"Of all the plagues hot summer brings,  
 Whether they move on legs or wings,  
 The little wretch that closest clings,  
 The thing that most our patience wrings,"  
 Is the nasty little mosquito.

The writer should probably apologize for an occasional frivolous remark or amusing incident in this work, yet while it is well to keep in mind the dignity and gravity of history, we may also remember that

"A little nonsense now and then  
 Is relished by the best of men."

And, also, by a great many good women.

#### THE FIVE MILLION LOAN.

The legislature having proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the State authorizing the loan of the credit of the State, to the amount of five million of dollars, to aid the land grant railroad companies, in the construction of their roads, the amendment was voted upon by the people on the 15th day of April. The amendment was adopted by a large majority. The vote of this county was

favorable to the amendment but the returns of the vote cast here did not reach the State Canvassing Board and were not counted. There were many at the time who doubted the expediency of the measure. The debt was a very large one to be incurred by so young a State. People were not then as familiar with enormous public debts as they afterwards became during the war. Some doubted the good faith of the transaction and so expressed themselves. But the hard times, the great importance of railroads to the development of the country and the hope that their construction would give labor and greatly increase the amount of money in circulation—in short make good times, superceded every other consideration. The bonds of the State known as the "Minnesota State Railroad Bonds" were subsequently issued to the amount of two million two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, bearing interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of seven per cent. per annum. Only a certain amount of grading was done to procure these bonds. The roads were not built and the whole project fell through. For more than twenty years the payment or even any adjustment looking to the payment of the principal or interest of these bonds was resisted by the people. An adjustment of the whole matter was reached finally in 1881.

#### THE STATE ADMITTED.

There was great rejoicing and some demonstrations made throughout the country, when it was announced that Congress had on the eleventh day of May, admitted Minnesota into the Union. The State Officers were sworn in on May 24th. The first State Officers were H. H. Sibley, Governor; Wm. Holcomb, Lieutenant Governor; Francis Baasen, Secretary of State; G. W. Armstrong, Treasurer; W. F. Dunbar, Auditor and C. H. Berry, Attorney General. The leading strings and subordinate condition incident to the territorial organization were now dropped and Minnesota stood forth clothed in all the power and dignity of an equal state, with the motto emblazoned on her forehead 'L'Etoile du Nord"—the Star of the North.

#### THE COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

The following pronouncement is found in the confession of faith of one of the greatest of American religious bodies, and is, therefore entitled to the highest respect:

"Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom and power of God, as to leave man inexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of His will, which is necessary unto salvation; therefore, it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in divers manners to reveal Himself and declare that His will unto His church, and afterwards for the better preserving and propagation of the truth and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the

same wholly unto writing." \* \* \* "And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellences and the entire perfection thereof are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the word of God."

Saith the Psalmist—"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

Saith Paul the Apostle.—"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Second Timothy, 3:16.

On the 23d day of May of this year, the Faribault County Bible Society was organized at Blue Earth City. As the records of the first six years of the society appear to have been lost, the names of the first officers cannot here be given. This society, it should be observed, was one of the first of the permanent institutions of the county. Until about the year 1866, the society was a branch of the Minnesota State Bible Society, but the State society becoming dissolved at that time, our society was transferred to and became an auxiliary of the American Bible Society, one of the greatest and most beneficent institutions of modern times. There are other Bible societies in America doing a great work, but our society has no connection with them.

The American Bible Society was instituted in May, 1816, in the city of New York. Briefly stated, the object of the society is to promote the circulation throughout the world, of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment. The King James translation, known as the authorized version, is the text used. What the course of the society may be, as to the "revision" of our day, will probably take a number of years to decide. The society is wholly unsectarian and people of almost all shades of religious belief, are interested in the society. From gifts and bequests and other sources, the society has become very rich, its property amounting to millions. There may be dangers lying in the path of this great institution. It may become too rich; the conduct of its affairs too expensive; indolence in its great work may come with age and wealth and its methods become inadequate and behind the wants of the age. Rings may usurp its management and dissensions rend it asunder. Where such great interests are involved, prudence, suggesting possible misfortunes may aid in avoiding them. But hoping and believing that this noble institution is in God's care and keeping, let us have no fears of the future.

In each county, or district, where the society has an auxiliary, or branch, it has a number of depositories, where its various styles of publications are kept. They can be had very cheaply. A good copy of the Bible can be had for twenty-five cents and of the New Testament alone for five cents, and when the person who wants

them is too poor to pay these prices, he can have them for nothing. Agents are also employed to canvass the county and visit every family and supply the destitute with the Scriptures.

An auxilliary society was organized at Winnebago in July, 1866, and one was established at Wells in December, 1871.

Our local society has kept up its organization from its first institution and has carried out the purposes of its establishment with commendable success. To have in our midst an auxilliary of so beneficent a society, established so early in our history, and doing its work faithfully, is an honor to the county which should be duly appreciated.

Among the ancient collects we find the following very appropriate one.

"Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such manner hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life."

The Bible is certainly the greatest, most unique and the most valuable book which has ever appeared on earth. It is pre-~~ceded~~ and illumined by wisdom and knowledge which are above and beyond man.

There are those who are apprehensive of the alleged growing infidelity of the age and the results of what is known as the "higher criticism" of the Scriptures, now dawning upon the world, and which latter is undoubtedly destined to still "higher" altitudes. Centuries have swept over the world, filled with doubt, perversion and infidelity, during which God and the Scriptures have been attacked from every side. Yet there are more intelligent believers in God and His Word to-day than ever before in the world's history. God and his word will take care of themselves.

There can be but little danger to them, from the wisdom of their assailants, or from any man, however learned, or intellectual, whose knowledge at best is so shallow and limited, that but for God's revelation found in the Scriptures, he cannot even tell from whence he came, or whither he is going, or for what possible purpose he has appeared in this world. There are no grounds for fear, dear reader.

#### AN INDIAN FLEET.

In the early part of June, a fleet of Indian canoes passed down the east branch of the Blue Earth river, from Walnut Lake, on their way to their reservation in Blue Earth county. The red skins passed Blue Earth City and also Winnebago City, without deigning to call. Owing to the state of feeling existing against the Indians, in consequence of the Spirit Lake massacre, they were somewhat guarded in their movements for a year or two after. They were at least as

much afraid of the Whites as the Whites were of them, and both sides acted a good deal in the spirit of the fellow, who, having got into a fight with the wrong man, said to the by-standers, "Two of you hold the other fellow—one can hold me."

#### THE FIRST FOURTH OF JULY.

It is pleasant to record the fact in this history, that the people of this county, though situated upon the borders of civilization, and a little short of many things that go to make up an old fashioned Fourth of July celebration, still possessed the spirit of patriotism unimpaired. On the third day of July, the Fourth being Sunday, occurred the first celebration of Independence Day in this county. The day was very fine, being an exception to the weather of that summer. The people in Blue Earth City, and vicinity, assembled about ten o'clock in the forenoon, at Young's Hall. W. W. Knapp read the Declaration and J. A. Kiester delivered an address, after which there was some patriotic singing. Then a splendid free dinner was served in the hall and the program was closed for the day, but the festivities of the occasion were completed by two separate dances on Monday night, which lasted all night, and which, as related by those present, for real enjoyment, free and easy manners, good will and flow of spirits, have never been surpassed to this day.

At Winnebago City also they had a celebration. It was held in a large rustic booth erected for the occasion. Guy K. Cleveland delivered the oration. A great dinner was prepared by the ladies—"a dinner that was in everybody's mouth for years afterwards." Here too a great ball closed the holiday proceedings.

#### DANCING.

Without intending to discuss this subject, or express any opinion upon it, being beyond the purview of this work, it is necessary that something be said in relation to it here, as connected with our history as a people. It may be remarked that dancing appears to be an amusement known among all peoples and to have been practiced in all ages of the world. The grossest and most ignorant, as well as many of the most refined and intellectual people everywhere appear to find a pleasure in dancing. The truth of this statement, is evident from the fact, that the chief amusement of the American Indian and of the howling Cannibals of the South Sea Islands, consists in their dances, and so also, we find that in the palaces of the cultured capitals of Europe and America, this is with many the most fashionable and most fascinating entertainment.

Dancing among the ancient Hebrews formed a part of their religious ceremonies, and even in the Christian church, at an early period, "the dance was united with the hymn in Christian festivi-



ties." But it must be remembered that these religious dances were very different in their character, their forms, postures and purposes from the dances for amusement of these days. The religious dances were modest, solemn, reverent, and having the intent of divine worship, while the modern, fashionable dance is but a social amusement and without a religious sentiment or purpose, and too often borders on the indelicate, the voluptuous and sensual, and too often brings into close, personal contact and association, the pure minded with the immoral, in such manner as would not be allowed for an instant anywhere but in a ball room. But the views of people differ on these subjects and we shall not discuss them here.

Dancing is one of the chief social pastimes, or amusements, of most frontier or sparsely settled countries. In the early days of this county, that is, during the first five or six years, this was the principal amusement of the people. The excuse is found, if any is necessary, in the fact that there were no other social recreations or entertainments to be had. There was no established society. No libraries or reading rooms. No lectures and no concerts. No societies or other literary or social institutions to afford entertainment or instruction. During much of the time, even public religious services were infrequent.

People will have social gatherings and they will have recreations and entertainments of some kind.

Hence it was that all assemblages of the people, for any except religious purposes, were signalized by a dance as the proper closing exercises, if it did not constitute the principal business itself. The music in those days was made by one or more violinists and the dances were the cotillion, waltz, polka, schottish, French four and some few others now forgotten.

In the villages of Blue Earth City and Winnebago City, during the winter evenings, there would be at least one dance a week, and often two or three, which would be frequently attended by some of the people of both places, interchanging courtesies and by the folks from the country. The middle aged as well as the young, the sober as well as the gay, would participate. They continued generally not only to the "wee sma hours ayant the twal" but often all night "till broad day light in the morning." Many persons took part in these dances, with great ease and grace and exactness of time, who today would not be suspected of ever having seen a ball room. All seemed to enjoy themselves and everything was conducted with decency and politeness. There were no stately formalities. No uncomfortable restraints, no division into classes of upper ten and lower million. Fine dress, or calico gown, broad cloth coat, or "baggin" trousers created no distinctions, but all joined with hearty cheerfulness, for what was called "a good social

time" the prevailing sentiment, being well expressed in those spirited lines of Byron.

"On with the dance, let joy be unconfined;  
No sleep till morn when youth and pleasure meet  
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet!"

But not the villages alone had their dances. Many a log cabin with its "puncheon" floor in the country in those early days rang with the "sound of revelry by night" where from far and near would be gathered "fair women and brave men," in all sorts of toilets, who obeyed the injunction of that other eminent poet, Joshua B., in the following stanza:

"Now gather round the kitchen fire,  
And pile the chunks on hier and higher;  
Get out the old fiddle and partners choose,  
And shake her down in your cow-hide shoes."

It may be observed that generally, as people grow older and have the benefit of wider observation and more extended knowledge, the views they entertained of dancing in their youth, become greatly changed and they come to look upon this amusement as frivolous and as inimical to physical and moral health.

BUSINESS.

On the 5th day of July the county board met and as they had neglected at the January session to choose a chairman for the year, they now proceeded to that weighty business and C. W. Wilson was raised to the dignity of chairman. At the next session of the board held August 25th, the rate of tax was fixed at one-fourth of one per cent. for county purposes, to which was added by law one-half of one per cent. for state purposes, making but three-fourths of one per cent. as the entire rate of the first tax levied in this county.

THE FIRST ASSESSMENT.

The assessors returns were all made the latter part of August, and as this was the first assessment in the county, the following table of the valuations is of interest.

DISTRICT NO. 1, WINNEBAGO CITY.			
Real Estate.....	\$71,453		
Personal Estate.....	27,774	\$99,227	Tax..... \$744 54
DISTRICT NO. 2, BLUE EARTH CITY.			
Real Estate.....	\$82,711		
Personal Estate.....	30,451	\$113,162	Tax..... \$849.52
DISTRICT NO. 3, WALNUT LAKE.			
Real Estate.....	\$12,743		
Personal Estate.....	9,539	\$22,282	Tax..... \$167.15
		<u>\$234,671</u>	<u>\$1,761.21</u>

The State realized from this assessment \$1,174.14, and the county the sum of \$587.07.

## THE HARVEST.

The harvest throughout the state was not abundant, and in this county was very little. No surplus was yet raised for export and the home prices of farm products were very low. The year was a discouraging one for the farmer and consequently for everyone else, for there is no permanent success in business of any kind in a merely agricultural community, unless the farmer is first prosperous. The tiller of the soil is the first and principal producer of wealth; others are in the main but exchangers and consumers, and the farmers success or failure is the success or failure of the community.

## HARD TIMES.

The early years of Faribault county were characterized by the want of money. This is doubtless true of most new countries, but it was peculiarly so of this county. New settlements are almost always poor in money, because all the money brought in by immigrants is at once invested in permanent, fixed property and improvements and some years must necessarily pass before such communities produce any surplus, from which they can get any money. Capital is more needed and its benefits more apparent in the first settlement of a country than ever after, for the country being new produces nothing, yet everything in the way of improvement is an immediate necessity. Formerly many years were passed by the settlers of the new territories, in a state of semi-barbarism for the want of schools, churches, railroads, even common roads and bridges, the security of local governments, society and many other blessings of civilized life, because of the lack of capital. Of late years, however, in many instances in the settlement of the new countries, capital goes with the settler and in a comparatively few years, all the conveniences of an old settled country are enjoyed. To add to the natural causes of poverty here the great commercial revulsion of 1857, reduced the prices of land everywhere, crippled commerce and all industries and immigrants who came into this county, about this time, came with less money of course, than they would otherwise have done. The greater part of the money in circulation from the first settlement of the county, until 1861, was gold and silver, but in small quantities. Bank paper was greatly depreciated. A bushel basket full of it might be worth something and might not—most probably not.

Money became exceedingly scarce and in the year of which we write it was loaned at from thirty to sixty per cent. on mortgage security. There is no legitimate business that can pay such rates, and a whole community burdened with them, is not benefitted—cannot be in any view of the case. Neither the productive powers of the soil, nor the commercial advantages of any community in

existence, can endure it long and prosper. The inevitable evil results always follow. The country is drained of its money to pay interest to non-residents, instead of being expended in permanent improvements. Lands taken in good faith as the homestead of the settler, finally passes into the hands of the money lender and the borrower becomes bankrupt and must commence life anew. For many years this county has borne a heavy burden in this respect. Loans at such exorbitant rates of interest were made in this county as early as 1857, but in the year of which we now write, became more general and continued for many years thereafter. Thousands of acres of land were pre-empted in this county, the pre-emptors getting the means to do so at thirty and forty per cent. by securing the debt on the lands, and other thousands of acres were mortgaged for money at these high rates for other purposes, and much of such lands were subsequently sold in payment of the debts under mortgage foreclosure and were never redeemed by the mortgagors. Owing to the productiveness of our soil, the healthfulness of the climate and the energy of the people, the evil effects of these things were not so great even here, as in some other sections of the country. The effects to some extent in this, as well as in some other features of the financial crash, had just reached us in this year and hard times began, but this year did not see the worst of it, as we shall see subsequently.

#### THE COMET.

Let us turn now for a moment from the affairs of earth, to the innumerable worlds in the vast expanse above us. Behold! how the heavens do "declare the glory of God." In September of this year Donati's comet visited our heavens and excited the admiration and wonder and perhaps the fears of some of its beholders. This comet, though smaller than some others, exceeded almost all others in the brilliancy of its head. It passed its perihelion, or nearest point to the sun, approaching within 55,000,000 of miles on the 29th of September and was nearest the earth, within 52,000,000 of miles, on the 12th of October. Its train was estimated to be 51,000,000 of miles in length and its period over 2,000 years.

These singular bodies, have for thousands of years, been looked upon with dread by the great mass of the inhabitants of the earth. They have been considered ominous of the wrath of heaven and the harbingers of wars, pestilence and famine, the downfall of monarchs and the destruction of empires. Nor were these opinions always confined to the unlearned. The eminent writer, Farrar, says that "It is conceded by many wise and candid observers, even by the great Niebuhr, the last man in the world to be carried away by credulity, or superstition, that great catastrophies and unusual phenomena

in nature, have as a matter of fact—however we may choose to interpret such a fact—synchronized in a remarkable manner, with great events in human history.” But science has greatly divested these phenomena of their terrors. Yet what important ends comets are designed to accomplish in the economy of the universe, what regions they visit when they pass beyond our vision, “On the long travel of a thousand years,” or what are their exact physical constitution, are questions beyond the powers of human knowledge even now to answer. Oh Omnipotent Creator and Governor of all things! Are these the messengers of thy wrath, or thy mercy!

The mention of this brilliant visitor, which filled the evening skies with splendor, recalls the eloquent words in reference to it, of that great scholar and statesman, Edward Everett. These are his admirable words :

“Return, thou mysterious traveller, to the depths of the heavens, never again to be seen by the eyes of men now living! Thou hast run thy race with glory; millions of eyes have gazed upon thee with wonder; but they shall never look upon thee again. Since thy last appearance in the lower skies, empires, languages, and races of men have passed away; the Macedonian, the Alexandrian, the Augustan, the Parthian, the Byzantine, the Saracenic, the Ottoman dynasties sunk or sinking into the gulf of ages. Since thy last appearance, old continents have relapsed into ignorance, and new worlds have come out from behind the veil of waters, the Magian fires are quenched on the hill-tops of Asia; the Chaldean seer is blind; the Egyptian hierogrammatist has lost his cunning; the oracles are dumb. Wisdom now dwells in furthest Thule, or in newly-discovered worlds beyond the sea. Haply when wheeling up again from the celestial abysses, thou art once more seen by the dwellers on earth, the languages we speak shall also be forgotten, and science shall have fled to the uttermost corners of the earth. But even then His Hand, that now marks out thy wondrous circuit, shall still guide thy course; and then as now Hesper will smile at thy approach and Arcturus and his sons rejoice at thy coming.”

#### THE FIRST COUNTY ORDERS.

On the 15th of September, the county board directed the issue of the first county orders. They amounted to \$171.40.

County orders have fluctuated in value, greatly, in this county. For many years they were under par, sometimes getting as low as twenty-five cents on the dollar and were held at various prices, at various times, up to a dollar. For some years past they have been par and will continue so, doubtless, but they have never been known to command a premium.

It is exceedingly poor economy in the county authorities to permit such a condition of the county finances as will cause county orders or warrants to get below par. All services rendered for the county must very soon be paid at a price advanced just in proportion to the depreciation of county orders.

Thus services worth one hundred dollars costs the county just two hundred dollars, if paid in orders worth fifty cents on the dollar,

and such has been the actual fact in this county. And it is stated as a historical fact that this county and many others in the State have paid thousands of dollars in excess of what they should have paid had a correct policy been pursued. On the one hand all public expenses should be kept down to the minimum and the people should exercise more vigilance than they do, in seeing that their servants make no unnecessary expenses and then on the other hand, as a part of a correct financial system, it should be required that an amply sufficient tax should be levied each year to meet at once all claims against the school district, the town and the county, on presentation.

Large sums of money would thus be saved, the taxes lessened and the public faith and credit preserved.

#### THE FALL ELECTION.

The Republican County Convention for this year was held at Blue Earth City, and made the following nominations:

For Representatives—Geo. D. McArthur, of Elmore; J. A. Latimer, of Winnebago City.

For Register of Deeds—J. A. Kiester.

For Judge of Probate—Guy K. Cleveland.

The other republican candidate for Representative was A. B. Webber, of Freeborn County, nominated by the convention of that county.

The Democratic candidates were:

For Representatives—Jo. L. Weir, of Winnebago City; Jas. L. McCrery, of Blue Earth City.

For Register of Deeds—Jno. M. Jackson Jr.

For Judge of Probate—Andrew C. Dunn.

The other democratic candidate for Representative was J. W. Heath, of Freeborn county.

The chief "bone of contention" in this election was the office of Register of Deeds. It was commonly understood that no legislature would meet the ensuing winter and the contest for representatives was therefore, but slight, though some canvassing was done by the candidates.

The election was held on the 12th day of October, and the following was the vote cast in this county:

For Representatives—A. B. Webber had 191 votes; Geo. D. McArthur had 187; J. A. Latimer, 190; J. W. Heath had 101; J. L. Weir, 109; J. L. McCrery, 113.

For Register of Deeds—J. A. Kiester had 215 votes and Jno. M. Jackson Jr. had 83.

For Judge of Probate—Guy K. Cleveland had 175 votes and Andrew C. Dunn had 112.

The whole republican ticket, both in the county and district was elected.

#### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

By Act passed August 13th, the Legislature instituted a new system of County Government and provided for township organization. In pursuance of this act, the Governor appointed Andrew C. Dunn, Jas. S. Latimer and R. P. Jenness, commissioners to divide the county into towns and name them, preparatory to organization. The commissioners met at Winnebago City on the 27th of September, and performed their duties under the act. In October the township organization went into effect. A fuller statement of this matter is found in another part of this history.

#### THE COUNTY BOARD AGAIN.

The commissioners met October 4, but did nothing of public interest, and on the 28th day of October they met again and for the last time, as they were superseded by a new authority instituted by the township organization act, known as the board of county supervisors. The commissioners at this last meeting approved an official bond and then adjourned sine die. Probably as this was the last meeting of the old board, they would have done something appropriate to the occasion had they known that they were making history. However, the clerk of the board appears to have appreciated the solemnity of the event and after the adjournment entered of record the following remarks:—"For about three years this board has managed the affairs of the county, and of those who constituted the board, it is but just to say, that they have ever given the best satisfaction, and always had the confidence of the people. May the power that succeeds them, ever regard the real interests of the county, and be diligent in their labors to promote them."

Although the times were hard, and the weather during a large part of the year very unfavorable, quite a number of men of enterprise and of some capital became residents of the county this year and many substantial improvements were made. In those days persons coming into the county, usually came first to the villages to make inquiries as to the most eligible lands to be had, and for some years residents of the villages spent much time, and that without fee or reward, in showing vacant lands to the newcomers. During the first two or three years immigrants were very exacting, and must have claims with at least eighty acres of timber and living water, with good prairie adjoining. Subsequently they were satisfied with from forty down to ten acres of timber, with living water and good prairie for the balance of the claim. Afterwards their demands were satisfied with simply good prairie and running water—then to be near the timber and streams, and finally they were glad to get

claims far out on the prairies. It was long thought that the prairies, beyond four or five miles from the timber, would probably never be settled, or if so, at a very late day. Yet but a few years passed and the prairies were all dotted over with the cabins of settlers, and to-day many of the largest and best farms in the county are located far out on these very prairies. Lands in those days were taken under the pre-emption laws, the homestead laws not having yet been passed. They cost one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. An actual residence upon the land for a certain length of time, the erection of a dwelling and some other improvements were required before the pre-emptor could "prove up" as it was called, or in other words pay up and get title to the land. Actual settlers usually complied with the letter and spirit of the law, but there was always a floating population that sought to pre-empt these lands by a very imperfect compliance with the pre-emption laws, and there were many very imperfect pre-emptions. Consciences were often very elastic.

To make a colorable compliance with the law, various subterfuges and pretences were resorted to, some of which were quite ingenious and amusing. In one instance some four quarter sections were pre-empted by four young men, who remained in the country but a few days and had for a house four rails, which they laid together in the form of a square and called it a house, which they moved from one quarter to another, sleeping within the enclosure one night on each quarter. A few grape vines stretched around a small tract, was called a fence. In another instance a small company of pre-empters erected a house 16 by 24, having two doors and four windows, which they moved from one to the other of their respective claims for pre-emption purposes. The house was 16 by 24 inches and 12 inches high.

One made proof that he had a house on the land having a stone foundation and a board floor and this was, in fact, a shanty built of poplar poles, each corner of which rested on a small stone and the floor was the earth, in which the pre-empter had bored a hole—it was a bored floor. Often the residence on the land, required by law, was deemed complied with, in the mind of the pre-emptor, if he had spent a Sunday on the land hunting ducks.

But little remains to add to the record of this year. It may be noted as the most uneventful and in some respects, the most unprofitable in the history of the county, and the record is soon written.



## CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1859.

No session of the legislature was held in the winter of 1858-9, mainly owing to the protracted session of 1857-8, which rendered another following so soon, unnecessary. Representatives had been elected the preceding fall, as will be remembered, but their services were never required. There is, therefore, no legislation for this year to note here.

The second State legislature assembled in December of this year. Some reference thereto, will be found in the history of 1860.

## THE COUNTY SUPERVISORS.

It has been seen that the old board of county commissioners held their last meeting on the 28th of October, 1858, and were then superseded by the new board of county supervisors. This latter board was composed of the chairmen of the several boards of town supervisors. Under this new arrangement the new board consisted of ten members. On the third day of January, the new board met at Blue Earth City, but six members appearing, however, as several of the town districts had failed to organize. A quorum being present, they proceeded to organize by electing James L. McCrery, chairman, and Arthur Bonwell, clerk.

The session lasted three days and much business was transacted, among the most important of which was the division of the county into fifteen school districts. During the existence of this board, the business was transacted much in the manner usual in legislative bodies. There was a standing committee of three on school districts, a committee on roads and bridges, and a committee on claims. Special committees also were appointed occasionally, and questions were discussed in committee of the whole. The committees reported to the board, when final action was taken.

## THE SPRING

The spring of this year, like its predecessor, was late and cold. The snows of the winter were deep and the spring thaws and rains caused high waters and almost impassable roads. But little grain was sown until quite late in April, all of which was quite discour-

aging to the people. The great majority of the people, until after harvest, were wretchedly "hard up." The previous year the crops were light, and the bread and feed during the winter, and the seeding of this year, had about used up the products of 1858. The following extract from the journal of an old resident of Blue Earth City, gives a rather gloomy statement of the condition of the county in March, about the middle of which month it was written. "We have, as a community, arrived at a period more depressing financially, and fuller of gloomy forebodings, than any other in the history of this section of country. There is no money in the country. Provisions are very scarce and very high.

There is no building, improvements or business of any kind in progress. Many families are almost and some quite out of such articles of food as are necessary to support life. In the country, the farmers can do nothing yet of spring work. In the villages men stand idly about the streets, or sit in small companies about the shops and stores, listless and cheerless, and appear to be filled with apprehensions of a yet worse state of affairs to come. The times will doubtless be 'harder' before the new crops are harvested. But it is said 'The darkest hour is just before the break of day,' and it may be, that in three or four months, every department of business may be active, provisions plenty, and money to be had more easily than at present. 'It is never best to give up in despair.'"

#### THE DISTRICT COURT.

The first term of the District Court held in this county commenced its session on the 4th day of April of this year. The officers of the court were, Hon. Lewis Branson, Judge; Geo. B. Kingsley, Clerk, and Geo. H. Goodnow, Sheriff. There were seven civil and two criminal cases on the calendar. The attendance on the court was large, many coming out of curiosity, and the term was a very respectable one. A more full account of this term is given elsewhere. It is sufficient to say here, that the law was now established in the county, and its supremacy acknowledged. There was a tribunal in the county where wrongs could be righted and rights enforced—the time when every man was "a law unto himself," had passed away and another step forward in the progress of the county had been taken. The Bill of Rights declares that "Every person is entitled to a certain remedy in the laws for all injuries or wrongs which he may receive in his person, property or character; he ought to obtain justice freely and without purchase; completely and without denial; promptly and without delay; conformably to the laws." Constitution.

The names on the calendar of the attorneys appearing in the several cases were J. B. Wakefield, A. C. Dunn, Simeon Smith, W.

W. Knapp, J. A. Kiestler and Messrs. Wilkinson and Burt. The Grand Jury sworn and charged, being the first ever convened in this county, was composed of the following gentlemen: Dr. W. N. Towndrow, Foreman; E. Crosby, Wm. Phillips, T. Baily, J. S. Latimer, G. A. Weir, S. L. Rugg, Jas. Sherlock, B. Gray, A. Morris, A. J. Barber, E. B. Kendall, G. D. McArthur, John Beidle, W. W. Sleeper, O. G. Hill, H. A. Faunce, W. Seely, Jas. Decker, S. A. Safford, H. L. Young, S. B. Hamilton and T. Bowen.

No more respectable Grand Jury than this first one has ever assembled in this county.

The first Petit Jury sworn was composed of the following named gentlemen: Aaron J. Rose, Aaron Mudge, Dr. R. P. Jenness, Dr. J. P. Humes, Martin Sailor, O. Webster, W. Ladd, James Prior, Jas. L. McCrery, J. Edwards, H. Chesley and J. Burk. And many very respectable petit juries have sat in this county since that day and pronounced their verdicts, but none more able, intelligent or conscientious than the first. They were "good and lawful men." The writer is sorry to have to record the fact that the first verdict rendered in this county was that short and terrible word "guilty."

The term lasted five days and the business disposed of was considerable.

Courts are usually conducted with much solemnity and dignity, but some very amusing incidents occur occasionally, and here is one.

Our pronouns are apt to get mixed, as the following, which is reported from the Pacific slope. A policeman was being examined as a witness against an Irishman whom he had brought before the local court. After the officer had told his story, the judge inquired.—

"What did the man say when you arrested him?"

"He said he was drunk."

"I want his precise words, just as he uttered them. He did not use the pronoun *he*, did he?"

"Oh yes, he did! He said he was drunk! He acknowledged the corn!"

"You don't understand me at all. I want the words as he uttered them. Did he say, '*I* was drunk?'"

"Oh no, your Honor, he didn't say you was drunk. I wouldn't allow any man to charge that upon you in my presence!"

"A fledgling lawyer, occupying a seat in court, here desired to air his powers, and said, "Pshaw! you don't comprehend at all. His Honor means, did the prisoner say to you, '*I* was drunk?'"

"Waal, he might have said you was drunk, but I didn't hear him."

"What the court desires," said another lawyer, "is to have you state the prisoner's own words, preserving the precise form of the pronoun he made use of in the reply. Was it in the first person *I*; second person *thou* or *you*; or in the third person *he*, *she* or *it*? Now then, sir, did not the prisoner say, '*I* was drunk?'"

"No, he didn't say you was drunk, neither. D'yer supposes the poor fellow charged the whole court with being drunk?"

## THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On the 9th day of April of this year an important event occurred at Winnebago City. This was nothing less than the organization of the Faribault County Agricultural Society. The minutes of the proceedings are given entire, as taken from the Secretary's book that they may be preserved for future use. This book was once lost for a period of about seven years, and was at last found among a lot of rubbish in the County Auditor's office. It is well to transcribe into this history, what is of interest in the book, as its next disappearance may be final. Besides the organization of the society and its subsequent proceedings are items of importance, in the history of the county. In the long future when the members of the society shall assemble around the banqueting board, spread in the spacious and decorated halls situated in the beautiful grounds of the society, to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the organization, every scrap of the early history of the society will be prized as of a value we little comprehend now, and to the brave spirits of that distant time, none of the exercise of the occasion will possess more interest than the reading of the following minutes:

## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

WINNEBAGO CITY, April 9, A. D. 1859.

In accordance with previous notice the inhabitants of Faribault County assembled at Winnebago City to form a County Agricultural Society.

On motion, G. H. Goodnow was called to the chair and D. H. Morse was chosen secretary.

On motion a committee of three was appointed to draft a constitution. G. K. Cleveland, H. H. Bigelow and A. B. Balcom were appointed said committee. The following officers were then elected by acclamation to act until the next meeting, when permanent officers shall be elected.

J. A. Latimer was duly elected president.

W. J. C. Robertson and Amos Preston, vice-presidents.

G. K. Cleveland, corresponding secretary.

D. H. Morse, recording secretary.

J. S. Latimer, auditor.

A. B. Balcom, treasurer.

On motion, the election of other officers was deferred until the next quarterly meeting.

G. K. Cleveland, H. H. Bigelow and A. B. Balcom were appointed a committee to report, at the next meeting, by-laws for the society.

On motion the secretary was instructed to notify Messrs. Latimer and Preston of their election, and to cause the proceedings of this meeting to be published in the Mankato "Independent."

G. K. Cleveland offered the following resolution which was adopted.

"Whereas it is of the first importance to the farmers of Faribault County to raise superior stock, and to obtain seeds and grain of the best quality (in order) to encourage immigration, and to make this beautiful county what less fertile states of the east already are—"a land flowing with milk and honey."

"Therefore, Resolved, That we will encourage the importation of blooded stock and the introduction of choice seeds, grain and fruit trees, by buying of the farmer or merchant who will keep the same for sale.

"2nd. That every member of this society should at once go to work to make or raise something rare to compete for a premium at our county fair next fall.

"3rd. That county agricultural fairs stimulate enterprise and awaken emulation among farmers, and that as farmers, we are proud of our county, and proclaim it second to none in the State in the fertility and breadth and beauty of its farming lands, and that we cordially invite all who are seeking locations to make a home with us."

On motion the society adjourned until the second Wednesday of June, A. D. 1859.

D. H. MORSE, Secretary.

After the minutes there appeared the following list of the first members of the society:

Andrew C. Dunn, A. B. Balcom, W. W. Sleepier, J. S. Latimer, D. H. Morse, H. H. Bigelow, G. K. Cleveland, G. H. Goodnow, J. P. Humes, S. S. Wiltsey, Wm. Ladd, G. C. Burt, Jesse Dunham, Jas. Sherlock, Loyal Dudley, W. J. C. Robertson, J. A. Latimer, A. Preston, J. L. Weir, Geo. M. Patton, T. J. Maxson, W. W. Seely, R. P. Jenness, W. N. Towndrow, J. H. Welch, J. B. Chaple, L. W. Brown, A. D. Mason, A. D. Griffie.

It may be observed that with one or two exceptions, all of the first members of the society were residents of the northern portion of the county. This was owing mainly to the fact of the meeting being called in that part of the county. Subsequently residents in all parts of the county became members, and took an active interest in the welfare of the society.

On the 8th of June, according to adjournment, the society held a meeting at Winnebago City, for permanent organization. A constitution and by-laws were then adopted, and permanent officers elected as follows: J. A. Latimer, president, and W. J. C. Robertson and Amos Preston, vice-presidents; D. H. Morse, recording, and G. K. Cleveland, corresponding secretaries; J. L. Weir, auditor and R. P. Jenness, treasurer.

The following board of councilmen, being one from each town district, was then chosen: Allen Shultis, Charles Marples, H. T. Stoddard, Thomas Blair, H. M. Huntington, Albin Johnson, P. C. Seely, S. L. Rugg, J. L. McCreery and Lorenzo Merry. A long list of additional members was reported at this meeting, and the society was now fully organized under very favorable auspices.

Agriculture and its kindred industries is and must ever of necessity continue to be the leading and most important pursuit of the people of this county. It is essentially an agricultural country. Our manufactures can never be very extensive, though they can be profitably extended beyond what they now are. But to compensate

for the want of commercial and manufacturing facilities we have a most fertile soil, and plenty of it, and the future wealth of the county must come mainly from this source. The sooner, therefore, our people realize these facts and direct their energies to the fostering and development of our agricultural interests, the sooner will they be prosperous. And it is the duty of every resident of the county, whatever his occupation may be, to do what he can to encourage this industry. There are many ways of doing so, by word and deed.

Among other things, our agricultural society should be patronized and the annual fairs of the society should be looked forward to and prepared for as a matter of the first importance. Every one, whatever his business, should take an interest in it, contribute something, if only his presence, and assist in making a success of every fair.

Other societies, farmers' clubs, stock associations and the like, designed to promote and protect this greatest of all interests should be favored. The establishment of convenient markets in the county, and facilities for the sale of all farm products, where some degree of fair dealing may be found, and where sharpers and plausible scoundrels, who with impudent assurance and hands full of Chicago reports gamble with the fruits of the farmers' labors are not the chief figures, should have attention. The introduction of the best breeds of stock and the most successful varieties of seed grain, experiments to test the character of our soils and the adaptation of various products to the soil and climate, the support of our agricultural schools, the circulation of newspapers, periodicals and books, devoted to agriculture and kindred subjects, should be encouraged.

It is a well-known fact that the system of farming pursued in one country is not always successful in another, even of the same latitude. Every considerable district of country has its own peculiar system of farming, which experience has proved to be the best for that locality. In one district it may be stock raising, horses, cattle, hogs; in another, wool growing; in another, dairying; in others, mainly grain raising and in some localities, all of these. The fact has been illustrated here that people going into a new country are apt to take with them and put in practice, the system of husbandry, in the main, which they learned in the place from which they came, and failure often resulted. It was hard to get out of the old ways. The first question should be, what is the system of farming best adapted to this soil and climate? It has already been proved in the experience of many here, that exclusive grain raising is not profitable. There are, in fact, few countries in which it is safe to be dependent on one class of products. And it has been well established here, as it has been generally elsewhere, that diversified farming industries are usually the most successful.

A word should be said here in reference to that superficial and wholly erroneous idea entertained by certain classes, that agriculture is a simple and unimportant pursuit. A very silly practice has grown up among the newspapers, especially in the cities, of making derogatory, but supposed witty remarks about farming and in relation to farmers. The farmer is called "pumpkin eater," "old tur-nip," "old hayseed," etc., and caricatures are made of him representing him in old fashioned clothes, outlandish hat, great cowhide boots, with his trowser legs, if not shown as too short, crowded into his boot tops, and having a great ox gad in his hands and his countenance and general appearance those of a grotesque simpleton. Farmers, as a class, are no more amenable to such characterization than men of other occupations, and as there is neither wit nor wisdom in the practice, it should be abandoned. Where the cultivation of the soil is looked upon with contempt, or as a calling beneath the attention of men of education and standing, it will soon drift into the hands of those who are without means and of small capacity, to the great public detriment. What are the facts?

The cultivation of the soil was man's original, first employment, and it is just as important and honorable now, as it was then. It is not only essential to the well-being of society in a rude state, but is equally necessary in every stage of progress and refinement.

All other occupations—life and prosperity rest upon this as their basis, and it gives life and energy to all other pursuits and industries. Without it they could not exist. The farmer is the primary producer—the creator of the real wealth of the world. It is he that supplies the civilized world with its food, and it is he that stands at the doors of the world's graneries with the keys in his hands.

His calling employs more workers than any other business, and the real and most permanent wealth of every civilized country, is in its farms and farming interests. All the nations of antiquity, which were celebrated for their progress in agriculture, were the most free and independent. Such is the fact to-day. No nation can afford to be so independent of the rest of the world, as a successful agricultural people.

Many of the illustrious men in all ages of the world have engaged in this calling, and have not deemed it derogatory to their dignity in the least. We may mention Gideon, the renowned champion and judge of Israel, who went from his threshing floor to preside in the assemblies of his people; Cincinnatus the great Roman, who left his plow to lead the armies to battle and victory, and then returned to his native fields. In later times this calling has been held in high esteem by the greatest and best. Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Jackson, among the Presidents,

and other illustrious citizens of our country, engaged directly in this pursuit. Many of the respectable and cultured men of Europe and America—men eminent in the walks of science and literature—take a most active interest in the progress of agriculture, attend the meetings of farmers, the public fairs, and assist in the promotion of agricultural interests.

It is an error, too, that education and culture are not necessary in this vocation. The truth is, that there is as much use for education, general intelligence and good judgment in this business, as in any other, and more of these qualifications are required in this, than in most merely mechanical occupations, and education and culture are as much entitled to honor, when brought to this pursuit, as to any other branch of human labor. There is indeed no more useful, or more honorable occupation known among men in any country than that of farming.

It is indeed true, that the active, successful farmer, is the representative of continuous hard labor year in and year out. Almost everything about farming both indoors and out, smacks strong of work and much of it, hard work, requiring close personal attention. The old lines express a general truth in the statement that

“He that by the plow would thrive,  
Himself must either hold or drive.”

And this vocation has its disappointments, trials, losses and perplexities, but so has every other business. No occupation, profession or official station are without these labors, cares and harassing anxieties, and some of them have more of these, and coupled with greater temptations, dangers and risks than farming.

We look upon this occupation not only as equal in dignity and importance with any other, but as having some peculiar advantages.

The farmer has his rewards and successes, that often pay largely, and at all events, he rarely fails of a living at least.

The man of no other business, is so free and independent in his personal action, and no employment is more healthful, or more conducive to a vigorous, manly and ingenious character. His labors too are greatly diversified and free from the ceaseless treadmill grind of most vocations. He is too further removed from the corruptions and errors of society, the vices, the follies of the town than the men of other employments. He need not practice the petty frauds and cheats and shams too current in many other occupations, and in short there is no field of human employment in which a man can easier be “a good man and true, and strictly obey the moral law” and be a peaceable citizen “work diligently, live creditably and act honorably by all men.”



In closing these observations, we cannot do better than quote the following admirable words, taken from a great speech once delivered by Senator Pendleton, of Ohio.

"Farmer life! Freedom from the noise and turmoil and dust and smoke of the crowded city; freedom from the daily struggle and daily anxiety for bread; freedom from competition with the crowds which throng every avenue of commercial and mechanical industry; freedom from the close and daily contact with vice and crime which the temptations and opportunities and sufferings of a city life develop; freedom from the small rooms, the crowded tenement houses, the tainted atmosphere, the contagious diseases, the unnatural hours, the undue excitement, the exhausting pleasures, the glittering splendor, the abject squalor, the artificial life of the city—and in their stead the pure air, the abundant food, the deep sleep, the refreshing dews, the cool breezes, the peaceful order, the ample homes, the healthful habits, the cleanliness, the contentment of the country and that great exaltation of spirit which springs from the contemplation of the beauties of nature and the processes of its active beneficence—the absence of the shrewd cunning and the acute sense which the competition of trade engenders, and the presence of that large-hearted greatness with which our mother earth rewards those who call on her munificence for the returns of their labor."

"In ancient times the sacred plow employed  
The kings and awful fathers of mankind,  
And some compared with whom your insect tribes  
Are but the beings of a summer day,  
Have held the scale of empire, ruled the storm  
Of mighty war; then with unwearied hand  
Disdaining little delicacies, seized  
The plow, and greatly independent lived."

#### THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

The supervisors met on the second day of May. As a new board had been elected at the town meetings in April, the board was re-organized by the election of Geo. H. Goodnow, chairman, Mr. Bonwell continuing as clerk. They had a session of two days, but transacted no business of interest to us at this remote period. On the 30th of May, they re-convened, and among the business done was the appropriation of the sum of three hundred dollars for the erection of a jail. Here was another evidence of progress in the right direction, but the appropriation subsequently failed.

#### THE FOURTH.

There were no celebrations in this county on the 4th of July, 1859. The spirit of patriotism had frozen up. The day was stormy, rain with some sleet and hail falling most of the day, and it was so cold that fires were necessary to comfort. Heat and dust are just as necessary elements of a fourth of July celebration as lemonade and fire crackers, and they could not be had on that day in this county.

## PROGRESS—CROPS.

The immigration to this county during the spring and summer and the amount of substantial improvements, especially in the breaking up of new land, were considerable. The crops of the year were very fair and were harvested in good season. The interesting fact may be stated here that the State which in 1858 imported bread-stuffs, in this year, for the first time, exported considerable grain. But there was yet nothing for export in this county, and there was no market for anything. Money continued scarce and the scarcity to intensify. In fact the people were thrown back to the original system of traffic by barter, or exchange of one product for another. The condition of the country was, however, much better after harvest, than before, as there was then plenty to eat and there was some grain to exchange for necessaries, but at prices which did not pay for the raising. The average price of wheat after harvest and during the remainder of the year was thirty to forty cents, corn twenty-five cents, and oats fifteen cents per bushel.

## THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY.

The supervisors met in annual session, Sept. 13th, and continued two days. A considerable amount of business was done, but nothing of general interest except certain action relative to the removal of

## THE COUNTY SEAT.

The first action taken in relation to a change of the county seat was some movement made during the preceding session of the legislature, to secure the removal to Winnebago City, which, however, proved abortive. At this meeting of the county board, a petition was presented, asking the privilege of voting at the next election on the removal of the county seat, from Blue Earth City to Winnebago City. As the law then stood, it was the duty of the board, on the presentation of such a petition, if signed by a number of legal voters of the county equal to one half the highest number of votes cast at the next preceding general election, to cause to be inserted in the notices for the next general election, an article requiring the voters to vote on the removal.

The majority of the board being opposed to the removal, and to any action on the subject as premature, and for the further reason, as alleged, that the petition was not signed by a sufficient number of legal voters, it was after some hot discussion tabled.

The friends of the removal then applied to the judge of the district court for a writ of mandamus, requiring the board to meet and take such action as the law required, or show cause, which writ was granted and duly served on all the members of the board. They

all attended at Blue Earth City, on a certain day, but only such as favored the removal—not enough for a quorum—met at the usual place of meeting. If a quorum had at any one time gotten together, they could have directed the insertion of the necessary clause in the election notices, but the opposing members were careful to appear at the place of meeting one at a time, and pass out. Thus no quorum being present, no action was taken by the board, nor was cause ever shown why action was not taken. The friends of removal then procured a peremptory writ requiring the clerk of the board to insert the necessary clause in the election notices, which under the circumstances he peremptorily refused to do, claiming that the proceeding was without authority of law, and here the whole matter fell to the ground. It is hardly worth the while at this late day to comment upon these matters.

#### THE ELECTIONS.

Although the times were hard and money scarce, the political interests of the county were not neglected. The fall elections were approaching and there were various legislative and county offices to be filled, and divers individuals were ready to fill them.

A republican county convention met at Blue Earth City and made the following nominations for county offices:

For Auditor—Arthur Bonwell.

For Treasurer—Albin Johnson.

For Sheriff—Geo. H. Goodnow.

For Coroner—Wm. A. Way.

For County Surveyor—S. A. Safford.

And G. K. Cleveland and Allen Shultis were nominated for representatives, and in pursuance of the arrangement heretofore referred to, the convention of Freeborn county nominated T. W. Purdie for representative and Geo. Watson for senator, both of that county.

The democracy nominated H. C. Lacy for senator and Isaac Vanderwalker for representative, both of Freeborn county, and for the other representatives David H. Morse and Geo. B. Kingsley, of this county. The county ticket was :

For Sheriff—H. P. Constans.

For Treasurer—Jas. L. McCrery.

For County Surveyor—Geo. A. Weir.

For Auditor—Wm. N. Towndrow.

For Coroner—A. B. Balcom.

The election was held on the 11th day of October, and resulted as follows:

	Votes.
For Senator—Geo. Watson.....	203
H. C. Lacy.....	109
For Representatives—G. K. Cleveland.....	175
A. Shultis.....	167
T. W. Purdie.....	203
I. Vanderwalker.....	108
D. H. Morse.....	122
G. B. Kingsley.....	143
For Sheriff—G. H. Goodnow.....	220
H. P. Constans. ....	97
For Treasurer—A. Johnson.....	195
J. L. McCrery.....	113
For Surveyor—S. A. Safford.....	223
G. A. Weir.....	94
For Auditor—A. Bonwell.....	178
W. N. Towndrow.....	145
For Coroner—W. A. Way.....	188
A. B. Balcom.....	83

The republican candidates for senator and representatives, receiving a majority also in Freeborn county were consequently elected. State officers were elected this fall and the republican candidates, with Alex. Ramsey for governor, at the head, were, after a hard struggle, elected.

Mr. Windom was the republican and C. Graham the democratic candidate for congress. Windom was elected.

#### THE FIRST FAIR.

The first fair of our newly organized agricultural society, was held at Winnebago City on the 5th day of October. The attendance was large and great interest was manifested in the occasion and the display of productions surpassed all expectation. This fair demonstrated the fact that this county, yet in its infancy, could produce as excellent grains, vegetables, stock, dairy products and articles of domestic manufacture, as any county in the northwest. In short, the fair was a great success, and a great credit to the people of the county. The writer, a few days since, observed a large and gorgeous "poster" tacked up in a conspicuous place giving the world notice of the twenty-first annual fair of the Faribault County Agricultural Society.

#### AUTUMN.

The fall of the year was a gloomy one, both in the weather and the conditions of business. Owing to the stringent times, low prices, two years of rather unfavorable weather, but little of that spirit of cheerfulness, activity and confidence in the future, so necessary to progress and success, were manifested. The weather seemed to be in harmony, too, with the other discouraging features of the times. It was dismal, the atmosphere was hazy, the smoke of prairie fires

hung over the land for weeks, and the sun appeared red and dim. These weather conditions, though really nothing very unusual, had their depressing effect on the spirits of the people.

The prices of various products, reported as current in the fall, were the following:—Flour \$4.50 and corn meal \$2.00 per hundred; wheat 30 to 40 cents, oats 12½ cents, dull, potatoes 12½ cents per bushel; butter 14 cents and tobacco 60 cents per pound; billiards 10 cents per string.

#### AN OUTLOOK.

The great mass of the people of every locality are much influenced by events and circumstances external to the locality in which they live. The heart of every intelligent man beats much in sympathy with the great events occurring in the world, outside of his own locality, and he is much influenced in his life and conduct thereby, and for these reasons no true history, of even small localities, can be written unless at least some brief reference is made to the great current outside events which are the subject of interest, thought and discussion, at the time, in the homes, in the work shop and places of public resort, among the people of whom the history is written. Hence it is that from time to time in the course of this work, attention is called to the great, leading and memorable events of the State and the Nation.

Among the events occurring in the State, during the year, which attracted public attention, was the "Wright County war." A man named Wallace had been murdered in that county in 1858. One Jackson was tried for the offense in the spring of 1859, and acquitted. In April, a crowd of men hung Jackson. The governor offered a reward for the conviction of any of the lynchers. Soon after, one Moore was arrested as one of the parties, and taken to Wright county for trial, but was rescued by a mob. The military was ordered out, and eleven of the lynchers and rescuers were arrested and turned over to the civil authorities. "Glencoe" and "Owatonna" money made its appearance this year. It was considered among that class of "circulating medium," known by the euphonest name of "shin-plasters."

The arrest, trial and conviction of Mrs. Bilanski, for the murder of her husband near St. Paul, created much interest throughout the State. She was executed in March of the next year.

On the wider, national field, we discover a few notable events, of that year, worthy of mention. On the 14th of February, Oregon was admitted into the Union as the thirty-third State.

The discovery of petroleum, during the summer, in Pennsylvania, created a great excitement. People from all parts of the Union flocked to the oil regions. Fabulous prices were paid for land, where it was supposed that oil existed. Sudden and great fortunes were made by many. The discovery of this oil, changed,

throughout the whole country, the modes and materials of illumination, and the quantity of the oil obtained, has continued sufficient for the supply of the whole country for this and many other purposes. This discovery has created a new and profitable industry, employing thousands of men and many millions of dollars capital. In September of this year occurred the fatal duel, near San Francisco, between Hon. D. C. Broderick, United States senator from California, and Hon. D. S. Terry, chief justice of that state. Broderick was killed. The duel grew out of political animosities. The event shocked the better sense of the whole United States. The duel is a most barbarous and criminal method of settling quarrels, but many of our public men, during the first three-quarters of a century of the republic, engaged in them. Public opinion at the time sustained the practice. Said Henry Clay, that eminent patriot, statesman, jurist and orator, himself several times engaged in duels, "When public opinion is renovated and chastened by reason, religion and humanity, the practice of dueling will at once be discontinued." That day has come. Public opinion, for some years past, has been against the practice, and he who has killed his antagonist in a duel, is considered but little better than a murderer. Happily duels seldom now occur.

It was in October of this year that John Brown made his raid on Harper's Ferry, Va. He seized the U. S. Arsenal at that place and captured the town. His object was to liberate the slaves of the south and destroy the system of American slavery. The capture of this place was the initial and strategic point in his scheme. He had but a few followers, probably not to exceed twenty-five active participants, in this overt act, but he had many sympathizers in the north, and probably among the negro population of the south. His project utterly failed. Government troops soon dislodged him and he was taken prisoner, and with a number of his abettors tried, convicted and executed.

But there was far more in this event than appears in the simple statement of the occurrence. It tended to estrange still farther, the south from the north, and augmented the bitterness growing between the two sections, on the question of slavery, and for many years afterwards there was heard throughout the north the famous song in which occurs the lines:

"John Brown's body lies mouldering in the grave,  
But his soul goes marching on."

And here endeth the record of the fifth year.

"Gone! Gone forever! Like the rushing wave,  
Another year—has burst upon the shore  
Of earthly being—and its last low tones,  
Wandering in broken accents on the air,  
Are dying to an echo."

## CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1860.

We now enter upon the history of the sixth year of the county. It was an important year, for among other things it was a year of reckoning—one in which the accounts were made up and the progress which the county had made, was exhibited. Five of the most wretched years in the history of the county had been passed, 1855 was the first of the settlement, during which but little had been done. In 1856 the population was sparse, and the county still a wilderness. In 1857 the Indian excitement and late spring were greatly detrimental. In 1858 the county was deluged by excessive rains and the crops were light. In 1859 the spring was again late, provisions scarce and high and the times hard. It was the period of first settlement and of the struggle to get a foothold and a subsistence—the stone age of the county. They were the years of semi-barbarism, of salt pork, corn bread and poor whisky, of rags and recklessness.

But with the incoming of 1860, a better day in many respects notwithstanding the hard times, a new day with new duties dawned upon the county—a new decade and a new epoch in our history began.

In distinguishing between the earlier and later years of the county, the years before 1860 may appropriately be named, the “early years” or “early days” of the county, and those who resided here then “the old settlers” or the early settlers of the county.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

The second State legislature assembled at the capital December 7th, 1859, and adjourned March 12th, 1860. The county was represented in this session by Geo. Watson in the Senate and Guy K. Cleveland, Allen Shultis and T. W. Purdie in the House. No acts were passed relating exclusively to this county, but the State was re apportioned for legislative purposes, and this county was placed in a new district, numbered the twentieth. The district was composed of the counties of Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock and all that part of Brown County lying east of range thirty-four—a tract of territory large enough for an empire. This county had the distinction of being considered

the senior county of the district. The district was entitled to one senator and one representative.

At this session, Morton S. Wilkinson was chosen United States Senator to succeed James Shields.

#### THE SUPERVISORS.

This board met on the second day of January and had a session of four days. Much business was done, which is stated elsewhere in this history, but we note here that at the close of the session a very suspicious resolution was adopted, on motion of Supervisor Seely. The resolution was to the effect that Dr. W. N. Towndrow be appointed a committee "to inquire how much strychnine can be procured for one hundred dollars of county orders, and to report at the next meeting of the board." The resolution has a dark and mysterious aspect, as it does not state whether liquid "strychnine," as whisky was sometimes called, or the crystal, was intended, nor is there any intimation in the resolution, or on the record, as to the purpose for which the board was going into the wholesale poisoning business. But to save the board from unjust suspicion, the writer suggests the fact that in the earlier years of the county, among other calamities endured by the settlers, was the great destruction of the crops by gophers, blackbirds and cranes, and which sometimes became so serious that the public authorities took the matter in hand, and purchased large quantities of poison, which was distributed among the farmers, with which to destroy the pests.

The board met again on the 5th day of March, and after a session of several days adjourned, *sine die*. This was the last meeting of the board of supervisors. A note on the record reads as follows: "During the session of the legislature of 1859-60, a general law was passed providing for a board of county commissioners, to consist of five members in counties of over eight hundred voters, and of three members in counties containing a less number, and repealing the act providing for a board of supervisors. Under this act this county is entitled to three commissioners, and in pursuance of the provisions of said act, such commissioners were elected at large at the annual town meetings in April, of this year, to hold their offices until the next general election." The persons elected were Albin Johnson, Thomas Blair and J. H. Welch.

The supervisor system was wisely abolished. It may serve a good purpose in wealthy and populous counties, but the system is too cumbersome and expensive in counties thinly settled. Ordinarily three or five men, as under the commissioner system, can transact the business of a county as wisely and expeditiously and much more economically, than a board composed of from ten to



twenty members. The only action taken at this last meeting of the supervisors, needing special mention, was that of granting two licenses to saloonkeepers to sell intoxicating liquors, which were the first ever granted in the county. In such cases a certificate signed by the county auditor is usually made, certifying the fact that the person named is authorized to sell intoxicating liquors at retail, and is delivered to such person.

It is often the fact that certificates and diplomas granted for various purposes, are appropriately embellished with legends, mottoes, apt quotations from the poets, or the scriptures, and the custom is a proper one. It might be asked what suitable texts may be used to adorn and beautify a license certificate to sell intoxicating liquors. The following are suggested, which may be neatly printed around the borders—"Wine is a mocker: Strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Prov. 20: 1. "At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." Prov. 23: 32. "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Cor. 6: 10.

"Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink." Isa. 5: 11.

And this might be printed in illuminated letters across the face of the certificate:

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink; that puttest thy bottle to him and makest him drunken." Heb. 2: 15.

#### THE SPRING.

The year was one long to be remembered by the old settlers for many things, but especially for its delightful weather. The preceding years had been, as we have seen, very disagreeable, but seemingly to compensate for this, the spring of this year opened early and at once. The snows of the winter and the rains of the spring were light, and passed off without floods. The greater part of the grain was sown during the last days of February and first half of March, and the weather continued very fine, from the opening of spring until very late in the fall. The water, mud and mosquitoes of the preceding years were forgotten, and it was declared that Minnesota possessed the finest climate in the world. Never was a spring time more enjoyed by the people. The season of spring is always welcome. The bright sun worshipped as a god in the olden day, again comes back from his low southern position, bringing his glorious light and warmth.

I marvel not, O Sun, that unto thee  
 In adoration men should bow the knee,  
 And pour the prayer of mingled awe and love  
 For like a God thou art, and on thy way,  
 Of glory sheddest, with benignant ray,  
 Beauty and life, and joyance from above.—*Southey.*

The icy fetters of old winter are broken. New-born life and energy and activity are awakened on every hand. The doors and windows of our dwellings are thrown wide open, and the dwellers come forth with gladness as from a prison, to enjoy the bright day and balmy air and out door freedom.

"Zephyrs greet us, skies grow brighter,  
Flashing 'neath the noontide ray;  
Fair eyes sparkle, heads grow lighter,  
Smiles with gladden impulse play;  
Spring brings with her leaf and flower,  
Heart's fresh gladness, mind's fresh power."

The streams again glitter and ripple and dance in the sunlight. The fields grow green, the wild flowers blossom and the trees and forests, long dead and withered, clothe themselves in verdure. The husbandman goes forth to his fields to sow the seed, confident in the perpetual promise of the harvest, the cattle seek the fresh, new pastures, and the birds return to gladden the heart with their songs. What a grand resurrection from death unto life! Symbol indeed, of that more glorious resurrection of the just to life everlasting.

These, as they change, Almighty Father, these  
Are but the varied God. The rolling year  
Is full of Thee. Forth in the pleasing Spring  
Thy beauty walks, Thy tenderness and love.  
Wide flush the fields; the softening air is balm;  
Echo the mountains round; the forest smiles;  
And every sense, and every heart is joy.—*Thompson.*

#### THE COURT.

In passing it may be well to state that the second term of the District Court commenced its session on the second day of April, Hon. L. Branson, presiding. A pretty lengthy calendar was disposed of, but none of the cases tried were of public importance. In the summary of the events of a year, the sessions of our District Court, may, to a superficial observer, appear to be an unimportant item. But such is not the fact. Besides the important consideration that this court—the highest in the county—affords the means of the final adjustment of innumerable legal difficulties and the trial of offenders against the laws of the land, for which purposes it was established, it exercises a wholesome educational and restraining influence upon the public. It is, too, the occasion of the assembling of many people from all parts of the county, either as parties having some interest in the causes to be tried, or as jurors or spectators. All become more or less instructed in the laws of the land and impressed with the power of the laws and the dignity and decorum of the courts of justice.

THE COMMISSIONERS (REDIVIVUS.)

No event of interest occurred until the 4th day of June, when the new board of county commissioners met and organized by the election of Thomas Blair, chairman. The board proceeded to divide the county into three commissioner districts as follows:

District No. One.—Comprised the towns of Kiester, Seely, Campbell, Dobson, Pilot Grove, Jo Daviess, Blue Earth City, and Emerald.

No. Two.—Comprised the towns of Brush Creek, Foster, Cobb, Walnut Lake, Barber, Prescott, and Verona.

No. Three.—Comprised the towns of Dunbar, Marples, Lura, Guthrie and Winnebago City. This division of the county was a matter of much interest at the time because of the rivalry then existing between the north half and the south half of the county, led respectively by Winnebago City and Blue Earth City, the only villages in the county. As the commissioners were thereafter to be elected in the districts separately, and not at large, it was thought that this division would give one or the other faction a controlling interest on the board and in the county affairs. Winnebago City prevailed. The board met again on the 16th day of June and on the 4th day of September and November 17th, but did no business of historical interest, except such as is noted in other parts of this work.

THE FIRST NATIONAL CENSUS.

During the month of June a national census, the first of this county, was taken. Geo. B. Kingsley acted as assistant marshal, for taking the census of this county. The following abstracts of the returns are of interest:

Number of male inhabitants.....	743
Number of female inhabitants.....	589
Whole number of inhabitants.....	1,332

As compared with the census of 1857, the increase of population was about one hundred per centum in three years. As to the nativity of the population, one was born in Switzerland, one in Spain, one in District of Columbia, one in Holland, two in N. Carolina, two in Maryland, three in New Jersey, three in Nova Scotia, three in Missouri, three in Virginia, four in Hungary, four in Rhode Island, nine in France, ten in Kentucky, ten in Tennessee, twelve in Michigan, eighteen in Ireland, twenty in Connecticut, twenty-three in Scotland, twenty-five in New Hampshire, twenty-nine in England, thirty in Massachusetts, thirty-four in Prussia, thirty-five in Maine, thirty-seven in Norway, thirty-nine in the German States, forty-two in Vermont, forty-eight in Iowa, forty-eight in Canada, fifty-seven in Ohio, sixty-nine in Indiana, seventy-two in Illinois, seventy-five

in Pennsylvania, one hundred and eighteen in Wisconsin, one hundred and fifty-eight in Minnesota, and two hundred and eighty-seven in New York. From which it appears that 1,085 of the inhabitants of the county were born in the United States, of whom one hundred and fifty-eight only were native Minnesotians, the remainder, two hundred and forty-seven, were born in foreign countries. No citizen of African descent is reported. Turning to the report of certain property, it is found that the number of acres of improved land was 3,651.

Cash value of farms.....	\$113,400
Number of horses.....	159
Milch cows.....	285
Working oxen.....	198
Other cattle.....	317
Sheep.....	46
Swine.....	579

As to the occupations of the people of the county, the returns show that there was one stage driver, one silversmith, one clerk, one millwright, one baker, one cooper, one gunsmith, one trapper, one butcher, two machinists, two tailors, two merchants, two hotel keepers, three shoemakers, three wagonmakers, six blacksmiths, seven school teachers, nineteen carpenters, two hundred and sixty farmers, besides farm laborers, two physicians to look after the health of the people, five lawyers to see that justice was done and to preserve the peace and secure the temporal prosperity of the community, and one minister of the gospel to guard their spiritual interests. The disproportion which appears above, between the law and the gospel, was not so great as it seems, as there was but one lawyer at that time who pretended to practice.

A census is defined to be "an official enumeration of persons and their property, generally with such facts as tend to show their moral, social, physical and industrial condition." The knowledge of the number of inhabitants, their condition in all respects and the resources of the country is very necessary to every government. The enumeration of the people was enjoined in the Pentateuch, and the most ancient record of the kind is that of Moses. There is a record of a Chinese census made in the year 2042 B. C., and of one in Japan in the last century before Christ. The Greeks and Romans made such enumerations of the inhabitants, and in almost all civilized or semi-civilized countries it has been the custom for many centuries, at longer or shorter periods, to take a census. The Federal Constitution requires the taking of a census every ten years. The first was made in 1790, and one has been made in every tenth year since. The number of any year ending with a cipher, is the year of the National census. The State also provides for a census every ten years, but the State census is usually taken in the year, the number

of which ends with five. Thus we have a census of the State, either National or State, every five years. The National census of 1880, the tenth, was the most perfect, elaborate and reliable one ever made in any age or country.

#### THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

There was a Fourth of July celebration at Blue Earth City in due and ancient form. J. B. Wakefield, Esq. delivered the address. A large company was present and listened attentively as the orator eloquently told the old, old story, repeated every year from Washington Territory to Florida, from Maine to California, of the greatness and glory and eternal perpetuity of our country and its institutions. Ah, how little we know of the future! This very anniversary of the Fourth of July was the last one, for many years, celebrated in an undismembered country. The speaker of the following year had a different story to tell—one of treason, disunion and blood, appalling to the patriotic heart!

#### THE TIMES.

The times still continued hard, and money, as the phrase goes, was very "close," but, as someone remarked, was not so close that the people could get hold of much of it.

Yet a very marked and agreeable change had come over the community—a more hopeful and healthful spirit, a new life, new energy and enterprise seemed to animate the people. Immigration was very considerable, some building was being done in the villages and through the country—quite a large amount of land was broken up and farms opened, schools were started in various districts, roads were laid out and worked and bridges built, regular religious services were instituted at a number of places, society was getting in better condition and the county into good running order, and to crown all, the crops were abundant and harvested in good season.

#### NOTABLE EVENTS.

Among the great events of the year, which attracted public attention and were the subjects of discussion, there may be mentioned that terrible calamity, the falling of the great Pemberton Mills, at Lawrence, Mass., in which hundreds of operatives were crushed and burned to death.

Then there was the arrival in May, at Washington, of the Grand embassy from Japan, bearing a treaty of peace and commerce with the United States. This was the first treaty ever made by this curious and ancient people, with any outside, "barbarous" nation. The Embassy, and the reception accorded it by the general government, were very imposing and worthy, too, such great nations.

The checkered career of Gen. Walker, the great filibuster, whose "expeditions" during a number of years, created considerable interest, came to an end in September of this year. He was shot in Honduras, a country which he designed to "take," but which, it appears took him. The visit of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and his tour through the United States during the summer and fall, was also one of the memorable events of the year.

I. O. G. T.

As an evidence of the progress of the times it is well to record the fact that on the 8th day of September, of this year, there was organized at Blue Earth City a lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, consisting of sixteen charter members. This was the first temperance organization ever instituted in the county, and the necessity for it, at that time, has never been questioned from that day to this. It being the first society of the kind, the writer will be excused for mentioning the chief officers of the lodge. They were as follows :

J. A. Kiester, Worthy Chief Templar.  
 Mrs. C. M. Butler, Worthy Vice-Templar.  
 Geo. B. Kingsley, Worthy Secretary.  
 Wesley Hill, Assistant Secretary.  
 E. C. Young, Financial Secretary.  
 Mrs. J. A. Converse, Treasurer.  
 J. A. Monahan, Marshal.  
 Geo. S. Converse, Chaplain.

This lodge prospered greatly and many were reclaimed from habits of intemperance, but after about a year of good works, owing to various causes, it ceased to exist. The order has often however, been re-established and done good work in various parts of the county, since that day. Frontier towns are often rough and immoral places and the villages in our county, in the earlier days, were no exception, though they were not so bad as many other places. In western border towns, saloons are too often the chief places of resort, and drunkenness, with its inevitable concomitants, gambling, profanity and rowdyism pretty generally prevails, to the great injury of the locality. To even a casual observer it is very plain that were the intoxicating liquors removed from such places the greater proportion of these evils would disappear. They constitute, in great measure, the fuel which feeds these fires of hell. A town or city should not only be an aggregation of people and houses, and a center of trade and manufactures, but it should also be a center of intelligence and culture, with its schools and libraries, lecture halls and high-toned press, a center of religion, morality and good manners and good order, with its churches and moral and benevolent

societies and pure social and domestic life, and should exert a benign and elevating influence on all the surrounding and tributary country. It should not be a sink of iniquity where drunkenness, vulgarity, gambling, profanity and other vices and crimes, with ignorance, filth and social degradation, are the predominant features, a place where easy facilities and temptations are found, on every hand, to allure the unwary to wrong doing, a quagmire, a hole in which not only many of its own people are sunk, but one exercising a baleful influence on all the surrounding country, a place which, when anyone visits on business or pleasure, an anxious family, or friends at home, fear for him because he may return demoralized, despoiled and drunken. That our villages, larger towns and cities, shall ever be such places as they should be, is doubtless but a Utopian dream, but all experience and observation prove, that the longest step which can be taken toward such an accomplishment, would be the extermination of the use of and traffic in intoxicating liquors, and blessed be the hand, the head, and the heart, that helps so good a cause.

A powerful religious organization has incorporated in its fundamental law, the following declaration:

“Temperance in its broader meaning is distinctly a Christian virtue, enjoined in the Holy Scriptures. It implies a subordination of all the emotions, passions and appetites to the control of reason and conscience. Dietetically it means a wise use of suitable articles of food and drink, with entire abstinence from such as are known to be hurtful. Both science and human experience agree with the holy Scriptures, in condemning all alcoholic beverages as being neither useful nor safe. The business of manufacturing and vending such liquors is also against the principles of morality, political economy and the public welfare.”

FIGURING UP.

Let us now see what we had this year in the way of crops and the value of property. The following statement was compiled by the county auditor from the assessors returns:

Wheat, acres	1,524.....	Bushels	27,087
Rye, “	8.....	“	166
Barley “	35.....	“	775
Oats, “	536.....	“	20,104
Buckwheat,“	53.....	“	557
Corn, “	1,141.....	“	41,293
Potatoes. “	133.....	“	20,766
Beans, “	12.....	“	202
Sorghum, “	9.....	600 gallons	
Hay, (wild).....	1,711	tons	

Assessed value of property in the county:

Real.....	\$232,530.00
Personal.....	30,565.00
Total.....	<u>263,095.00</u>

Prices average as follows during the year: In the spring flour was \$3.50 per hundred, butter 12½ cents per pound, corn 50 cents and wheat \$1.00 per bushel. In the fall flour \$3.50 to \$4.00 per hundred, pork 9 to 12 cents per pound, butter 12½ cents per pound, corn 50 cents and oats 16 cents per bushel.

#### THE SECOND FAIR.

The fair of the Agricultural Society was held again at Winnebago City and proved a gratifying success. The farmers manifested a disposition to make these annual exhibitions pleasant and profitable. The interest in the society was now well established and growing, and the society bid fair to serve a good purpose.

#### THE BATTLE OF THE BALLOTS.

As the fall came on, politics began to interest the people. It was the year of a great presidential election and was the first presidential election at which the people of this county were permitted to vote on this question. Great interest too was manifested in our local politics. Several State and quite a number of county and district officers were to be elected. The presidential candidates were Abraham Lincoln, Republican; Stephen A. Douglas, Northern Democrat; John C. Breckenridge, Southern Democrat, and John Bell, Old Whig and Peace party.

The Republican District Convention met at Madelia, and nominated for Senator Guy K. Cleveland, of this county, and A. Strecker, of another county, for Representative.

The Republican County Convention met at Blue Earth and nominated,

For Register of Deeds, J. A. Kiester.

County Auditor, A. Bonwell.

Surveyor, J. H. Welch.

Judge of Probate, A. Preston.

County Attorney, J. B. Wakefield.

County Commissioners, J. H. Dunham, J. B. Wakefield and Thomas Blair. No nominations were made for the offices of Clerk of Court and Court Commissioner. The Democratic candidates were:

For Senator, Andrew C. Dunn.

Representative, Wm. B. Carroll.

For Register of Deeds, L. W. Brown.

County Auditor, Geo. K. Moulton.

Surveyor, J. M. Wheeler.

Judge of Probate, D. H. Morse.

Clerk of Court, Geo. B. Kingsley.

Court Commissioner, Andrew C. Dunn.

No nomination was made by the Democrats for the office of County Attorney.



The election was held on the 6th day of November, and the following was the result:

Lincoln electors, 270 votes. Douglas electors, 63 votes.

For Senator, Guy K. Cleveland had 221 votes and Andrew C. Dunn 105. For Representative, A. Streeker had 246 votes and W. B. Carroll 87. For County Auditor, A. Bonwell had 270 votes and Geo. K. Moulton 64. For County Attorney, J. B. Wakefield (no opposition), had 328 votes. For Surveyor, J. H. Welch had 264 votes and J. M. Wheeler 69. For Judge of Probate, A. Preston had 268 votes and D. H. Morse 65. For Register of Deeds, J. A. Kiester had 262 votes and L. W. Brown 74. For Clerk of Court, Geo. B. Kingsley (no opposition), had 126 votes. For Court Commissioner, Andrew C. Dunn had 91 votes and J. A. Kiester 102. For County Commissioners, J. H. Dunham, J. B. Wakefield and Thos. Blair were elected. The whole vote of the county was 336.

The presidential contest of 1860 was a bitter and exciting one, and on its issues depended, in a great measure, very stupendous results. The antagonism between the free States of the North and the slave States of the South, had been growing stronger and stronger, from year to year. The cry of "disunion, secession" had long been heard, but grew loud and portentous in this campaign. It meant something. The Shibboleths of the campaign in the North were, free homesteads, free labor, free speech, free press and squatter sovereignty. The Republican party was in the minority, as against all outside of its ranks, but owing to the divisions among the opposition, Mr. Lincoln was elected president. When this fact became known, intense excitement prevailed throughout the South. Secession conventions were called in various southern States, southern members of the cabinet and a number of senators and representatives in congress, from southern States, resigned their seats, and several forts, custom houses and other property of the general government, in the South, were seized under State authority.

The year closed here, as throughout the whole nation, in gloom. Business became again depressed, another "money panic" prevailed, and currency became greatly depreciated, enterprise was paralyzed, and the people, full of forebodings, were watching and waiting. It was indeed evident that the dreaded hour, long threatened, had come, and a dreadful time—the awful import of which none then fully realized—aye, even the day of the battle of the bullets—was indeed near at hand.

"O, shame to men! devil with devil damned  
Firm concord holds, men only disagree  
Of creatures national, \* \* \* \* \*  
And live in hatred, enmity and strife  
Among themselves, and levy cruel wars,  
Wasting the earth, each other to destroy."—*Milton*.

If the reader will now recall to mind, the principal events of this year, the weather conditions, the scarcity of money, our statistics of population, of live stock and farm products, the topics of local and public interest, discussed among the people, and will at the same time remember that there were then no railroads or telegraphs and no newspapers in the county, that we had but two small villages then, that the settlements were confined to the timber, along the streams and about the lakes, and that the prairie lands were almost all unclaimed and vacant, he will have a very accurate mental picture of our county in 1860.

## CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1861.

## THE GREAT REBELLION.

“Dissolve the Union! No, forbear,  
 The Sword of Democles is there;  
 Cut but a hair and earth shall know  
 A darker, deadlier tale of woe  
 Than history's crimson page has told,  
 Since Nero's car in blood was rolled.”

This year saw the beginning, but alas, notwithstanding all the hopes and promises at the time, not the end, of the great rebellion. The dark clouds of civil war—a war more gigantic and terrible than any yet known among men, were fast gathering, when the year opened, and cast their somber and ominous shadows over the whole land.

The mutterings of the gathering storm, now grown loud and fierce, were heard by the people of this county, as by all other loyal citizens of the land, with grief and indignation. But they, like the great majority of the people of the United States, both North and South, but little apprehended the tremendous carnival of blood and desolation, upon which the Nation was about to enter.

Though this county lay far out, at the time, on the frontiers and away from the great centers of activity, wealth and influence, the patriotic spirit of the people, was soon awakened. Recruiting for the army began very early, and every encouragement was given by the county and its people to the cause of the Union, from the very beginning until the close of the war, and we are proud to record the fact here, that the patriotism, courage and fortitude of no people ever surpassed that of the residents of this county, during the troublous times of the great rebellion and the terrible Sioux massacre, all of which will become evident as we proceed with this history. Of the causes which led to the great civil war and the events which characterized it, belonging more properly to the domain of national history, but little need be said in this work.

It is sufficient to say here, briefly, in explanation, that from Colonial times, there had been gradually growing up in the Nation, between the North and the South, an apparent antagonism of interests, political sentiments and social structure, which originated in

and was fostered by the institution of slavery in the Southern States of the Union. Human slavery was an anomaly in a free government like ours. The system was not only a violation of the precepts of natural and revealed law, but was directly at variance with all the fundamental principles of our political institutions. The system of free government and equality of political privileges for all, and respected free labor in the North, could not peaceably exist by the side of the system of slavery, with its aristocracy of masters and degraded slave labor and other inherent evils.

Hence constant contention on the subject of slavery, its rights to protection and its right, under the constitution, to go into the free territories sprang up and constantly grew more and more bitter. The statesmen of the South soon conceived the idea that the union of the States was of little binding force or obligation, and they early taught the doctrine of absolute "State sovereignty" and the right of any State to secede from the Union when it chose. This pernicious doctrine of State rights was, in debate, overthrown by the statesmen of the North. Yet while the South was mainly united in its views and demands, the North was somewhat divided. In all the preliminary stages of the contest and during the rebellion the South had many sympathizers in the North. Numerous compromises on the subject were made but all was of no avail. Slavery was a sin against God, a crime against man and embodied within itself a host of intolerable evils, the result of the relation existing between the absolute master and the absolute slave. It was repugnant to the progress and enlightenment and sense of justice and right of the age. It was well-named a "relic of barbarism" and was overliving its time in the world's history. Therefore compromises, admitting its existence, settled nothing. No question is ever settled until it is settled right, and the only right settlement of the slavery question was its total abolition. All great evils, perhaps all evils are aggressive. Slavery was aggressive. It constantly demanded more and more. Southern leaders sought to make slavery national, while in fact it was never anything but a sectional institution. They became very arrogant, insolent and domineering everywhere, but especially in the national councils. The North could not agree to the extension of the evil, nor accede to the many other demands of the South. Southern statesmen determined to maintain their peculiar institution and its right to extension, its nationalization, and to dominate the politics and control the highest offices of the nation. If they could not do this in the Union, then they would dissolve the Union. They finally by falsehoods, specious arguments, the spread of a false public sentiment and a great clamor, led the whole people of the South to believe that it was right and necessary for the slave States to secede. And this they

attempted. They organized a new government in February for the seceded States, and named it "The Confederate States of America," and they proposed to maintain themselves by force of arms, and proceeded to organize their armies, and early in the year they seized the forts, arsenals and navy yards situated in their States.

Such action was a violation of the constitution and laws of the nation, and the whole theory of the action was erroneous.

Another cause which led to and precipitated such action, was the lust for power of evil, ambitious and reckless men, who led in the movement. They thought to obtain wealth, power and position by this act of dissolving the old Union and the establishment of a new government of which they should have control—a government built upon the basis of the slavery of a large part of its people. The attempt was rebellion against the supremacy and lawful authority of the nation, and the act was treason.

That the reader of the future, may, without consulting the more extensive authorities, have some idea of the views of the people of the Northern States, on the subjects of secession and disunion, the writer has thought proper to note here, very briefly indeed, some of the propositions maintained by them, on these, the most solemn and portentous questions which have ever agitated the American people.

The secession of the States of the South from the Union, was impolitic, impracticable and grossly unjust, to say nothing of the higher and constitutional objections. We may briefly refer to some of these considerations.

1. It sought to dis sever a united, homogeneous, free and prosperous people—a people who, though originally constituted of several different nationalities and assimilating the people of the many nationalities, subsequently flowing to it, had created a new nationality—the American—having a national language, one religion, a common literature, education and traditions, the same social and domestic characteristics, habits and customs, a common inheritance of political rights and substantially common interests, except as some of these conditions were modified by the existence of chattel slavery in the States of the South. And the people of this new nationality is destined, if earth and time shall endure but a little longer, to become the greatest race in intellectual, intuitive and physical power, which has yet appeared in the world.

2. Disunion would divide great religious organizations, moral and charitable associations, scientific societies, greatly impair many splendid educational institutions, and break up many social and family relations, creating bitter antagonisms among them all.

3. Disunion sought to divide territory which nature seems to have designed to be one. Great rivers, the outlets to the sea, the

highways of a vast commerce crossed many States, the free navigation of which was an indisputable right and which should never become subject in whole, or in part, to control and tolls imposed by rival, perhaps hostile nations. And the natural and manufactured products of this great territory were necessary to the comfort and welfare of the whole, and to be free from any interstate duties and restrictions, such as would exist and would be necessary for local protection, if this territory should be divided into two or more separate and independent nations.

4. Disunion sought to sunder territory already long bound together in commercial and pecuniary unity, by the iron bands of railroads, built through and interlaced over many States of the Union, thus disrupting and injuring them, without regard to the rights of the relative parts, or the public or private interests involved.

5. Disunion would ignore and make no provision for the vast interstate moneyed interests and corporation rights (in addition to those of railroads), and would render worthless and subject to repudiation, State and other public bonded indebtedness, involving hundreds of millions of dollars, in value, and the property rights of hundreds of thousands of innocent people.

Briefly stated, the right, so-called, of secession was based upon the assumption that the union of the States was but a league or confederation of sovereign and independent States, or nations, and that any one of such States could dissolve the Union, that is, secede therefrom at will. This doctrine had long been taught by a few of the statesmen of the South, but it is certainly a delusion. The impolicy of disunion is referred to above and now a word may be added as to the historical and legal, or constitutional phases of this so-called right.

There never was a time from the earliest colonial times to the day of the Declaration of Independence, when any colony was a sovereign and independent State, or nation, but while, for a time, the colonies were independent of each other, they were all the subjects of one nation—Great Britain.

And the colonies were united, when framing and promulgating the Declaration of Independence and long prior thereto, and were known by the name of the "United Colonies," then named States. And it was the representatives of the united not the separate, States of America, in general congress assembled, Congress representing the people, being the sovereign power which proclaimed, not by the authority of the separate States, but "in the name and by the authority of the people of the colonies," or States, the Declaration of Independence; independence not of each colony of the others, but

the independence of the united colonies, now States, of the mother country—Great Britian.

It was not the independence of the separate States which was acknowledged by Great Britian by the treaty of 1783, or that which was recognized by the other States of the world, but it was the independence of the nation, the United (not the separate or sovereign) States of America.

The Constitution of the United States was proposed by the separate States through their representatives in congress, but received its adoption, sanction and authority, by the whole people, for the purpose of forming "a more perfect union" "and legislating" "for the general welfare." "The people of the United States" did this sovereign act, in conventions of the people, not separate and independent States, by their legislatures, claiming sovereign powers. And the Union is one and indivisible, except by the whole people themselves. For back of all States or other political subdivisions, back even of the organization known as the United States, is the people, one entire people, the source under God, of all authority and power, the real sovereignty of the nation, and the Union is indissoluble, except by the consent of the whole people.

The vast subsequent acquisition of territory, the Louisiana purchase, Florida, etc., purchased from other nations and from the Indians, were not acquired by any one State, then existing, or subsequently organized, but by the Nation—the United States—from the common funds of the Nation, and belongs to the whole people, the Nation, and such territories are used and occupied by the people therein for the purposes of the Nation, under the constitution, and cannot be diverted to the use of a separate sovereignty, without the consent of the whole people. And if any State or States, or territories of the United States became vacant, every part thereof, and everything therein would be immediately subject to the control and disposal of the people of the United States.

The forts, arsenals, navy yards, custom houses, mints, coast defences, national hospitals and all other national property in the States or territories are the property of the Nation, and the State or territory wherein such property is situated, can acquire no property rights therein without the consent of the Nation. States in the Union are separate and independent only so far as indicated in and by the constitution of the United States. They are sovereign, separate from and independent of each other and of the United States, in relation to their local, domestic or municipal affairs, but are not sovereign in a national capacity, and cannot, in these respects, or in any respects, pass any law, or do any act, in conflict with the National Constitution and the laws of the United States, made in pursuance thereof. States have their rights, which should be care-

fully maintained, under the constitution and federal laws, but among these rights the so-called right of secession is not one, and no provision has ever been anywhere made whereby a State may secede, or the Union be dissolved, for the Union was to be perpetual.

The general government had done no wrong to the States of the South; had not even interfered with their peculiar institution of slavery. These facts were admitted by some of the southern leaders. As can easily be proved, the southern States had no excuse for their action, which an enlightened humanity or wise statesmanship can ever approve. It was simply wild, willful and wicked.

There is such a right as the right of revolution, but there is no such right as that of rebellion. Rebellion is resistance to the exercise of lawful authority (and success does not sanctify it) and rebellion, sustained by arms is treason, pure treason, and such was the action of the seceding States.

Revolution is resistance to the exercise of unlawful, or usurped authority, authority exercised against protest and in defiance of constitutional and natural rights and legal limitations, and is a right inherent in all peoples, and such was the American revolution which secured the existence of this independent nation. And the real character, the distinctions between rebellion and revolution should never be confounded.

But we have not yet reached the highth of the argument against secession and disunion. Disunion was death to this the greatest, freest, happiest, most prosperous nation the world or time had ever seen. United we could stand against all the world, in all that will ever be of real value to man, as an individual, or of true glory as a nation. Divided, we should be broken into two, but more probably, eventually into four, or six, different inimical nations, lying contiguous, between which continual and innumerable jealousies and contentions would exist.

For among these there would be one, or more, aristocracies built upon the slavery of the masses of the people, where labor would be degraded, where the public life, sentiments and action would be arrogant, and exist upon a low plain of civilization. Such unfavorable conditions existing all about us, would create harassing apprehensions necessitating strong military equipments maintained by oppressive taxation. There would be alliances and intrigues with foreign powers whose interests it would be to foster and im-bitter our contentions, until wars should result, constant changes occur, peace and prosperity desert us, and finally, perhaps, when broken and weakened by our misfortunes, our liberties would be swept away, and either anarchy or despotism would rule the land. Judging by the past of nations, through all history, such a destiny was to be apprehended. The establishment of the Confederacy,



would, indeed, endanger the peace and safety of the other States and nation, and this fact alone, was a sufficient warrant, by the laws of nations for the action of the general government, in putting down the rebellion.

Wise indeed were the words of the immortal Washington, when in his farewell address he spoke of the value of the Union and the necessity for its preservation.

He says: "It is the main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize, and you should discountenance whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be dissolved."

But even this was not all. The question of disunion and its probable results, expanded into still vaster proportions.

In the slow passage of the centuries in the world's history, men had struggled with but an uncertain hope, yet slowly moving upward and onward from political oppression and despotic rule, until out of the storms and blood and sufferings of the American revolution, arose the great republic, in which was embodied and illustrated the best forms of self government, citizen sovereignty, civil and religious liberty and material national prosperity, the world had yet known. And it was soon conceived at home, and realized everywhere abroad, that, bound up with the success, or failure, of disunion, were the fate of free government and popular institutions, and that the results were not a matter of awful interest to this country alone, or to this generation alone, but to all mankind and to all the generations to come.

To say nothing of the motives and objects of the southern leaders, the rebellion itself was the most enormous political crime of all the ages.

And no grander, or holier cause—the maintenance of the Union, with all that it implied, ever sanctioned a resort to arms, or warranted men in laying down their lives in its defense, than this. In the emergency, there was nothing left but to maintain the Union, the constitution and the laws, and this and this only, was the primary object of the government and loyal people. The abolition of slavery, was but an incident of the war, yet one of the grandest achievements of any age or country.

Such being the situation and such the necessity, the general government and the loyal people of the North, believing in the justice of their cause, and invoking the favor of Almighty God, entered with an enthusiasm never before witnessed among the nations of the earth, upon the gigantic task of crushing the rebellion. And they crushed it.

Let us now turn to home affairs.

## THE COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

The County Commissioners assembled on New Year's day and elected J. H. Dunham, chairman, when after a few hour's work, they adjourned, in view of the fact, it is to be presumed, that it was a holiday. They had sessions again on the 20th day of February, March 20th, June 24th and September 3d. The action of the board, during the whole year, was singularly devoid of historic interest.

## THE LAW MAKERS.

The third State Legislature assembled at the Capital, January 8th, and held a session of sixty days. Only two acts were passed at this session of special interest to the people of this county. One of which was an act fixing the time of holding the term of the District Court, setting the same for "the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday of April in each year." The other and much more important one, was an act relating to the county seat of this county, approved March first, which enacted "That the county seat of the county of Fairbault be and the same is hereby removed from the town of Blue Earth City, its present location, to the incorporated town of Winnebago City, in said county" and that "This act shall not take effect until the same has been adopted by the electors of said county." It is hardly necessary to say that this latter act created quite a commotion in the south half of the county, the results of which we shall see hereafter. Our members of the legislature at this session, were Guy K. Cleveland, in the Senate, and A. Strecker, in the House.

## THE LAND OFFICE.

About the first of February great expectations existed that the United States Land Office, then located at Chatfield, Fillmore county, would soon be removed further west, and that Blue Earth City would be the lucky point of location. In fact all arrangements had been definitely made, and nothing remained to do, but to wait the event, now supposed to be near at hand. But alas!

The best laid schemes o' mice and men  
Gang off a-gloy,  
An' lea'e us nought but grief and pain,  
For promis'd joy.—*Burns.*

The project failed to the great disappointment of the people of Blue Earth City. Yet the county secured the office. In October of this year, it was removed to Winnebago City, and was opened for business about the 4th day of November. For a number of years previous, it was currently understood that the office should soon have to be brought further west, and both of the villages in this county made great exertions to secure it, with finally the above re-





ISAAC BOTSFORD.  
The First Editor.

sult. It was in those days a boon worth contending for. It was a great accession to the business of the town where located, as persons taking up lands over a very large territory, attended at the office, to enter or prove up their lands, who expended more or less money, during their stay. It stimulated enterprise and improvement at home, and gave the town where located, a name and prestige, which attracted immigration and capital from abroad.

It was an auspicious event for Winnebago City and a great convenience and advantage to the people of the whole county. One of the citizens of the county, Mr. J. H. Welch, of Verona, was appointed register and Mr. H. W. Holley, who thereafter became a permanent resident of the county, was appointed receiver.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The meeting of the Agricultural Society was held at Blue Earth City, April 3d. As an indication of the scarcity of money at the time, it may be stated that at this meeting a motion was made, that county orders be received and paid by the society, as money, but the motion was lost. At this time the officers of the society were J. A. Latimar, president; J. H. Welch, secretary and H. T. Stoddard, treasurer. The fair was appointed to be held at Blue Earth City on the 2d and 3d of October, but was adjourned to the 9th. It was a failure. Rain fell most of the day. There were but ninety-eight entries.

#### THE COURT.

The District Court held its regular annual session April 3d. Hon. Lewis Branson presiding. The term lasted but one day. There was no business for the grand jury, and but one case for the petit jury. This speaks well for the people.

#### THE FIRST NEWSPAPER.

One of the most important events which had yet occurred in the county, happened on the 6th day of April of this year. This was the appearance of the first newspaper published in the county. On that day the first number of the *Blue Earth City News* was issued. It was a small, six column, four page sheet and bore the motto, "Devoted to the interests of the people of Faribault County." It was to be issued on Saturday of each week. The typographical and general appearance of the paper was very good and gave general satisfaction. Isaac Botsford was the editor and proprietor as appears from the first numbers of the paper, but Frank A. Blackmer was also interested in the paper and assisted in the publication. The subscription price was one dollar and fifty cents per annum, payable in advance. The editor states that he will receive in payment for subscriptions anything that grows that he can use, or anything that is made except counterfeit money. The first number was well

filled with advertisements of merchants, hotels, professional cards and notices. The subscription list was not a very long one. To encourage the project quite a number of the leading men of Blue Earth City took as many as fifteen copies each and paid for them. The editors salutatory was very lengthy and probably the most comprehensive and exhaustive one ever written. It set forth in fair and frank language the editor's understanding of his duties and the difficulties of publishing a newspaper in the "back counties." The salutatory was entitled "Our Bow." We make the following extracts:

"A time honored custom compels us in this, the initial number of the *Blue Earth City News*, to give the public an inkling of our principles and purposes. It is natural and right that a community should know something of the character of a paper just springing into life in their midst. When money is scarce as it is at the present time, every prudent man will look *twice* at his money before parting with it, and more especially will he do so if he knows nothing of the character or quality of the article he is purchasing and, therefore, it is but just to ourselves and the public from whom we expect to receive our support, that we should state distinctly at the outset what we intend to uphold and what we intend to condemn."

"We shall have but very little to do with politics."

"But we do not propose to publish a neutral paper by any means, neither on this subject, nor any other. We shall feel at liberty to speak, write and publish just what we please on all subjects."

"Our sympathies are with the republican party. \* \* \* \* Con-sequently none will be surprised to learn that we intend to publish a republican paper."

"We are, of course, opposed to slavery *intoto* and can never give our sanction to the further spread of the accursed evil."

"Our great aim shall be to publish *a good country paper*."

"An experience in newspaper publishing of two years has taught us the lesson that no man without the fortune of a Rothschild, can afford to publish a paper in any other manner than by requiring pay in advance."

Mr. Botsford did not fail in his aim of publishing "a good county paper." The *News* was always a clean, truthful and reliable sheet. Many larger and more pretentious papers have been published since, but there has never been, to this day, a better local paper published in this county than the *Blue Earth City News*. A copy of the first volume of the *News* is in the hands of the writer, and is the only one known to be now in existence in this county. It was kindly presented to the writer by John A. Dean, Esq., on condition that it should be bound and preserved, which has been done.

The spring of this year was rather late. Heavy rains and high waters prevailed. Spring plowing, of which there was more in those days, in proportion to the acreage than there is now, commenced about the 13th of April, and most of the seeding was done after the 20th of the month.

## TRAPPING.

During the early years of the county a considerable trade was carried on in furs and peltries, which proved a great benefit to the people, in view of the low price of farm products and the great distance of markets. Furs always brought cash, at some price, and were always ready sale. In the *News* we find a statement that during the winter and spring of 1860-61, "one merchant had purchased 5,000 muskrats, 300 minks, 100 foxes, 40 coons, 14 otters, 11 wolves, 5 badgers and 4 beavers at a cost of about \$1,200. Other merchants also dealt in furs to a considerable extent, and there were many traveling buyers in the county. The *News* further says that "competent judges assure us that not less than \$3,800 has been paid to citizens of this county during the past winter for this one commodity."

For some years quite a number of our citizens would engage every fall and winter in the business of trapping for furs. Usually two persons would go into partnership and fit out with numerous traps, several guns, ammunition, a small sheet iron stove, a few tin dishes, blankets for bedding, flour or meal, salt pork, tobacco, pipes and some other useful articles, and having sought out some suitable place on the prairies, on the margin of a slough, or on the borders of a lake, sometimes on the banks of a stream, or in the timber, they would erect a small shanty, eight or ten feet square and about six feet high, as their dwelling; these hovels were sometimes built of boards, but more frequently they were "dug-outs," that is, holes dug into the sides of a bank, and covered over with poles, grass and sods. Here some months would be spent in the interesting business of trapping, varied occasionally by a visit to the settlements for supplies. It was rather a hard, greasy and somewhat odoriferous life, but it had its attractions; it possessed a dash of romance and adventure, and usually paid well. The earnings averaged all the way from one hundred dollars to six hundred dollars a season, and the business covered a part of the year when little else could be done.

Many a slough with its village of muskrat houses, in the years past, yielded a more valuable crop and a good deal more amusement than some of the grain fields.

## HUNTING.

In the first years of the county large game such as elk, deer, bears, wolves, foxes, coon and the smaller kinds also, were quite plenty. The buffalo had ceased to roam over these prairies, but a short time previous to the first settlement one of their herding or stamping grounds was yet, at the time of the first settlement, to be seen near the head waters of the west branch of the Blue Earth

River. One of the first settlers of the county, soon after his arrival here, discovered a buffalo following up his cattle when they came home one evening—a lone fellow that had strayed from his native herd.

The deer, elk and bear disappeared soon after the first settlement, but occasionally for some years after, they would be seen. Wolves and foxes, however, continued quite numerous down to the time of the close of this volume, and the former have been very destructive to the sheep. A bounty of three dollars by the State, and three dollars by the county, was given for wolf scalps, in the later years, and many a man made good wages in catching them at odd times. One person received as much as fifty-six dollars for a day's work of this kind. Rabbits and feathered game have been plenty at all times, and hunting in the proper seasons is indulged in by many. We have always had sportsmen of considerable skill, who look upon hunting with gun and dog and the other accoutrements of the chase, as the best of recreations and who take a special pride in their achievements and boast of their deeds, as all hunters have done, from Nimrod to this day. Not only our own sportsmen engage in hunting, but of late years persons from the large cities and even from distant States come into the county during August and September, sometimes bringing their families with them, and spend a couple of months in hunting, especially during the "chicken season" and find a period of enjoyment and recuperation better than the limited, expensive and formal watering places where fashion, frivolity and display hold their revels. These visitors usually hire their board and lodging at some comfortable farm house for a few weeks of quiet country life amid the pure airs of heaven, and luxuriate in the fresh rural scenes and glories of nature, or sometimes they take up their abode in the villages and spend the long summer days on the wide prairies with dog and gun. Frequently a company is formed, who take with them several tents, cooking utensils, and some bedding with all the necessary hunting equipments, and camp out, on the borders of some lake or stream for two or three weeks, during the "chicken season." There are State laws regulating the taking of the various kinds of game, but while they are well known, they are, unfortunately, not closely observed.

A year's round of hunting sports may be said to begin in the winter, with wolves, foxes, rabbits, etc. Then early in the spring come swarms of wild geese, ducks and brants about the streams and lakes, and cranes in great flocks in the fields everywhere. After a month or two, these take their leave, then through June and July we have the plovers, snipe, curlews, woodcock and wild pigeons. In August, begins the prairie chicken shooting, lasting over a month.



Then in September and October again come the brants, ducks, geese and cranes, and quail, ruffed grouse or pheasants, and partridges. Where can a pleasanter or more heathful sport be found than in hunting over the fields and about the lakes and streams, in the hazy, balmy, Indian summer days? As the winter closes in, soon after the first of November, and our cranes, ducks and geese leave again, the deer hunting practically begins. In the counties in Iowa, adjoining this on the south, numerous deer are taken every winter, and it is about the beginning of winter that our hunters fit out for these expeditions to the deer grounds, in the more northern and less settled portions of the State, where several months are spent profitably, as well as pleasantly.

But we should not forget the dogs, which do much of the hard work of all this sport, and manifest such an intelligent appreciation of it too. The hunter and his dog are inseparable companions. The trained dogs used in this country are pointers and setters, not those which are facetiously said to point for a bone and then "set" behind the stove and gnaw it, but dogs which possess a faculty for hunting and are specially trained for the business. The setters are trained as retrievers and will readily enter the water and bring out the dead game. Pointers will also retrieve, but are not so well adapted to this work. The intelligence sometimes exhibited by these dogs, in the execution of this work, is astonishing, and this fact, with the great use they are in the field, accounts for the great prices often paid for them. They are usually valued at from ten dollars to twenty-five dollars, but often sell for fifty to seventy-five dollars, and there is one instance in which the price paid for an extra dog was the sum of five hundred dollars!

But the great hunting season of this section of country, is the chicken season, when the game sought is prairie chickens, grouse and smaller birds. This season commences about the middle of August. The young chickens are then well grown and excellent eating. The hunters go out some times alone, but oftener in pairs, with their dogs. Frequently three or four men, with as many ladies, for they often take part in the sport, start out in an easy riding conveyance, in the bright summer morning, supplied with guns and ammunition, a couple of dogs and a well filled basket of provisions, for a day's hunt on the prairies. The excitement of the hunt is agreeable. The keen scent and intelligent working of the dogs, the starting of the covies, the skillful shooting of the game and the gathering up of the spoils of the chase, the counting and bragging and bluster, are all interesting.

But there is something more—that which gives tone and zest to all this—the bright skies, the fragrance laden breezes, the far reaching undulating prairies, carpeted with green grasses and innumerable

wild flowers of every hue, the landscape dotted over with verdant groves, where nestle the quiet farm houses, the exhilarating air, filling the soul with the beauty, variety and enchantment of the scene, the hearty dinner in the edge of some shady grove, during a couple of hour's nooning, the joke and song, the hap and mishap, the return to the field until nightfall, and then the brisk ride home, all unite to make up a day of pure enjoyment, long to be remembered.

"Let others kneel at Pleasure's shrine,  
And boast the raptures of a 'spre';  
But, ah! a hunter's joy be mine,—  
A hunter's merry life for me."—*Holley.*

#### FISHING.

But say the Izaak Waltons, what about fishing? It is not everyone who cares to travel the prairies for game. Some of us like better the pleasure of practicing the angler's art. All of the streams and lakes, of which there are many in the county, are stocked with fish. The pike, pickerel, red horse, bass, sunfish, bullheads, perch, muskalonge, catfish, chubbs, suckers, and some other varieties, in all sizes; from twenty-five pounds weight to the tiny minnow, are found in our waters. The State fish commissioner has also placed in some of our lakes the salmon, white fish and some other varieties.

Seining is not permitted by law, but the hook and line, the spear and trolling hook are. The spring fishing is best about the time when the high waters of the spring freshet begin to go down, the high waters having enabled the larger fish to come up the streams. It is then the fisherman with the hook and line, or spear, can get his string of fish in a very short time, and in this sport men and women, boys and girls, in small parties and large parties, with jolly laugh and joke, engage with great pleasure, ignoring all the old rules of fishing, about noise and telling fibs.

Boat fishing either in the day time or at night with torches, is often embarked in and is an agreeable recreation. But it is not only in the spring and summer that fish are caught. They may be taken at all times, but certain seasons are better for this sport than others and the sport is more followed during these times. Probably the larger quantities of fish are taken in the winter. It has long been a custom with many to visit the lakes in the winter, when they are frozen over, when large quantities are caught, cleaned and salted down in barrels for the year's use. In such cases one method is to cut a hole in the ice, build a small house over it, so that it shall be dark inside, and then by various methods entice the fish to the hole, when they are taken with spear and hook. In the spring, also, when the ice on the waters begins to melt around the edges, the fish collect in great numbers about the outlets and inlets of the lakes and are easily taken in great quantities.

In all this, is briefly indicated how many a pleasant day or expedition of a week, is enjoyed and made profitable in fishing. But this does not suffice. The true angler does not want wagon loads of fish, he despises the spear, he hates noise and bustle. These things are too coarse for his placid philosophic mind. The true disciple of old Izaak Walton, pensive, kindly old Izaak, with his "placid and benevolent countenance, joined to gentle and unaffected manners," loves the poetry of fishing best. Full of quiet geneality and all the humanities, he is a lover of the pastoral life. He seeks the shady nooks along the still waters where he enjoys his quiet fancies, or serenely philosophises, while he watches his "sink and bobber," patiently waiting for a "bite." There is a fascination in the practice of the piscatorial art, which cultured men of all professions acknowledge and love to enjoy. Yes, for the race of true anglers, which we are happy to say is not yet extinct, we have many a secluded crystal stream and silvery lakelet, along whose quiet shady banks the angler may wander through the long summer day and fish and dream his fancies to his heart's content. And now, not to discourage, but to amuse, this article is closed with the following valuable table prepared by the *Detroit Free Press*, showing what chance a professional man has of catching anything, when he "goes angling."

Doctors.....	7 in 50	Merchants.....	13 in 50
Lawyers.....	3 in 50	Professors.....	1 in 50
Editors.....	10 in 50	Small boy with old	
Artists .....	2 in 50	straw hat and broken	
Architects.....	12 in 50	suspender .....	49 in 50
Bookkeepers.....	8 in 50		

TREASON! TREASON!

We have now reached in the order of time, the great event of 1861, in fact one of the most stupendous events in the history of the nation—the beginning of the Great Rebellion. The long contest of words, the threats, the excited passions now broke forth in an overt act of treason on the part of the southern people.

On the 12th day of April, Fort Sumpter was attacked by the confederates and taken. The first blow was struck, and each side—the government and the rebels—both before hesitating to begin, now hastened preparations for the conflict. The States of the South one after another were seceding from the Union, and the rebels were continuing their work of taking possession of the forts, arsenals and navy yards in those States. The President issued a proclamation, calling for seventy-five thousand volunteers to defend the Capital.

The Governor of the State, Hon. Alex. Ramsey, issued a proclamation to the people of the State to organize volunteer military companies, arm and drill, so as to be prepared for any emergency. Great excitement existed throughout the State and the whole North. The gallant Minnesota First was soon organized and ready to go to the front. Everywhere throughout the State, war meetings were held and companies formed. Our county was not asleep or behind while these great events were taking place.

On the evening of the 30th of April a large and enthusiastic meeting was held at Winnebago City. Eloquent and patriotic speeches were made by Geo. H. Goodnow, A. C. Dunn, G. K. Cleveland and others. The Governor's proclamation was read and a volunteer company organized. A number of resolutions were adopted with great enthusiasm the first and second of which read as follows:

*Resolved*, That, the citizens of Faribault county are in favor of the Union, the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws.

*Resolved*, That in this hour of peril to our glorious government, we tender to Abraham Lincoln, President of these United States, "Our lives, fortunes and sacred honor," to aid him in punishing rebels and traitors for assaulting the flag of our fathers."

Almost every man in the village and vicinity joined the company, and we are sorry to say we have not the names that we may record them here in a Roll of Honor.

On the evening of May second a large war meeting of the citizens of Blue Earth City and vicinity was held. Great enthusiasm prevailed. A series of resolutions was adopted amid great cheering, condemning the rebellion in the strongest language. We quote several of them.

*Resolved*. That we, citizens of Faribault county, without reference to those party names that have hitherto distinguished us and having unshaken faith in the power of right, are unalterably attached to the union of these States and the perpetuity of popular government.

*Resolved*. That in order that we may render efficient aid to the government, should our services be required, we will immediately organize a company of our citizens and take such steps as may be necessary to perfect ourselves in military drill and discipline.

*Resolved*. That the atmosphere of Faribault County must not be breathed by traitors.

Earnest speeches were made J. B. Wakefield, E. Raymond, J. A. Kiester and Geo. B. Kingsley. A paper was presented for the signature of those who wished to enroll their names, as a volunteer company, and forty names were set down in less than as many minutes. J. B. Gillit, a gray-haired veteran of sixty years led off, then came E. Raymond, I. S. Mead, J. B. Wakefield, G. B. Kingsléy, Isaac Botsford, S. T. McKnight, F. A. Squires, H. Tompkins, J. A. Kiester, H. P. Constans, G. S. Converse, G. S. Miles, H. G. Neal,

W. C. Gillit, W. A. Melvin, A. Sortor, H. A. Faunce, W. M. Scott, A. Bonwell, A. Pratt, O. Saunders, F. L. Howland, E. C. Young, A. McElroy, L. Billings, Jr., H. Mount, F. A. Blackmer, Martin Sailor, J. C. Pratt, A. Johnson, John Beidle, J. K. Pratt, E. C. Ingals, L. B. Woodruff, J. Johnson, P. Harris and S. Dow. Many other names were afterwards added, of which there is now no record.

Many of those who enrolled their names in the various companies formed at the time, subsequently in more permanent organizations proved their patriotism and sincerity on many a hard fought field beneath the southern sun, and some of them to-day, having given their lives for their country, sleep the last great sleep, in soldier's graves.

"The land is holy where they fought,  
And holy where they fell,  
For by their blood that land was bought,  
The land they loved so well."

#### THE COMET OF '61.

While the inhabitants of this small planet called the earth, were busy with their cares and labors and ambitions, their joys and sorrows, far away in the heavens in the wide fields of space, there suddenly appeared a great comet on the 30th day of June, and created a great sensation. To the naked eye the head of the comet appeared brighter than a star of the first magnitude. "It was estimated that on the second day of July the breadth of the head of the nucleus was about one hundred and fifty-six thousand miles, and its train of light fifteen millions of miles in length." It was thought by one astronomer, that the earth passed through the tail of this comet. But it sped onward upon its trackless way and soon disappeared to the dwellers of this planet. In accordance with the old notions—perhaps superstitions—many looked upon this comet as the harbinger of a dreadful war and other great calamities.

— "A pathless comet,  
The menace of the universe;  
Still rolling on with innate force,  
Without a sphere, without a course."

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY.

The fourth of July was celebrated at Blue Earth City. The largest assembly of the people that had ever occurred in the county was seen at that time. The Sunday schools, the Good Templars and a large company of soldiers were in attendance in their separate organizations.

The exercises were held in the grove on the Court House Square, where a stand, seats and long tables were erected. The people assembled in the village and forming a procession marched

to the grove to the strains of martial music. The Declaration was read by Geo. Patten, of Verona, and the address was delivered by J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, after which a public, free and very bounteous dinner was placed upon the long tables and everybody partook heartily.

Good order prevailed throughout the day and the company enjoyed the festivities of the occasion with much satisfaction. Many things tended to make this celebration one of more than ordinary interest. The rebellion had just broken out. The people were intensely aroused and indignant, and anxiously watching events. There was no other formal celebration in the county, and every person in the county had been invited to attend. The preparations were ample, and the day in the main favorable, and people were in attendance from all parts of the county.

#### MEN AND MONEY.

About the 5th of July, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 400,000 men and \$400,000,000, to put down the Rebellion, and the call was responded to in a spirit and with an alacrity which made the hearts of loyal men swell with pride and the hope of early success. On the second day of August, Congress, then in extra session, authorized the raising of 500,000 men and \$500,000,000.

#### BAD MONEY.

During the summer many local banks in the western States failed. Many of what were known as the free banks of Wisconsin, held up, among the last, but there was great uncertainty as to the value of their paper. All of it was at a greater or less discount and kept getting worse until worthless. Of course the people, the holders of this wretched stuff called "money," were the losers. It is still remembered that a citizen of this county who had some eight hundred dollars of this money, suddenly learned one day that the whole sum was not worth a copper. During these times there was one column of every newspaper which was read with great interest. It was the column which contained a list of banks of issue, with the ever changing value of their currency. The currency is the life-blood of the business of the nation, the soul of all enterprise, the incentive to labor, and the people should ever watch its character with the greatest scrutiny, for they are the ones who must suffer by depreciation or failure. If some financial genius shall arise, who shall give us banks of deposit of absolute security, and money which cannot fail, can never fluctuate in value, or even if liable to failure or fluctuation, the loss shall fall, not upon the innocent holders, but upon the authority issuing it, he will be entitled to be numbered among the world's benefactors.

## WHAT OF THE HARVEST ?

The harvest commenced about the 24th day of July, and the husbandman reaped an abundant reward for his toil, in the quantity and quality of the grain, but the prices were low, as appears from the statement following of the prices of farm products and other commodities current at the time:

PRODUCE.—Wheat, 35@40c; flour, \$2.00; corn, 20c; beans, 40c; lard, 10c; oats, 18c; potatoes, 20c; eggs, 5c; pork, \$3.50@4.00.

GROCERIES.—Brown sugar, 10c; coffee sugar, 12½c; tobacco, plug, 30@50c; tobacco, pure leaf, 65c; tobacco, fine, 30@50c; tobacco, smoking, 12½@15c; molasses, 80c; syrup, 80c; Rio coffee, 20c; Java coffee, 25c; salt, barrel, \$4.75; salt, lb., 2c; tallow candles, 18¼c; dried apples, 10c.

DRY GOODS.—Prints, 7@12½c; delains, 20@25c; sheetings, 8@12½c; denims, 12@20c; Kentucky Jeans, 25@35c; cassimere, 40c@ \$2.00; cotton flannel, 12½@18¼c; wool flannel, 37½@50c.

## IMPROVEMENTS.

The immigration to this county during this year much exceeded that of the last year and was very encouraging. Much improvement in the breaking up of new lands and building was made throughout the county. Toward the close of the year money became easier. Near the end of December a grist mill, the first one in the county, was put in operation by Geo. H. Goodnow, at Winnebago City. This mill was attached to a saw mill and was run by the engine of the saw mill. It was a great convenience and did a good business. Prior to the starting of this mill the people had to haul their grists from thirty to sixty miles to mill. Many a bushel of corn, in the early days of this county, was ground in coffee mills, small hand-mills and horse-power mills, and the savory remembrance of the Johnny cakes made from the meal ground in this way remains with the old settlers to this day.

## THE ELECTION AND COUNTY SEAT CONTEST.

The Hon. Alex. Ramsey, republican, and Hon. E. O. Hamlin, democrat, were the candidates for Governor.

The Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City on the 21st day of September, and made the following nominations: For Sheriff, P. C. Seely. For Treasurer, Wm. Dustin. For County Attorney, N. B. Hyatt. For Surveyor, Geo. Patten. For Coroner, L. C. Taylor. For Commissioners, E. M. Ellis, H. Dunham and Thomas Blair.

The Republican District Convention met at Madelia, Sept. 28th, and nominated for Representative, B. O. Kempfer, of Watonwan county. The democratic party made no nominations for legislative

or county officers, but a greater local issue was before the people than that of politics—the question of the removal of the county seat was to be decided.

As the election drew near, the excitement and interest in the results greatly increased, but all other considerations were sunk for the time in the important question of the county seat. Blue Earth City could not possibly afford to lose it. Winnebago City would gain very much to get it.

Canvassing and electioneering on this subject was the order of the day, and for two weeks before election day, little else was done in either of the villages. The county was canvassed from Dan to Bersheba by both parties and every voter visited and enlightened upon the subject. Blue Earth City had a little the advantage in several things, but especially in having a newspaper, while Winnebago City had none.

About the last of September there appeared on the first page of the *Blue Earth City News* an outline map of the county, on which each township was represented and the exact location of each village—the two contestants, and a line drawn equi-distant at all points thereof from Winnebago City and Blue Earth City. This line proved the great and unanswerable argument it was held, in favor of Blue Earth City, for by it, it was clearly demonstrated on the map and everyone could test its accuracy for himself, that about three-fourths of the territory of the county, was nearer Blue Earth City than to Winnebago City. An elaborate article in the interests of Blue Earth City also appeared in the same number of the paper, setting forth, in the strongest possible light, the reasons against removal. Winnebago City not to be outdone in spreading information on the subject, had a vast number of circulars printed at Mankato, answering the article in the *News* and giving cogent reasons as was thought, why the county seat should be removed to Winnebago City, and sent them out by messengers into all parts of the county. Every influence, public and private, and every argument that interest and ingenuity could suggest, were used to secure the objects of the respective parties, but these arguments were too numerous and many of them entirely too elaborate and abtruse to be mentioned here, or even comprehended, if mentioned, by the people of this day.

The day—the great day of election came at last. It was the ninth day of October. The polls throughout the county were opened early. To prevent fraud and illegal voting, Winnebago City had a delegation of at least one, generally two, at each of the voting places in the south half of the county, and Blue Earth City had a like delegation at all the voting places in the north half of the county. The vote polled was the largest which had yet been cast in the county, and surprised everyone. But there was not over half a dozen illegal



votes cast that day in the whole county, if so many. An incident occurred at the polls at Blue Earth City during the day which will bear repeating: A German of a burly and unkempt appearance came up to vote, when his vote was challenged by one of the Winnebago City delegation on the grounds, that he had not been long enough a resident of the county to vote. He was asked the question how long he had been in the county, when after looking at the challenger quietly a few minutes he said in a peculiarly sarcastic manner: "Ish been here so long ash ter raise von stack buckveets vot you steels ven you comes inter der country—vat you talks you tief?"

The official canvass exhibited the following results:

For Governor—Alex. Ramsey, republican, had 433 votes and E. O. Hamlin, democrat, 61.

For Representative—B. O. Kempfer, having no opposition in district, was elected, his vote in this county being 482.

There was no opposition to any of the republican county candidates and they had the following number of votes:

For Treasurer—Wm. Dustin.....	473
For Sheriff—P. C. Seely.....	463
For Surveyor—Geo. Patten.....	480
For Attorney—N. B. Hyatt.....	476
For Coroner—L. C. Taylor.....	477

E. M. Ellis, J. H. Dunham and Thomas Blair were almost unanimously elected commissioners. But the result on the question of the removal of the county seat was the matter of the most profound interest and overshadowed all others. The vote stood:

For the removal.....	202
Against the removal.....	324

Blue Earth City won the battle, but it was no child's play, as it "had a foeman worthy of its steel," a foeman though beaten, was not conquered, but still held his banners to the breeze and fought many a hard fight afterwards.

A CHANGE—GOOD BYE.

Near the first of November, Mr. Botsford sold out his interest in the *Blue Earth City News* to Messrs. Blackmer & Hyatt. Here is Mr. Botsford's "good bye:"

"Yes, kind friends, good bye. Ere this number of the *Blue Earth City News* shall reach you, I will belong wholly and entirely to our venerable "Uncle Samuel." My sojourn in this county has been pleasant. I have received at least double the support I anticipated. Each and every citizen, old and young, male and female, have treated me kindly. I have no fault to find whatever, with the people here, and I hope, trust and believe, that they all entertain the same feelings toward me. After a deliberate study of the matter, I have come to the conclusion that my country needs my services to aid in putting down the thousands of armed traitors with which these United States are infested,

and I have accordingly enlisted in the Blue Earth Cavalry Company "for three years or during the war."

Isaac Botsford was born in the State of New York in 1836. He obtained his education at Lowville (N. Y.) Academy and Whites-town (N. Y.) Seminary. He early learned the business of printer and publisher. He left his home in the east and came to Albert Lea, Freeborn County, Minn., in 1857, and removed to Blue Earth City, this county, early in the year 1861, where he remained until his enlistment in the military service of the United States, which occurred on the first day of November, 1861. He became a member of the Second Company Minn. Light Cavalry, afterwards known as Co. B. Brackett's Battalion. He states above, that he enlisted for three years or during the war. It proved to be "during the war." He remained continually in the service until June 1st, 1866, a period of four years and seven months. His service was in the South until January 1st, 1864, fighting rebels, and thereafter, until the close of his time, in the Northwest fighting Indians, his company being among the very last to be mustered out.

In 1864, while still in the service, he came home on a short furlow and was married to Miss Maggie E. Colby, of Freeborn County, Minn., and after his final discharge from the service, he took up his residence in that county where he still resides. Mr. Botsford is a member of the Presbyterian Church and in politics a prohibition republican. During his career as a printer and publisher, he was connected with the *Freeborn County Eagle*, the *Blue Earth City News*, as we have seen above, and later with the *Albert Lea Standard*. In 1878 he quit business on account of ill health and lived a very quiet and retired life. He died at Albert Lea in 1892.

Mr. Hyatt, who assumed charge of the *News* as editor, at the date of purchase, in his salutatory, among other things, says: "We shall publish a republican paper, but we are not so strongly attached to party as to be blind to its faults, or those of its leaders." "We hold the primary object of a county paper to be the interests of the county—it is from the citizens thereof we expect our support and in turn we expect to devote our columns to the promotion of their best interests. Wherever our paper is read we intend that the beautiful prairies and fine streams, the abundance of timber and the fertility of the soil in the already far famed valley of the Blue Earth shall be known."

#### PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

As the great civil war, of which this was the first year, was the leading subject of interest and gave character to the times for the next four years in this section of country as well as throughout the nation, and as many of the citizens of this county took an active part in the events of the time, both political and military, it is deemed

expedient to give in this history, a brief *resume* of the leading events of the war each year.

“As one who sleeps and hears across his dream,  
The cry of battles ended long ago.”

In January, as we have already seen, many forts and arsenals in the southern States were seized by the rebels. February 9th, Jeff Davis and A. H. Stephens were chosen the first, president, and the latter, vice-president of the Confederate States for one year. April 12-14th, Fort Sumpter, S. C., was bombarded and taken. April 20th, U. S. Mint at Charlotte, N. C, seized by the rebels. June 10th, battle of Big Bethel, Va. June 18th, battle of Boonville, Mo. July 2d, battle near Martinsburg, Va. July 5th, battle at Carthage, Mo. July 12th, battle of Rich Mountain, Va. July 13th, battle of Carnickford, Va. July 21st, first battle of Bull Run. Aug. 10th, battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo. Aug. 28th, capture of Forts Hatteras and Clark. Sept. 12th, battle of Cheat Mountain, Va. Oct. 3d, battle of Greenbrier, Va. Oct. 16th, battle of Pilot Knob, Mo. Oct. 21, battle of Balls Bluff. Nov. 7th, great naval battle at Hilton's Head, S. C. Nov. 8th, battle of Belmont, Mo. In addition to the above list there were almost innumerable smaller fights and skirmishes both on land and sea.

The great matter of absorbing interest was the progress of the war. Recruiting and enlisting, organizing and drilling were the chief business of the times. The war had already developed into gigantic proportions. At the close of the year there were already two hundred and forty-six vessels, carrying two thousand guns, in the navy, and nearly seven hundred thousand men in the armies of the United States.

## CHAPTER VIII.

A. D. 1862.

“I by thee have watched,  
 And heard the murmer tales of iron wars;  
 And thou has talked of sallies and returns, of trenches, tents,  
 Of palisados, frontiers, parapets,  
 Of basilisks, of cannon, Culverine  
 Of prisoners ransomed and of soldiers slain.”

## THE LAWGIVERS.

The fourth State Legislature met Jan. 7th and adjourned March 7th. The only acts passed specially relating to this county were first, “An act to provide for the location and construction of a State road from Blue Earth City, in Faribault county, to Mankato in Blue Earth county.”

Second, “An act to construct a State road from a point on the road leading from Mankato to Mapleton in Blue Earth county, to Winnebago City, in Faribault county.”

Third, “An act to change the name of Dobson township in Fairbault county, to that of Elmore.”

Fourth, “A memorial to the Congress of the United States for the establishment of a mail route from La Crescent to Winnebago City.”

The legislature assembled in extra session, September 9th, of this year, and had a session of twenty days, and enacted some laws of great importance, but none having any special reference to this county. We were represented in these several sessions, by Guy K. Cleveland in the Senate and B. O. Kempfer in the House.

## THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

The commissioners met January 7th and had a session of two days. Thomas Blair was elected chairman. They had another meeting April 3d, but the business done was only of a routine character, and we shall hasten on to more interesting events.

## THE LAST OF THE NEWS.

About the 8th of February, Mr. Blackmer, partner of Mr. Hyatt in the publication of the *News*, retired, and Mr. A. Bonwell entered into partnership with Mr. Hyatt, the latter remaining the active editor.

Mr. Blackmer, following the lead of Mr. Botsford, his former *confrere*, enlisted in the military service of the United States and not many months after did gallant service in the defense of Fort Ridgley, against an attack by the Indians, on the breaking out of the Sioux war. During the fight he was wounded, being shot through the face, but survived. In April following, Mr. Bonwell leased his interest in the *News* to J. L. Cristie, who had previously been working in the office, and he and Mr. Hyatt became partners in the publication of the paper. On the 19th day of July the name of the paper was changed to *The South-West Minnesotian*. During the Indian disturbance, about one hundred pounds of the type were melted and run into bullets, as there was a scarcity of lead in that great emergency. It was designed that these type, theretofore speaking to civilized people, through the columns of the paper, should now do good service in speaking to savages from the muzzles of well-loaded guns. The paper ceased to be issued for a short time in August, but the publication was resumed and a few more numbers appeared, when in October it ceased finally—its course was run—editors and workmen having all gone, or proposing to go, into the military service.

Mr. Cristie enlisted in a company of thirty-day men, organized in Fillmore county, of this State, and after his discharge therefrom he joined Company H, Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and went with the Sibley expedition, to the Missouri river.

Mr. Hyatt, in December of this year, also enlisted in the military service and became the captain of his company. Our first editors, not only taught, but practiced the duties of patriotism.

No paper was published in this county after the discontinuance of the *Minnesotian* until the fall of the next year.

#### “A REVIVAL.”

During February and March, a memorable revival of religion occurred at Blue Earth City and in the town of Elmore. At Blue Earth City the meetings were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Vaughan, of the United Brethren Church, and in Elmore, by the Rev. Mr. Barnard, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Toward the close of the meetings, the Rev. Mr. Conrad, of the Presbyterian Church, assisted, and other ministers of the gospel took part occasionally during the meetings. Very many at these several places determined to lead a new life and became members of the various religious denominations existing here at that time.

This was the first general and important religious awakening which had yet occurred in the county. Large and valuable accessions were made to the several religious bodies, and their future permanence secured. It is gratifying to say that many, who at that time became church members, still, after the lapse of many

years, continue to fight the good fight and have "kept the faith." And it is for those and those only who continue faithful until the course is finished, that there is laid up a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give in that day.

#### JUDICIAL.

The district court this year had a session of only one day. The preceding year a session of but one day was held. The little business required to be done by the courts in this county, during many of the first years, while it might not indicate that this county was a very favorable locality for lawyers, did indicate the non-litigious character of the people and that they were a quiet, orderly class of inhabitants, disposed to do justice toward each other, voluntarily, which was the fact and which was certainly a high recommendation to them. During many of the earlier years of the county, the lawyers as a rule, discouraged litigation, and often put themselves to considerable trouble, without fee or reward, to assist their neighbors in settling their disputes amicably if possible and this was very creditable to the lawyers.

In the words of Shakespeare, frequently

"It pleases time and fortune to lie heavy  
Upon him \* \* \* who, in hot blood,  
Hath stepp'd into the law, which is past depth  
To those that, without heed, plunge into it."

#### THE FARMER'S SOCIETY.

An adjourned meeting of the agricultural society was held at Blue Earth City. April 3rd, at which J. A. Latimer was elected president, J. H. Dunham, recording secretary, and Geo. B. Kingsley, treasurer, and various other offices filled.

Twenty-one new members were added at this time and it would appear that they gave their notes for the membership fee of one dollar, for a resolution was adopted by the meeting, to the effect, that notes given for membership fees be paid on or before the first day of the annual fair.

Another meeting was held at Blue Earth City, July 2d, at which time A. Bonwell appears as treasurer. He reports on hand: cash, eleven dollars; notes of 1860, fourteen dollars, and notes of 1862, eighteen dollars.

The fourth annual fair was held at Winnebago City, October 1st and 2d. □ The premium list was quite a long one, but the premiums awarded appear to have been mainly "diplomas."

## PATRIOTISM.

The 4th of July was celebrated at Blue Earth City with considerable interest. The Rev. Mr. Paine, of Garden City, delivered the oration. The day was commemorated at Winnebago City also, by a large social gathering in the evening.

On the first day of July President Lincoln called for 600,000 more volunteers for a more vigorous prosecution of the war, and on the 4th day of August a draft was ordered of 300,000 men to serve nine months. The events of the war, the call of the president, the draft ordered, created immense activity and enthusiasm in enlistments and military organization throughout the whole North.

In consequence of the above call for troops and the draft, the board of county commissioners were called together in extra session, on the 12th of August, for the purpose of taking some action on behalf of the county to encourage enlistments in the military service. Many citizens had already enlisted, and every encouragement was given by the people generally, but it was thought on this call for troops that the county, in its corporate capacity, should take some action in this respect. A commendable ambition existed among the people, that our county should furnish its quotas of men without their being drafted, and an earnest effort was made all along, to secure this honor.

The board adopted the following among other resolutions: "Now, therefore, be it resolved that there be and there is hereby appropriated by the County of Faribault, the sum of one thousand dollars, payable at the rate of twenty dollars as a bounty to each and every resident of said county who shall, after the date hereof enlist in the aforesaid military service of the United States, upon presentation to the board of satisfactory evidence of enlistment, together with proof of residence at the time of enlistment." It was then further resolved, that in the event that the sum of one thousand dollars should be insufficient to cover all enlistments, a further sum would be appropriated. This was the first action taken by the county, and in the light of subsequent events this little bounty looks very small, but it was but the first small indication of greater things to be done in the future, noble, generous action in which, we are proud to record the fact, our county never failed or faltered.

On the evening of the 13th of August, a great war meeting was held at Blue Earth City, which was attended by people from all parts of the county. Strong resolutions were adopted in favor of the earnest prosecution of the war, eloquent speeches were made, and a committee was appointed to solicit donations of money, grain and provisions, to be distributed among the families of enlisted soldiers. A similar meeting was held about the same time at Winnebago City and everywhere in the county the spirit of the people was

aroused to enthusiasm, and recruiting and mustering into the service was the business of the day. Those were the times when men and boys and little children sang

“We are coming father Abraham,  
Six Hundred Thousand strong.”

#### ANOTHER COMET.

We find the following amusing item in the *Minnesotian* of Aug. 2d. It was copied from the *Mercury*.

“Another comet has made its appearance in our hemisphere and is beginning to attract attention. At present it is near the pole star, but alas! it has no tail. Only think of a comet without a caudal appendage! It reduces the character of a comet in public estimation full fifty per cent at once to be minus that essential attachment, for surely there is no end. What is its object? Comets to be respectable must have all their usual and significant characteristics. We are not to be humbugged with such halfway finishing up of the cometic properties. We are not going to put up with any half a comet. We want a whole one or none. This one may acquire a tail as it approaches the sun and thus give us an opportunity to relate a tale about it, but at present, it is a miserable, sneaking-looking celestial object, and we shall have little to say about it.”

#### THE GOLDEN REWARD.

The harvest commenced the first of August, and it was a successful one. The crops of wheat, oats and barley were excellent, and all rejoiced that the tiller of the soil had received for his labors such an abundant reward.

#### THE GREAT MASSACRE.

A large harvest had now been mainly secured, immigrants had been pouring into the county, prices of farm produce had gone up, provisions were plenty, many improvements were being made and business had greatly revived, when suddenly, while the people were engaged in their pursuits and local military interests with their attention directed to the South, watching the progress of the war, there came to them from the North and West the dreadful tidings of the Sioux Indian outbreak on the Minnesota frontier—a massacre attended with such fiendish murders, outrages and cruelties as the faltering tongue told the story, as were never known before. The people were horrified, confounded. The stoutest hearts failed.

The terrible news reached this county on the 19th of August. The slaughter of the frontier settlers, began the day before, at the Upper and Lower Sioux Agencies, and at Acton on the 17th. We cannot here enter into an extended account of the massacre. A few extracts from the standard histories of this atrocious and appalling event, will suffice to show its extent and character and attendant incidents. We quote from the History of the Great Mas-



sacre by the Sioux Indians, written by Messrs. Bryant and Murch, and from several other reliable authorities.

"The massacre in Minnesota by the Annuity Sioux Indians in August, 1862, marks an epoch in the history of savage races. In their western march across the American continent, in the van of a higher civilization, the native red men have at different times given sad and fearful evidences of their enmity to the dominant white race, but from the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, on the rock-bound coast of New England in the winter of 1620, until their descendants had passed the center of the continent and reached the lovely prairies of Minnesota, no exhibition of Indian character had so afflicted and appalled the soul of humanity, as the fearful and deliberate massacre perpetrated by them in August, 1862."

"The scene of butchery and burning, extended all along the settled frontier of Minnesota from the north line of Iowa to the northern part of the State. It was the preconcerted and carefully arranged plan of the savages, to kill all the whites and desolate the whole state to the Mississippi river, and the plan was concocted in profound secrecy."

"The blow fell like a storm of thunderbolts from the clear bright heavens. Once begun the storm of fierce savage murder in its most horrid and frightful forms, rolled on until night came."

'Down sank the sun, nor ceased the carnage then—  
Tumultuous horrors rent the midnight air.'

And still rolled on from day to day, until the sad catalogue reached the fearful number of two thousand human victims, from the gray haired sire, to the helpless infant of a day, who lay mangled or dead on the ensanguined field."

"All we have read of Indian warfare, in the early history of this country is tame in contrast with the atrocities of this massacre. Without warning, in cold blood, beginning with the murder of their best friends, the whole body of the Annuity Sioux commenced a deliberate scheme to exterminate every white person upon the land once occupied by them and by them long since sold to the United States. In carrying out the bloody scheme, they spared neither age nor sex, only reserving for the gratification of their brutal lusts, the few white women, whom the rifle, the tomahawk and the scalping knife spared. Nor did their fiendish barbarities cease with death, as the mutilated corpses of their victims disemboweled, cut limb from limb, or chopped in fragments testified."

'All died—the wailing babe—the shrieking maid,  
And in the flood of fire that scathed the glade  
The roofs went down.  
While on the billowy bosom of the air  
Rolled the dread notes of anguish and despair.'

"Some idea may be formed of the mass of refugees moving before their savage pursuers. Thirty thousand panic stricken inhabitants at once deserted their homes in the midst of an indiscriminate slaughter of men, women and children. All this distracted multitude, on foot, on horseback, with teams of oxen and horses, from the wide area of eighteen counties, were on the highways and byways, hiding now in sloughs and now in the grass of the open prairies, some famishing for water and some dying for want of food, some barefooted, some in torn garments and some entirely denuded of clothing, some, by reason of wounds, crawling on their hands and dragging their torn limbs after them, were all making their way over a country in which no white man could offer succor or administer consolation."

"The unarmed men of the settlements offered no defense, and could offer none, but fled before the savage horde, each in his own way."

"Over the entire border of the State and even near the populous towns on the rivers an eye looking down from above could have seen this human avalanche of thousands of all ages and in all possible plights, the rear ranks maimed and bleeding and faint from starvation and loss of blood, continually falling into the hands of inhuman savages keen and fierce on the trail of the white man."

"The imagination faint and aghast turns from the picture in dismay and horror"

It must be remembered also, that this portion (Faribault county) of the Minnesota frontier, was peculiarly situated and in extreme danger. All along and but a few miles distant from the north line of the county, lay the Winnebago Indian reservation, and west of the county, a day or two after the outbreak, the country was deserted and open without hinderance to the advance of the Sioux.

And it was rumored that a league had been formed between the Sioux and the Winnebagoes, that the latter should join the former, if they should succeed in taking New Ulm. And there is but little doubt that had New Ulm fallen, Mankato and St. Peter would have shared the same fate, and that both the Winnebagoes and Chippewas would have joined the Sioux.

On the receipt of the news in this county the most intense excitement was created. What hour the Indians might make a descent on the county was not known. The settlers west of the Blue Earth river began to pour into the villages and hundreds passed on without stopping, eastward, until the whole county west of the river was deserted. The inhabitants in their haste and terror gathered up a few things, very few too, and deserting their homes, crops and almost everything, fled for their lives from all parts of the county, and in a very short time after the exodus had began, a majority of the people of the county had left. Some went into the eastern part of the State, some into Iowa. In fact a perfect panic prevailed over the whole country and extended across the Mississippi river into Wisconsin. Our county which numbered about 2,500 population, was reduced before the exodus ceased, to about one hundred souls. At one time the whole population of the county comprised about forty persons at Blue Earth City, about the same number at Winnebago City and a very few at other points. Those at Blue Earth City who had decided to remain went immediately to work to fortify the old log tavern—the Metropolitan—which had done good service in a like case some years before. It was fitted up by building a palisade of logs around the house at a distance of about two rods. The logs were set on end close together and about two feet in the ground and planked on the inside. Port holes were cut through and the whole fortification made as strong as possible with the limited means at hand. This work was soon done, as there were many willing hands and it was the means of inducing many settlers, especially quite a

number from the town of Verona and some from Martin county to stop awhile and await events. At the next alarm, however, most of these moved on.

Arms and ammunition were gotten together hastily, some of the type of the printing office, as we have seen above, furnished lead for bullets. After a few days a temporary company, under command of Capt. R. R. Foster, was formed, for defence, and to give character and force to the organization the members were solemnly sworn to stand true and defend the country to the last. This company drilled occasionally and posted out guards at night, but the organization was not a strong one and was, as we shall see, soon superceded. While out drilling one day, without arms, soon after the excitement began, the company being drawn up in such line as the military skill of the drill sergeant could produce, the command had just been given "eyes right" when one Jos. Landis, residing a few miles east of the village, drove up with a half load of grain on his wagon, at full speed, right in front of the company and in a very frightened manner announced that the Indians were coming over the prairie northeast of the village. His wife was on the wagon with him terror stricken and crying and confirmed his story. They asserted that they had seen the Indians advancing in long lines, on horse back, about two miles distance on the prairie. Then came another terror-stricken woman, who resided a mile northeast of the village, leading her blind daughter by the hand and she also confirmed Mr. Landis' story.

And now alas for military discipline and control! The company broke and fled for their guns, every one determining to fight on his own hook. And the people became panic stricken, wild, running to and fro, women crying, children screaming and the confusion was indescribable. Teams were hitched up in the greatest haste and the wagons filled, pell mell, with men, women and children, and in twenty minutes the road to Albert Lea was lined with flying fugitives. Order could not be restored. Terror had dethroned reason. But all did not attempt to go. Some had presence of mind enough to know that if the report proved true, to scatter in this manner was but to expose themselves unprotected on the roads to almost certain death. Happily the alarm proved false. A long line of cattle, belonging to people who were leaving the country, going along on the high prairie, about three miles to the northeast, presented the appearance to the excited imaginations of these people of a troop of advancing Indians.

Quiet after a few hours was restored, and a considerable number of those who had fled, after going a few miles, returned, but some went on their way.

In order to learn the state of the country, there was about this time, August 23d, a small detachment of men sent west. Some going only as far as East Chain Lakes, in Martin county, but O. G. Davis and H. Chesley proceeded to Jackson, in Jackson county and finding that some of the settlers had just left, followed them in the direction of Estherville, Iowa, and overtook them. They were the last of the residents of that county, and had barely made their escape, with their lives. One of their company—a boy of ten years—had his elbow cap shot off by the Indians. Some thirteen people had been killed in Jackson county by the savages.

It was now determined to send the women and children who yet remained, to places of greater security in the eastern part of the State, and the greater part of them about Blue Earth City were started on the 26th of August. It was indeed a sad time. Most of them went without a cent of money. Few had as much as five dollars. They were going among strangers. When they should return, if ever, to their homes, or again see their husbands who remained to protect the country, their homes and their little accumulations of property, were questions which the future, which then looked gloomy enough, only could tell. In other parts of the county most of the women and children had previously left. In fact at this time almost all the residents on Coon Creek and the west branch of the Blue Earth and most of those west of the river had left, deserting everything. The region about Chain Lakes, in Martin county and the towns of Elmore, Pilot Grove, Jo Daviess and Verona in this county, were wholly deserted, and the county east of the Blue Earth river was almost as nearly depopulated. Those who remained were along the line of the river, but mainly, at the villages of Blue Earth City and Winnebago City.

“At Winnebago City on the 23d of August, a company was organized under command of Capt. H. W. Holley, comprising fifty-nine members in all. Twenty of the members were mounted and were kept constantly on scouting duty west of the Blue Earth river, in the counties of Faribault, Martin and Watonwan. The other members of the company remained generally on picket duty in guarding the town and country in the immediate vicinity. The company made one expedition into Watonwan county, passing through Madelia and thence westwardly to the Little Cottonwood river. They also made one expedition to Fir Lake on the border of Jackson county, and two expeditions to Chain Lakes in Martin county.”

The roster of the company was comprised of the following names:

Officers: H. W. Holley, Captain; Jesse Dunham and John Allen, Lieutenants; B. C. Hinkle, D. S. Law, George F. Cleveland and

W. W. Seeley, Sergeants; B. E. Drake, P. Latimer, F. E. Shephard and D. Wier, Corporals.

Privates: J. W. Anderson, P. F. Austin, L. Bartlett, W. H. Budd, G. C. Burt, F. R. Bennett, F. W. Cady, F. Deudon, G. K. Cleveland, L. Christy, W. Clark, L. Dudley, F. J. Eddy, C. B. Fobes, J. France, G. C. Goodnow, G. H. Goodnow, J. C. Goodnow, M. B. Haynes, T. Jenness, J. S. Latimer, A. Latimer, T. Lucas, A. D. Mason, B. M. Mason, J. McCauley, N. McCauley, A. Moore, D. H. Morse, G. K. Moulton, A. Norman, G. Nelson, — Nelson, W. Radou, E. Rhodes, F. E. Ross, J. Richardson, S. Richardson, G. C. Sherwin, H. C. Shoefelt, S. H. Shoefelt, E. Stevens, A. Taplin, J. Thayer, S. Waller, J. Washburn, J. C. Woodruff, J. H. Welch.

During these exciting times, a question arose with the county officers, as to what should be done with the public records, then principally the auditor's and register's books, in the event of the certain advance of the Indians on this locality. It was determined that, instead of an attempt to carry them out of the county, the best arrangement would be to bury them, and this was decided upon. It was concluded to provide a large, substantial box, bury it in the ground, on a certain hill side, and in this deposit the books and papers, and cover the box over with earth in such a way as to escape observation. The secret of the locality was to be confided only to a few certain individuals, largely interested in the safety of the books. But this act of prudence did not, as we shall see, become necessary.

On the seventh of September, the Fillmore County Rangers, under command of Captain N. P. Colburn, arrived at Winnebago City, and by direction of Col. Flandrau, who had command of this portion of the State, established their headquarters at that point, after which the Winnebago City guards, under command of Captain Holley, believing their services no longer needed, disbanded. A strong stockade was erected at Winnebago City.

Before the close of August, the erection of a large fort was commenced at Blue Earth City. This was a necessity, not only for better protection, but to restore confidence to the people many of those remaining, saying that they would leave unless this was done. The work was rapidly performed. The fort was eight rods square and built of sod and earth thrown up six feet high, and having a ditch all around three feet deep. On the top of the earthwork was a defence, three feet high, of two inch hardwood plank, spiked to upright pieces, set strongly in the earthwork, both on the inside and outside. Port holes were cut through at short distances. At two corners of the fort were strong bastions, built of hewn logs, set close together on end, and having port holes from which the ditches, on two sides, could be raked. Houses were erected on the inside and a

well dug, and all obstructions surrounding the fort, behind which an enemy could hide, were demolished. When this fort was completed it was certainly a strong work, and it had the desired effect, with other things, in restoring some feeling of security and encouraged quite a number to remain who would otherwise have left.

And now, as a little episode, we must record the fact in the order of time, that amid all this turmoil, excitement and apprehended danger, politics were not neglected.

On the 29th day of August, in pursuance of a previous call, the republican district convention met at Blue Earth City. It was but a small and thinly attended meeting, there being only a few delegates present from Blue Earth City and vicinity, and several from Winnebago City. D. G. Shillock, Esq., of Brown County, then disabled from a wound received in the defense of New Ulm against an attack by the Indians, was nominated for senator, and J. B. Wakefield, Esq., of Blue Earth City, was nominated for representative.

But to resume the narrative. On or about the 30th of August a party of some twenty men under command of H. J. Neal, proceeded one night to Center Chain lakes in Martin county to relieve a lone settler, who it was reported was besieged by Indians. The report proved untrue.

At the close of August, the fort being nearly completed, and strong bodies of troops entering upon the frontier to the north and west of the county, and the confidence of the people in their security from attack, being now somewhat restored, it was thought expedient at a meeting held at Blue Earth City, to send a messenger in pursuit of the fugitives from this county, to try to induce them to return to their homes. J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, was delegated for this purpose, and being furnished with a "pass" from the sheriff, which was then necessary, he soon started on his mission. He found the people scattered in many directions. Some were at Rice lake on their way out of the country. Others at Albert Lea, and along the road for eighteen miles east of that place. Some were at Geneva; others at Oak Glen and at Wasioja, Mantorville, Owatonna, Wilton and at intermediate points. Some were induced to return, others would hear to nothing, and either remained where they were, or pursued their way to Wisconsin or Iowa.

Most of these refugees had a hard time of it, as they were compelled to subsist on the country through which they passed. They had found many farms and houses deserted, and they helped themselves to green corn, potatoes, chickens and other eatables, and stopped in the deserted houses at night. The people they met appreciated their condition and helped them all they could, and at the places where most of them concluded to stop to await events provided kindly for them.

Quite a large number of the fugitives, especially those from Blue Earth City and vicinity stopped at Wasioja, in Dodge county, where the good people provided a house for them and paid them every attention. The landlord of the place, Jacob Kelsey, a large-sized, generous, open-handed man, a man whose body had to be large to cover his great heart, supplied the wayfarers with many things for their comfort, and utterly refused to receive pay when it was tendered him, saying that "what little he had was free at such times, even his whisky." In the meantime, under the call of the governor, a new cavalry company of forty-two members was formed at Blue Earth City. J. B. Wakefield was elected captain.

"The company was organized on the 5th of September, and immediately reported to Col. Flandrau and was by him ordered to remain at Blue Earth City and to erect fortifications and adopt means for subsisting the men, during the term of service."

The term of enlistment was thirty days and they were paid and furnished with arms and ammunition by the State. Martial law was declared and Henry J. Neal was appointed provost marshal. P. C. Seely, the sheriff of the county acted from the beginning of the excitement as chief of police in keeping order and enforcing regulations. The sheriff at that time, in view of the impending draft, was invested by law, with peculiar powers. No man was allowed to leave the county without a "pass" from him. Under the authority of the provost marshal, some thirty horses were "pressed" for the use of the company, forage supplied, considerable provisions and other necessaries taken, during the thirty days, all of which was duly appraised and an account thereof kept. Saloons were closed by his authority and persons going out of the county with arms and ammunition, were stopped by the sheriff and required to deliver up their arms and ammunition, as they were needed here.

"Under this organization daily communication was kept up by means of couriers, both with the colonel's headquarters at South Bend, and the Iowa forces located at Iowa Lake, near the southern boundary of the State."

Guards were kept out during the day, eight and ten miles west of the Blue Earth river, and at night pickets were placed out around the village. Scouting parties of six to ten well-mounted men were sent to the west and northwest and it was their duty to range the country and report any signs of Indians.

Soon after the organization of the company another expedition of five or six well armed and well-mounted men, under Lieut. Davy scoured the country as far west as Estherville and Spirit Lake, in Iowa, at both of which places they assisted the people, who yet remained there, in forming companies for home defense. In a few days this squad returned and reported the country, in Minnesota, through which they passed, deserted and silent.

The company at Blue Earth City, after doing good service in many ways, disbanded on the 5th day of October, the term of enlistment having expired.

ROSTER OF THE BLUE EARTH CITY CAVALRY.

Officers—J. B. Wakefield, Captain; P. B. Davy and O. G. Davis, Lieutenants; W. B. Silliman, H. P. Constans, J. C. Howland and R. R. McCrary, Sergeants; A. Johnson, E. C. Butler, C. S. Smith, H. Sellen, Corporals; E. M. Ellis, Quartermaster.

Privates—L. Billings, W. Baldwin, D. E. Brunson, W. Dustin, I. Dane, H. Dane, R. R. Foster, R. W. Foster, W. C. Gillit, G. H. Howland, W. Hill, A. C. Ingalls, H. Lutz, S. Leslie, S. Landis, S. T. McKnight, I. S. Mead, R. Moore, W. C. Maynard, H. J. Neal, T. W. Newton, J. A. Rose, R. A. Ream, J. Richard, A. J. Rose, M. Sailor, J. M. Sailor, A. Sailor, J. Sailor, P. C. Seely.

“From the desposition now within the boundaries commanded by Colonel Flandrau, they held the entire frontier from New Ulm down the Minnesota to South Bend and thence up the Blue Earth river to the Iowa line with two advanced posts on the Watonwan and at Lake Martin. No substantial change was made on this line during the period of active hostilities.” In addition to these precautions, scouting parties were patrolling the country in all directions and comparative security was again established. Government troops, too, were soon on the frontier and advancing into the Indian country and the savages were driven far west, but of these military operations, we cannot write here, except to give the following brief summary. As was stated above, the outbreak at the Sioux Agencies, began on the 18th of August. An attack was made by the savages on New Ulm, on the 19th. On the 20th they attacked and besieged Fort Ridgley and on the 25th they made a second attack on New Ulm. On the 30th they began the siege of Fort Abercrombie. The bloody affair at Birch Coolie, occurred on the 2d of September. On the 23d of September the battle of Wood Lake was fought and the savages defeated. Some of the Indians now began to ask terms of peace. About the 26th of September they surrendered many captives at Camp Release. Many Indians about this time surrendered themselves and others were brought in, while many others still hostile retreated to the west and north. Soon after a military commission was instituted which sat until about the 5th of November, before whom many of these wretches were tried for murder, rape and other crimes. Three hundred and twenty-one Indians and their allies, were found guilty, three hundred and three of whom were condemned to death, thirty-eight only however were finally executed, as will be seen hereafter.



Most of the settlers of this county who had left, gradually returned to their homes, and business revived somewhat, and affairs settled down in their ordinary channels. But yet the people were timid, and the country full of rumors, and there were still prowling Indians on the frontier.

Fortunately no attack was made on this county, no murders committed, and no property destroyed directly by the Indians, but the damage to the county, in consequence of the outbreak, was immense. A vast amount of property, because of neglect and abandonment, was lost and destroyed, immigration entirely stopped, improvements ended for the year, and years were required to regain the lost ground.

We may conclude this reference to the great massacre by the remark that while no excuse is possible for this Indian outbreak and the diabolical outrages perpetrated by the savages, and while their atrocious deeds deserved immediate and certain death, very much on the same grounds that a ferocious wild beast should be exterminated, yet there were many who thought and some who said, that the cold-blooded, calculating frauds, personal insults and the public and private wrongs constantly practiced upon this ignorant people for many years by some white men in the capacity of Indian agents, traders and their subordinates, would come as near an excuse as anything possibly could, and some even expressed the view that the excuse would have been sufficient if the retribution had fallen only upon those whose villanies, greed and lusts added a principal cause to others which already existed, for this uprising upon the part of the savages.

#### THE COUNTY BOARD AGAIN.

The commissioners met on the second day of September, and after making several appointments immediately adjourned to the twenty-third, the record stating that "owing to the disturbed state of the country, occasioned by the the recent outbreak of the Sioux Indians and the general apprehensions of danger on the frontier, it was thought best to postpone the business before the board." On the twenty-third, they assembled again, and for the last time this year. They transacted a large amount of business, among which we find the issuing of the first bounty orders of twenty dollars each, to some thirty-six citizens who had just enlisted in Capt. Skaro's Company, of the Ninth Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers.

#### THE VERDICT OF THE BALLOT.

Wm. Windom was the republican and Andrew G. Chatfield the democratic candidate for congress in this, the First district, and we have already seen that the nominees for legislative honors were D. G. Shillock for the Senate and J. B. Wakefield for the House.

On the 23d day of September, a Union Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City, when the following nominations for county offices were made:

For Auditor—A. Bonwell.

Register of Deeds—F. M. Pierce.

County Surveyor—W. W. Seely.

Judge of Probate—A. Preston.

Coroner—David Pratt.

Court Commissioner—Geo. D. McArthur.

The Democratic party made no nominations for county offices. The election was held on the fourth day of November and the following was the result: For Senator, D. G. Shillock had 260 votes, and for Representative, J. B. Wakefield 231. They had also a majority throughout the legislative district, and were elected.

For Auditor, A. Bonwell had 259 votes. For Register of Deeds, F. M. Pierce had 124 votes and J. A. Kiestler 136 votes. For Judge of Probate, A. Preston had 253, and for Surveyor, W. W. Seely had 251 votes. George D. McArthur had 242 votes for Court Commissioner, and David Pratt 190, I. S. Mead 43, and S. Shroeder 13 votes for Coroner, and E. M. Ellis was elected County Commissioner for district No. One.

#### THE BLOODY RECORD.

The year was one of very great activity in military and naval affairs in the United States. Many terrific battles were fought, and the skirmishes and smaller conflicts were almost innumerable. The Union armies were attended with many victories, as well as with many strange and unaccountable reverses. The following is a partial summary of the principle battles and events of the year.

January 2d, battle Port Royal Island, S. C. Jan. 8th, battle Silver Creek, Mo. Jan. 19th, battle Mill Springs, Ky. Feb. 6th, Ft. Henry captured. Feb. 8th, great battle on Roanoke Island. Feb. 16th, Ft. Donaldson taken. Feb. 19th, Jeff Davis and A. H. Stevens elected permanent president and vice-president of "Confederate States." Feb. 23d, Nashville, Tenn., occupied by Union forces. March 6-8th, battle of Pea Ridge, Ark. March 9th, great fight between the iron-clads Monitor and Merrimack. March 14th, battle of Newburn, N. C. March 23d, battle Winchester, Va. April 6-7th, battle Pittsburg landing. 11th, Ft. Pulaski taken. 16th, slavery abolished in District of Columbia by Congress. 25th, Com. Farragut captured New Orleans. May 5th, battle Williamsburg, Va. 24th, battle Bottoms Bridge. 25th, battle Winchester, Va. 31st, battle Fair Oaks, Va. June 8th, battle Cross Keys, Va. 14th, battle James Island, S. C. 19th, Congress prohibits slavery in the territories. 25th, battle Fair Oaks, Va. again. 26th, battle Mech-

anicsville, Va. 28th, battle before Richmond. 30th, battles White Oak Swamp and Charles City Cross roads, Va. July 1st, battle Malvern Hill, Va. 18th, Southern raid into Indiana. Aug. 5th, battle Baton Rouge. 9th, battle Cedar Mountain, Va. 28th, battle Centerville, Va. 29th, battle Groveton, Va. 30th, battle Richmond, Ky. 31st, battle Weldon, Va. Sept. 1st, three battles, Chantilla, Va., Britton's Lane, Tenn, and Jackson, Tenn. 14th, battle South Mountain, Md. 16-17th, battle Antietam, Md. 20th, battle Iuka, Miss. 22d, preliminary proclamation issued by President Lincoln in relation to emancipation of slaves. Oct. 3d, battle Corinth, Miss. 8 9th, battle Perryville, Ky. 15th, battle near Richmond, Ky. 19th, battle near Gallatin, Tex. 22d, battle Maysville, Ark. Nov. 28th, battle Cane Hill, Ark. Dec. 5th, battle Coffeerville, Miss. 7th, battle Prairie Grove, Ark. 13th, battle Fredericksburg, Va. 31st, battle Murfeesboro commenced. The several fights with the Indians, in our own State are mentioned elsewhere.

The close of the year was signalized by the hanging on the twenty-sixth day of December, at Mankato, of thirty-eight (38) Indians and half breeds who had been engaged in the massacre of August, and had been tried by the commission and sentenced to death.

Many of them were leaders of the Indians in the massacre, and all of them were proved guilty of crimes perpetrated during the outbreak too atrocious to name in a printed book or even speak of except in whispers. Their execution was approved by almost the universal judgment of the world. They were all hung upon the same immense scaffold at the same time. The drop was so arranged as to fall from under all of them at the same instance. This was the most extensive execution of the kind known in history.

Many of the citizens of this county were in attendance to see the infliction of this just punishment.

The year was called the "dark hour" of the rebellion. It was certainly the darkest and most memorable in the history of the State, characterized as it was by the slaughter of its citizens, in the most bloody massacre ever known. And it was a memorable year in the history of our county which had just recovered from years of discouragement, to be thrown back again to more years of ill-requited labor, and waiting for long deferred prosperity.

"Peace! Shall the world outwearied ever see  
Its universal reign? \* \* \*  
Will nations learn that love not enmity  
Is Heaven's first law?"

## CHAPTER IX.

A. D. 1863.

O, such a day,  
 So fought, so followed, and so fairly won,  
 Came not, till now, to dignify the times,  
 Since Caesar's fortunes!—*Shakespeare.*

The winter of 1862-3 was very mild and pleasant. There was but little snow and but little very cold weather. It was, in fact, the most pleasant and genial winter yet known, since the settlement of the county, and somewhat more sickly than any preceding one. But it is not meant to assert by this statement, that there was no cold or stormy weather whatever. The winter is spoken of only generally and comparatively, the only manner, as a rule, in which we can speak of the weather conditions and seasons.

## AN OBSERVATION.

In writing the history of a people, it is, of course, necessary that their manners and customs, their public, private and social observances, their holidays and principal recreations, even the folklore of the country should be alluded to, in order to obtain a proper understanding of the times and the character of the people. These things have much to do with the make-up of life and have their influence upon the people and times. They are also matters of historic fact, which can no more be overlooked than any other important fact and events of the times—they are a part of the history. Therefore it is, that frequent reference is made to the customs, the holiday observances and prevailing amusements, of the times of which we write.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Hear the story of the bells,  
 The New Year's bells!  
 Hark how their music sways and swells  
 From out the old belfry, dark and high,  
 Now down through the valley, now up to the sky,  
 Swinging and climbing,  
 And ringing and chiming.—*Mrs. Blim.*

The first day of January, or New Year's day, is a legal holiday in most of the States. The day has no special historical, and until lately, no political significance, like most other holidays. It is the

day, however, that begins a new year, and we write a new date (and generally make a mistake about it too) and by common consent and immemorial usage, we observe the day as a holiday.

During many centuries, there was no agreement among the various peoples of the earth, as to the day of the year, which should be the beginning of the new year. Among some of them the year commenced about March 1st, with others about March 21st, March 22d, March 25th, April 1st, Easter day, June 22d, September 1st, September 22d, December 22d, December 25th, and some at other dates, being governed mainly by the times of the vernal and autumnal equinoxes and the winter and summer solstices. In 1752, January 1st, by act of the British Parliament, was established as the first day, or beginning of the year, and is now generally so considered among civilized nations.

But for many centuries before the first day of January was established as the first day of the new year, it was celebrated religiously as the octave of Christmas, and as the feast of the circumcision of Christ.

Although formerly differing as to the day on which the year should begin, it appears that all ancient and modern civilized peoples celebrate the event with certain special festivities. Among the Chinese the New Year's festival has, for centuries, been the greatest festival of the year.

Of the social customs incident to this holiday it may be said that balls and parties are frequent, the closing up of business houses, the printer's devil's New Year's address, the gathering of neighbors to eat good dinners, and the giving and receiving New Year's gifts, which, by the way, is a very ancient custom, are common throughout the country. The custom of making social New Year's calls by the gentlemen, which seems to have originated in New York City in the times of the Dutch, now prevails in many parts of the country, especially in the cities. In fact the New Year's day festivities are included in the period known as Christmas-tide, the holidays, and much the same observances which prevail on Christmas are had on New Year's day, the same jollity and geniality, and while on Christmas we hear the kindly greeting, "a merry Christmas," now on every hand we have the pleasant salutation, "a happy New Year."

Religious services on New Year's day are quite common, and a custom also obtains among some religious denominations of holding "watch meetings" during the preceding night, until after twelve o'clock, when the new year is ushered in. Prayers are offered to God for the blessings of the past, and his forgiveness implored for the sins, and follies, and shortcomings of the year gone, and His favor and guidance invoked for the year to come.

Quite similar to that mentioned is the beautiful custom found in some localities of devout people gathering in the parish church, where solemn services and litanies are said, and as the hour approaches twelve, the bell is solemnly tolled, announcing the dying year, and as the hands upon the dial pass the twelve the bell rings merrily, in honor of the new year.

“Ring happy bells across the snow,  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
Ring out the old, ring in the new.”

And we should not forget here to name the fact that this day is also famous for new resolutions of amendment, reform, retrenchment, and the like, which are usually broken before the first three months of the new year are out. But it is wise to make such resolutions and keep them. A noted author once wrote truly that “the person who arrives at a new year without any special stir of desire to be better, and to do better during its golden possibilities, is to be pitied. He has lost his enthusiasm, and the embers of his life’s happiness are faded and wan.”

On the first day of January of this year—1863—President Lincoln issued the great Proclamation of Emancipation of the slaves in the rebel states, and human chattel slavery was forever destroyed in this nation so far as law could then do it from that hour.

This God-like act, in wisdom, power, justice and mercy, set free forever four millions of human beings from the thralldom of the most odious slavery the world has ever seen, and this great deed will bear the name of Abraham Lincoln, as the Emancipator, to all future generations.

The colored race in America can well, forever hereafter, celebrate New Year’s Day as the greatest day—the fourth of July in the history of their race, and all our citizens may well observe it because of this great act which delivered the land from this burden of national weakness and crime.

New Year’s Day has always been observed in this county, usually according to the customs which prevailed in the New England and Middle States, but as a large proportion of the people are of foreign birth, the usages and customs incident to this day, in the fatherland of these citizens, are also quite prevalent.

#### THE LAWGIVERS.

On the sixth day of January the fifth State legislature assembled at the Capitol in St. Paul. The session, as usual, lasted sixty days.

Our district was represented at this session by D. G. Shillock, of Brown County, in the Senate, and Jas. B. Wakefield, of this county, in the House.

Our county was not needing much legislation at this time, as we find that the only acts having any exclusive reference to this county were "An act for the relief of school district No. 18," and "An Act fixing the time of holding courts in the various counties in the third, fifth and sixth judicial districts," which assigned the third Monday of May for the beginning of the term of our district court.

Alexander Ramsey was elected United States Senator to succeed Henry M. Rice.

#### THE COUNTY COMPTROLLERS.

The commissioners met on the sixth day of January and organized, by electing J. H. Dunham, of Verona, chairman, for the year. The business done at this session is of no interest to the reader. They met again on the 23rd day of March, when in pursuance of the militia law, they proceeded to divide the county into six (6) militia districts, and the eleventh day of April was appointed as the day of election of company officers in each district.

This was the first and last organization of the militia in this county, and it was but imperfectly done. A military spirit prevailed throughout the whole country, as may be naturally supposed, in view of the war, and it was thought best to encourage it and give an opportunity for local military organization and discipline, thus forming in this, as exists in many other countries, a body of reserves and hence the old militia system was reinstated. It was not a success. But few of the districts in this county organized by the election of officers. The people, generally, did not have much faith in the system, and were much inclined to ridicule the whole thing, and after a few rag-a-muffin parades, with hoe handles, broom sticks, umbrellas and a few condemned guns for arms, the whole matter was abandoned as a farce, and as not likely to produce heroes, or even well-drilled soldiers. The State Militia is now named the National Guard.

#### THE SPRING. WAR PRICES.

The spring of this year was very favorable to early seeding, and the weather was quite agreeable. Seeding commenced April 1st. During the latter half of April and through May—a period of six to eight weeks,—there was no rain whatever in a large part of the county, yet the crops did not suffer materially, and both wheat and oats were more than average crops.

In consequence of the war, dry goods and groceries, which had been for some time gradually advancing, reached in March of this year, a pretty high figure. Common cotton sheeting sold at fifty cents per yard. Calicoes from thirty-three to forty cents. Cotton shirting forty-five to sixty cents. Coffee forty to fifty cents per

pound. Tea, the cheapest kind, about equal to dried prairie grass, one dollar and fifty cents per pound. Sugar sixteen to twenty-five cents per pound. Almost everything bought in the stores averaged about equally high in price, and these high prices, with some fluctuations, generally ascending fluctuations, continued several years.

Our old settlers will remember, that those were the times of barley, chicory, carrot, wheat, rye and pea coffee, of pennyroyal and sage tea and no sugar in either. The people generally, with few exceptions indeed, in this section of country, used these articles, for several years, during the war, as substitutes for the original articles. And it should be recorded too, that many a good housewife acquired great skill in the manufacture of these beverages, making them so nearly like the genuine, as to deceive "the very elect."

But the people of the North were not quite so badly off as their belligerent brethren in the South, and that was a great consolation. It appears about the 1st of April, the following prices were current at Richmond, Va., within the rebel lines, butter \$3.50 per lb., hams \$1.45 per lb., candles \$3.00 per lb., coffee \$4.50 per lb., corn \$7.50 per bushel. So much for mere bread-stuffs and the like, but that article of prime necessity in that country—brandy, was \$24.00 per gallon!

#### INDIAN MURDERS.

In April, five or six persons were killed on the Watonwan river and several horses stolen by the Indians, creating considerable excitement.

During the summer Gen. Sibley, with about three thousand troops, made an expedition into the Indian country, driving the Indians toward the upper Missouri. Gen. Sully, with an equal force, advanced into the region occupied by the Indians, by way of the Missouri river. A number of battles were fought, many Indians killed, and much of their property destroyed. These expeditions gave peace to the border settlements during this year. With the expedition of Gen. Sibley, there were many soldiers who were residents of this county, in the regiment of Minn. Mounted Rangers. The company of Capt. P. B. Davy, of Blue Earth City, composed largely of residents of this county, and the company of Capt. Austin, in which were quite a number of our citizens, were with the Sibley expedition. There were also some others of our citizens in other companies. Among the events of the Indian campaign of this year, we note that, on the 3d day of July, Little Crow, the principal leader of the Indians in the great massacre, was killed. On the 24th of July the battle of Big Mound occurred, and on the 26th the battle of Dead Buffalo Lake. On the 28th of July the battle of Stoney Lake took place.



In May of this year, James B. Wakefield, of this county, was appointed U. S. Provost Marshal of the district composed of this county and Martin, and held the office until August, 1864. The principal duties of the office were the enrollment and report of names of all persons liable to render military service, and the apprehension of deserters.

#### THE JUDICIARY.

The District Court commenced its annual session May 18th. The session lasted until Saturday evening following, being by far the longest term yet held in the county and although much business was done, there was none of special importance, or of public interest.

Some attorney who reads the above item, may be hard up for an authority on some point and may thank the writer for the suggestion contained in the following anecdote taken from a newspaper.

"Some years ago at the trial of a cause before a justice of the peace in one of the southern States, a decided novel legal authority was cited by one of the learned members of the bar, which wrought some slight confusion in the courtroom.

"The court will please observe," remarked this acute counsel, with much deliberation and in a most ponderous manner, "that in the case of Shylock vs. Antonio, although judgment was rendered in favor of the plaintiff, yet circumstances prevented the execution which had issued from being carried into effect, in spite of that fact."

"To what case," inquired the justice, with a face overspread with perplexity, "did the court understand the gentleman to refer?"

"Shylock vs. Antonio, 2d Shakespeare, page 235, Johnson's edition," returned the counsel solemnly. "The court will there find the case reported in full."

$$\frac{\$6.66\frac{2}{3}}{100}$$

On the 28th day of May, the county board held a session, the business of which is noted elsewhere. On the 6th day of July, they again assembled and among other business, on reading a petition of certain soldiers who had enlisted in the Regiment of Minnesota Mounted Rangers for one year, the board directed that one-third of the county bounty paid to three year's men, (\$20.00) be allowed the petitioners, to-wit: the sum of  $\$6.66\frac{2}{3}$  in county orders. The orders were then worth about fifty-eight cents on the dollar. If three year's men were entitled to twenty dollars, there was no good reason why one year's men should not have one-third of that sum. The old soldiers still occasionally speak laughingly of this bounty.

#### A WAIF.

In a sketch of the county, published in 1868, we find the following statement in reference to this year: "1863. In this year immigration again flowed into the county, but still not to the extent it would had there been no Indian troubles the preceding year.

It is correctly estimated that the progress of settlement and improvement was retarded at least two years, yet in this year some of the damage was repaired, confidence in the security of the county became restored, money became more plenty, the crops were a fair average and the prices good."

#### THANKSGIVING.

The sixth day of August was set apart and designated by the President as a day of national thanksgiving to Almighty God, who holdeth in his hands the fate of nations, for the great victories which had lately attended the Union arms.

Again in December, a day of public thanksgiving was appointed. Both of these occasions were generally observed in an appropriate manner in this county.

"This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations."—*Is. 14:26.*

#### THE BOARD AGAIN.

An important session of the Board of County Commissioners was held on the first day of September. District school examiners were appointed as follows: J. A. Kiester for first district, F. W. Cady for second district and J. L. Weir for third district.

But the most important part of their business related to the survey and appraisal of the school lands. Albin Johnson and Andrew C. Dunn were appointed appraisers in behalf of the county, who were to act in this matter in conjunction with George D. McArthur appointed by the State, and in view of the survey of these lands, John A. Dean was appointed county surveyor.

As a matter of historic interest a brief explanation of our school land system is proper here.

The general government released to the State two sections of government lands in each township in the State, being sections sixteen and thirty-six, to be disposed of by the State to create a permanent fund for the benefit of common schools. Under the school land system of the State, these lands, when timbered, in districts where timber is scarce, are surveyed by state authority, and subdivided into two and a half, five and ten acre lots and blocks. The appraisers then fix a value per acre on each lot and block and also on each forty acre tract of prairie land. The lands are then offered for sale at public auction to the highest bidder at such times in each county as the commissioners of the State land office may fix, ample public notice having been first given. But no lands are sold below the appraised value. On timber lands where timber is valuable, fifty to seventy-five per cent of the purchase money must be paid at the time of purchase, and the balance may run twenty years

at seven per cent interest, payable annually. Prairie lands are sold on the same terms, except that but fifteen per cent. is required to be paid at the time of purchase. Only such proportion of the lands are sold as the commissioner may from time to time deem expedient. The original number of acres of school lands in this county alone was 25,196.

From these sales the State has secured a magnificent school fund which is continually increasing, and which it is sincerely hoped may never be squandered.

#### THE FARMERS' EXHIBITION.

The fair of the Agricultural Society was held at Blue Earth City on the seventh and eighth days of October. Daniel Birdsall, Esq., delivered the annual address.

#### HOMICIDE.

On the 22nd day of October, a Frenchman named Crapau, was shot at Walnut Lake, in this county, by a neighbor named Merry. Crapau died instantly. The affair was caused by an old dispute about a land claim. Merry surrendered himself to the officers of the law, and on an examination before a Justice of the Peace, he was discharged, it appearing, as was alleged, that he was justified in the killing, because necessary to save his own life. But after all it was not a very neighborly, and certainly not a very merry act.

#### THE WHIG OF '76.

On the 31st day of October appeared the first member of the "Whig of '76," issued at Winnebago City, by Carr Huntington, editor and proprietor. It was a small, six column, four page sheet, very neatly printed. This was the first paper published at Winnebago City. The editor says in his opening editorial, "Among other duties we should like to be able to show to the people of other sections the advantages which lie neglected in the beautiful prairies by which we are surrounded, fairer, richer, than the sun shines on elsewhere. Faribault as an agricultural county, is capable of making rich a hundred thousand inhabitants, and of exporting ten million bushels of wheat annually, to be raised on a surface of twenty towns, six miles square each. The people to that number ought to be here. As soon as they arrive, the acres will be given them for a perpetual inheritance." The paper was union republican in politics.

It is claimed that the first newspaper published in America and which was printed on the first press in America, was a paper named the *Freeman's Oath*, published at Cambridge, Mass., in 1639. A paper was issued at Boston, Mass., September 25th, 1690. It was designed to be a monthly, but it was immediately suppressed. But one copy of it now remains in existence. The *News Letter*, published

in Boston in 1704, is sometimes, though erroneously, deemed the first American newspaper. It was eight by twelve inches in size. In the first half of the eighteenth century quite a number of newspapers were established, being located mainly in the large cities. Their price was high and circulation limited, and they were but sorry sheets in comparison with the great papers of the present day.

"There are eight newspapers in the United States which claim to be over one hundred years old. The names of the papers and the dates when they are said to have been established, are as follows: Annapolis (Md.) *Gazette*, 1745; Portsmouth (N. H.) *Gazette*, 1756; Newport (R. I.) *Mercury*, 1758; New London (Conn.) *Gazette*, 1753; Hartford (Conn.) *Courant*, 1764; New Haven (Conn.) *Journal*, 1767; Salem (Mass) *Gazette*, 1768; Worcester (Mass.) *Spy*, 1770."

There are now—1881, published in the United States, about nine hundred daily papers, and the tri-weekly, semi-weekly and weekly papers aggregate eight thousand five hundred, with a circulation of fourteen millions and there are eight hundred monthlies with a circulation of four millions. The circulation of some of these papers is very great, running from thirty thousand, to two hundred thousand copies. The circulation of ordinary country papers was all the way from one hundred and fifty copies into one and two thousand.

The circulation of the New York Ledger, has at times exceeded four hundred thousand copies. Some years ago a weekly paper was started in New York named the "Advocate," which was reported to have reached a circulation of over six hundred thousand, the greatest ever known up to this time. It ceased for some reason to be issued after an existence of a couple of years.

The first Minnesota newspaper, was the "*Minnesota Register*," and bears date St. Paul, April 27th, 1849, but it was printed at Cincinnati, Ohio. The first newspaper printed in Minnesota, was the "*Minnesota Pioneer*," issued at St. Paul, April 28th, 1849. There now is scarcely a county in the State, in which there is not at least one paper published, and many have more. The average country papers of this State, are well gotten up, of good size and fairly edited, and hold a very respectable rank in the tone of their morality and intelligence, while we have several great newspapers in the State which may take rank with the best metropolitan journals and of which the people are, or should be, quite proud.

We have already seen that the first paper published in this county, was the *Blue Earth City News*, the first number of which was dated April 6th, 1861.

For several years there was but one paper in the county, but for the last few years there have been four, and at one time as many as seven papers published in the county.

Many changes have occurred in the newspaper press of this county since the publication of the first paper, all of which are carefully noted in the various years of this volume to the close of 1879. Our papers have in the main, always been equal to the best average of county newspapers. It is a fact worthy of record, that our county has supported a larger number of papers, in proportion to its population, than perhaps any other county in the State. The people of the county have always been a newspaper reading people. Many of them take all the papers published in the county, besides outside papers. All of the great leading journals are taken, and many of the leading monthlies and quarterlies, even the most costly of them, are patronized by the people.

For many years, all of our local papers have been printed on the auxiliary plan, that is, one side of them, containing general news and other matter is printed at the large offices of some of the cities, and the other side containing the local news, editorials and advertisements, is printed at the office of issue. This method, now almost universally adopted throughout the country, has many advantages. It enables the proprietor to publish a paper more easily and cheaply, and make a better paper, as the general news and selections are made by more skillful hands, as a rule, and from a greater range of exchanges, and this work being off the editor's hands, he has more time to devote to local matters. However, all the advantages are not with this system.

And now speaking of newspapers generally, we find that as to form, style and size, they vary greatly. The great majority are four pages, the next in order are the eight page papers and there are some of sixteen pages and even some, properly called newspapers, of thirty-two pages, and some of the large sheets are ten columns in width. Our papers cover also a wide range in character and ability, from the *Snakefang Gazette* and the vile *Hell's Messenger* to the *Public Ledger*, (Penn.) and the great religious weeklies. The great majority of newspapers in this country are published in the English language, but there are papers published in many other languages, as the German, French, Spanish, Norwegian, etc. It is a great and beneficial feature, that a great number of the newspapers published are devoted to specialties, to science, art, occupations, classes of society, associations, religious denominations, politics, commerce. Thus the man of science, every profession, the mechanic, the merchant, the agriculturist and others have each a paper devoted to his particular interests and views, besides the journals, which treat of matters in general.

One of the causes which contribute to the public influence of newspapers is a sort of anonymity, impersonality and know everything character, which attaches to them. This quality is something

separate from, or independent of, the personality of the editor. The expression, "the paper says so" goes a great ways with many people. Yet the editor himself, may be a very ninny, or a chump, or worse, and even the editorials may be largely "scissored" from other papers. There are newspapers, the editorial columns of which are largely edited by the shears.

The newspaper is a necessity. Let any one consider for a moment the condition of things should all the papers, suddenly and at once, cease to be published.

The newspaper is one of the great institutions of America, and the Americans are the greatest newspaper readers in the world, and the result is, they are the best informed people in the world, as to general topics and current events.

The newspaper is one of the most powerful educators of the intelligence and conscience of the people, and exercises an influence on the every-day life, the deeds and destiny of the people of the gravest importance. While the school teacher instructs a few dozens, or hundreds, and the preacher reaches his congregation, the editor speaks to many hundreds, often many thousands. Napoleon said, "A journalist is a regent of sovereigns, a tutor of nations. For hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."

"Newspapers," said H. W. Beecher, "are the school masters of the common people—a greater treasure to them than uncounted millions of gold."

Wendell Phillips wrote, "What gunpowder did for wars, the printing press has done for the mind; the statesman is no longer clad in the steel of special education, but every reading man is his judge." The famous Junius says, "Let it be impressed upon your minds, let it be instilled into your children, that the liberty of the press is the palladium of all the civil, political and religious rights." And it has long been a proverb that, "A free press is the stoutest bulwark of our liberties."

The press is not only potent to instruct and lead to right action, but it is also powerful in deterring from and suppressing crime and vice.

The business of Journalism has become a learned and honorable, almost a peerless profession, and the responsibility to the public, of those from the highest to the lowest, who are engaged in it, is very great. The position of the editor of even a country paper, who realizes his duty and responsibilities to himself and the community, and seeks to perform them, in a high minded and honorable manner, is a most honorable and important position and such an editor is usually respected as one of the first men of the locality.

A good local newspaper, one which is conducted on correct principals, by an independent, a conscientious and able man, is an ines-

timable benefit to any community. There is hardly any one thing, which can effect so much, in moulding and directing public opinion, advancing the material prosperity and raising the moral and intellectual condition of a locality as this. But on the other hand no greater calamity can happen to a locality, than that of having published in its midst a newspaper reflecting the qualifications of a narrow-minded, self-sufficient, or conceited individual, who supposes himself to be "the all in all" of the community, or one who is so weak, or so depraved, or both, as from week to week to criticise, decry, or misrepresent every moral movement and public enterprise, which does not square with his notions, or of which he is not placed at the head; or a paper which is a perpetual dispenser of "taffy" and fulsome adulation for the purpose of keeping friends; or the friend of the vicious elements and the ready apologist of crimes and disorder; or the mouth piece of defamation and blackmail and a manace to the good name or reputation of every person in the community, who will not bend the knee, or pay the price of immunity from ridicule or libel; or a paper that is purchasable and ready and anxious to sell its support for a price, to any man or cause; or one which is pleased to pander to the curiosity of the vulgar, or is the tool of small beer politicians and self-seekers, who, for a consideration, may write their own puffs. From all such, or any combination thereof, good Lord deliver us.

There are such papers and probably always will be. They are like a cancer on the public body, and unless soon cut out, corrupt and destroy the whole community.

The way to have an able and high-toned press, is to demand such, and patronize only such, and the way to get rid of the other sort, is to stick the paper in the fire, pay the editor what is due him, if anything, and stop your patronage.

It is a grateful task to record the fact, that with but a few exceptions, the publishers of newspapers in this county, whatever the private character or conduct of anyone may have been, seemed to realize their obligations to the community, and if not active in every good work, promoting intelligence and morality, have done nothing to hinder their progress.

Among the many varieties of newspapers, there is a class which no man should ever read himself, or permit in his family, if he has one.

They are those illustrated journals, of the deeds of darkness current in the land, which relate in detail, the shames and crimes of greed and hate and lust, illustrating them with all their horrors and vulgar features. They not only familiarize the mind with crimes of every name, but teach their methods of procedure. Their influence is pernicious. They are Satan's open letters to the people, as the

dime novels are his text books. No man who regards the welfare of the young, or the purity of his family, will permit them in his house. No one would want the company of the criminals and profligates themselves, why then the pictures and stories of their devilish deeds. We get enough of them for the information of the people in the ordinary newspapers. It is indeed true in a very great measure, that what we read shapes our lives. No man in this enlightened age, can afford to be without at least one good paper. No one can afford to raise his children without the current information, given by newspapers, and the paper should be read by every member of the family, old enough to read. A home is not much of a home without a good newspaper, and every family which respects itself, will have its paper. Every man should take his home paper to learn the local news, and he should take a leading city journal of his State, and he should have a paper devoted to his special business, and he should get one of his church papers, and then to complete the list, if he has a family of children, he should get a child's paper for the little folks. All these papers together and all of the best quality, need not cost to exceed six or eight dollars per annum. As a financial question it is the best little investment a man can make, to say nothing of the greater benefits derived in the way of general information, correct principle and improvement of manners. There is much that can be said on this splendid subject of newspapers, but we close these observations by the statement that, the work of publishing a newspaper is a business transaction. But few papers are published wholly as matters of charity.

Papers cannot live without support, and they are generally good and useful, in proportion to the liberality of their support. A paper too, is generally a fair index of the enterprise and intelligence and moral sentiment of the community where published.

Every man should not only take at least his local paper and pay for it, but if he does any business that is respectable and worth doing, he should advertise and pay for that. If he wants patronage, people must know where he is, what he does or has to offer, and if he advertises, the paper tells these things to hundreds, perhaps thousands while he works, or eats or sleeps. It is a fact generally true, that the man who advertises is the man who does the business. It may be observed that the business of publishing a newspaper, except in the case of a few of the great city journals, is not a very money-making business. Many papers started in good faith, and capable of doing much good, fail every year. There is much truth couched in the following lines penned by a once famous Minnesota



editor who had started many papers which failed to live. He sadly wrote:

“Man’s a vapor  
Full of woes,  
Starts a paper,  
Up he goes.”

THE TALE TOLD BY THE TICKETS.

The candidates for governor this fall were Stephen Miller, republican and H. R. Wells, democrat.

The Republican District Convention was held at Blue Earth City October 22d, and nominated J. A. Latimer, of Winnebago City, for Representative.

The Union Republican County Convention was also held at Blue Earth City and W. J. C. Robertson, of Verona, was nominated for sheriff; Wm. Dustin, of Blue Earth City, for treasurer; Andrew C. Dunn, of Winnebago City, for county attorney; D. Birdsall, of Prescott, for county surveyor; Amos Preston, of Elmora, for court commissioner and Wm. A. Way, for coroner.

The Democratic party made no nominations for legislative or county offices.

The election occurred on the third day of November. The vote was exceedingly light and the Republican candidates were all elected.

The following was the official canvass of votes:

	Miller.	Wells.	Latimer.	Dustin.	Robertson.	Dunn.	Preston.	Way.	Birdsall.
Prescott.. .. .	19	....	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Guthrie .. . . .	33	1	27	31	29	27	31	30	29
Elmore and Campbell.. . . .	23	....	23	23	23	22	19	16	22
Winnebago City.. . . .	80	1	67	73	72	65	72	73	72
Lura, Marples and Dunbar.. . . .	10	....	11	11	11	10	11	11	11
Brush Creek and Foster.. . . .	16	2	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Barber, Walnut Lake and Cobb.. . . .	11	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Blue Earth City and Emerald.. . . .	68	4	46	53	52	52	52	52	48
Seely and Keister.. . . .	12	....	11	12	11	11	12	12	11
Verona.. . . .	37	....	26	27	29	27	29	29	28
Totals.. . . .	309	22	255	274	271	258	270	267	265

NOTE—It appears that there was no election held in Pilot Grove and Jo Daviess.

Allen Shultis and Wm. M. Scott were elected county commissioners.

The prices of farm products late in December ruled as follows: Wheat, 60 to 65 cents per bushel; oats, 45 to 50 cents; barley, 75 cents; corn, 50 cents; potatoes, 30 cents; onions, \$1.50; beans, \$1.50;

butter, 15 cents; fresh pork,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ; fresh beef,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; eggs, 15 cents per dozen.

#### BOUNTIES.

Another call having been made on the 17th of October for three hundred thousand men and a draft having been ordered to take place on the 5th day of January, 1864, the commissioners met in special session December 11th, to consider the situation. They appointed Andrew C. Dunn as the special agent of the county, to proceed to St. Paul to get the returns of recruits enlisted from this county in the United States service corrected, so as to give this county and each town thereof, the proper credit for all recruits furnished since the beginning of the war. Then to encourage enlistments, and thus prevent drafting as much as possible, the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved that the sum of fifty dollars as a bounty to each volunteer or recruit, in each township in this county, who shall, subsequent to the recent call for the three hundred thousand men, and prior to January 5th, next, be mustered into the military service of the United States.”

#### LIFE HERE.

One may easily realize the conditions here and the life and interests of the people during the spring, summer and fall of this year.

Extremely dry weather prevailed for months. There was great heat in the summer and the dust was deep on all the roads and great clouds of dust filled the air when the winds blew or when teams or droves of stock passed along the highways or the public streets.

The lakes and streams were nearly dry and the pastures nearly, or quite, dried out and dead. The subjects that engaged the attention of every one, at home or abroad, in the fields, or in the workshops, or in public assemblies, were the impending draft, the battles fought and the great victories won on land and sea, and the losses in killed or wounded. And there was great rejoicing over the successes, and great sorrowing as well, sometimes bitter indignation at the losses and failures. And there was much activity in recruiting, enlisting and mustering into the service throughout the country. And during all this time money was scarce and dry goods and groceries so high-priced that nothing was bought by the people that could be dispensed with. Old clothing was long worn, often made over, and the people tried to live as much within themselves as possible. They practiced the most rigid economy. During these times, too, the people were bearing a special burden of anxiety about those at the front, in the far south and on the Indian frontier in the northwest, and about the outcome of the war. There were then but two villages and but few post-offices, no railroads and no telegraphs in the county. The

mails were carried by stages. The principal mails came from Mankato. The post-offices in the villages especially, were thronged with people when the mails arrived, all eager for letters and papers. Women and children often came long distances on horseback or on foot in haste to get their mails. How eagerly the papers were unfolded and the news of the great battles, and especially the list of the wounded and killed, were read to the groups of hearers. And the letters, how quickly they were torn open and their contents scanned, sometimes bringing good news, while others and not a few, told the sad stories of terrible wounds received, or the death of father, son, brother or friend, met bravely on the hard-fought field, and the moan of deep anguish was heard from the heart of the stricken reader. And such sad scenes were not seldom. God forbid that we shall ever see them again. Yet for all the unfavorable conditions under which the people suffered, the sentiment of all still was, "On to the front," "Down with the merciless savage, down with the accursed rebellion."

#### AT THE FRONT.

This year was one of great national events—of even greater activity than the preceding year in military affairs, on land and sea. Many great victories crowned the Union arms.

We can mention but a few of the more important events of the year.

The Emancipation Proclamation issued January 1st, has already been referred to. January 17th the government issued \$100,000,000 in notes, to pay the army. March 3d, congress authorized the borrowing of \$900,000,000, on the credit of the government, and the issue of \$50,000,000, in fractional currency.

During the month of April no less than eighty-five battles, skirmishes and attacks took place, on land and water. May 1st, battle of Port Gibson and battle of Chancellorsville begun. May 16th, battle of Baker's Creek, Miss. June 15th, the President called for 120,000 militia to repel Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania. June 18th, 100,000 Confederates entered Pennsylvania near Chambersburg. The first days of July formed the crisis of the war. On the 1st, 2d and 3d of July occurred the great battle of Gettysburg, Pa., which was one of the greatest of the civil war. July 4th, Vicksburg, Miss., surrendered with 31,000 men, 220 guns and 70,000 small arms. July 8th, Port Hudson surrendered. July 13th, great riot in New York City, lasting several days, during which the colored orphan asylum was burned, negroes hung in the streets and houses robbed and burned by the rioters. The riot was quelled by government troops. Aug. 1st, two cavalry fights in Virginia. Aug. 20th, Lawrence, Kan., attacked and destroyed by the guerillas.

Sept. 19-20th, battle of Chickamauga. Oct. 14th, battle Bristoe Station, Va. Oct. 31st, battle Shell Mound. Nov. 23d, great battles of Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain, lasting three days.

THE LAST DAY.

The last day of this year was one of the most terrible ever known in this region. A great tempest of wind with intense cold prevailed on the last day of the year and for several days of the next year, over the whole country. Even in southern latitudes the cold was very severe. At St. Louis, Mo., and Louisville, Ky., the mercury sank to 24° below zero. In this county the wind blew a hurricane all day, the thermometer standing at 30° to 34° below zero. The air was filled with fine particles of ice so thickly and was driven with such velocity that objects ten feet distant could not be seen, and it was almost impossible to face the wind. Night fell upon the earth, the storm unabated and thus closed the year 1863.

“T’is done! Dread winter spreads his latest glooms,  
 And reigns tremendous o’er the conquered year.  
 \* \* \* Horror wide extends  
 His desolate domain.”—*Thomson*.

## CHAPTER X.

A. D. 1864.

The great storm and intense cold, with which the preceding year closed, continued during the first day of this year and for several days after, but were less severe than on the first day. We find the following notice of the storm in the *Whig* of January 6th :

“A storm of more than usual severity passed over this region last week. People who have been raised in this climate say they have never seen anything to equal the fierce blasts, wind, frost and snow combined. On Wednesday the wind blew fierce gales from the northwest, the air being filled with falling and drifting snow, increasing the terrors of the scene during the night. On Thursday and the night following, until about midnight, the storm had been rallying to its climax, and then gradually subsided, but on Friday morning the degree of cold was marked by the thermometer at 33° below zero.

The soldiers of the expedition to Sioux City arrived in the neighborhood on the return in time to secure quarters at Fairmont and this place. They had suffered on their way out during a severe storm, and a young man named James Huntington, son of Col. Hallam Huntington, of this town, had a foot badly frozen, and was left at Sioux City.

Twenty-three others of the party are said to have been disabled from the same cause. As yet we have no names.

The weather of the past week surpasses the experience of the ‘oldest inhabitant.’”

It was estimated at the time that about three thousand dollars worth of stock, principally cattle and sheep, perished in this storm, in this county alone. Many people were more or less frozen and some were frozen to death in the counties west of this. The weather continued cold and rather stormy and wet, with some short exceptions, in February and March, until the middle of April. Some wheat was sown about the twenty-fifth of March, but the greater part of it was sown during the third and fourth weeks of April, yet the weather even then was quite cold and blustery. It cleared up about the last day of the month, and became very warm and dry until the twenty-second day of May, when a terrific storm of wind, rain and hail prevailed over a large part of the county. During the remainder of the year, until late in December, when the winter began, the weather was very agreeable. This may be designated as another dry year.

“THE BOARD.”

Among the events which confront us at the opening of the year was the meeting of the county board, which occurred January 5th.

Thomas Blair was elected chairman for the year. The board met again January 27th, February 10th, May 27th and July 8th. But little was done at these meetings worthy of note, and that little is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Several meetings were held later in the year which will be noticed hereafter.

#### THE LEGISLATURE.

The sixth legislature met January 5th and adjourned March 4th. The legislature of the preceding year almost ignored this county, and that of 1864, did it quite, as no act whatever, was passed, having any particular relation to this county. Happy county! However, there was some talk about this time, of an effort being made to change certain of the boundary lines of the county, but it came to naught. D. G. Shillock, in the Senate and J. A. Latimer in the House, were our representatives in the legislature of 1864. Andrew C. Dunn, of this county, was chief clerk of the House of Representatives.

#### MORE MEN.

On the 1st day of February, the President ordered a draft of five hundred thousand men, and on the 15th of March he called for two hundred thousand more, which made the business of recruiting in this county, as elsewhere, quite lively, and almost monopolized the public attention. In the *Whig* of March 23d, we find the following table showing the quotas of men required up to that time to be furnished by the several town districts in this county, and the number credited to each. It is of interest at this late day, but was of more interest at that time.

	Quota.	Credits.
Blue Earth City.....	42	66
Brush Creek.....	11	10
Elmore.....	12	16
Guthrie, (Dalavan).....	15	17
Marpless, (Minnesota Lake).....	14	6
Pilot Grove.....	12	13
Prescott.....	12	24
Seely.....	3	3
Verona.....	28	27
Walnut Lake.....	12	11
Winnebago City.....	37	53
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	198	246

It will be observed that while several town districts only were slightly in arrears, yet the county, as a whole, was much ahead of the requisitions.

#### ST. VALENTINE'S DAY—FEBRUARY FOURTEENTH.

St. Valentine's Day is one of the important days of the year with the young folks in many countries, and has always been remembered

by them, and its curious custom of sending valentines observed to a greater or lesser extent every year in this county, and the day, therefore, demands, of course, a passing notice.

St. Valentine was a Roman martyr, who was beheaded in the year 270, at Rome, in the reign of the Pagan Emperor Claudius I. He was a man of great ability, a christian, and famous for his love of his fellow-man, and his unbounded charity for all.

Some writers say he was a bishop, others that he was but a presbyter or priest. He was early canonized, and ever since, the fourteenth day of February has been known, in the church calendar, as St. Valentine's Day. But the peculiar customs incident to this day, had their origin long before St. Valentine lived, and can be traced back among the Romans to a period two thousand years ago. There existed among the Romans at that time, the pagan festival of the Lupercalia, which was held in February, and about the time when birds in that country were choosing their mates. It was the custom at the time of the festival and a ceremony in the worship of Juno, a heathen goddess, to place the names of young women in a box, when after being well shaken, they were drawn out at random by the young men, and the one whose name was drawn, was, as we should now say, the valentine of the drawer for one year.

Later, during the times of the early church, the pastors finding this heathen custom so deeply rooted that it could not be eradicated, changed its form somewhat and connected it with the observances of St. Valentine's Day. Further changes followed in the course of years, until the sending of written or printed missives, called valentines, as we now have them, came in vogue, and has continued during a long course of years. The writer is indebted to various authorities for the historical facts above set forth. These missives were designed originally to be short messages of love, friendship, tokens of regard, and are generally anonymous—the sender being unknown—and they are sent by the young women as well as by the young men. A poet writes:

“Girls should be modest they say;  
 Still, on St. Valentine's Day  
 I suppose a young maid may  
 Offer a tiny bouquet  
 And not wander far astray  
 From perfection.

“Only a leaf and a pink,  
 Surely at that one may wink,  
 I am still safe on the brink,  
 Since I have not said, I think,  
 That you are yourself the pink  
 Of perfection.”

But at this day valentines are often sent and received by the older folks as well as by the young.

Many years ago, in England, a custom connected with this day prevailed extensively, and for a long time, and which may be related here for the amusement of the young folks. According to this practice each maiden was to regard as her valentine the first lad on whom her eyes rested on St. Valentine's Day. Hence on that day the boys were up early and dressed out in their very best clothes and went to call at the residence of the girl whom they wished to be their valentine, and many cunning devices were used by the young people to see or be seen by the right person first, the girls trying to avoid being seen by any other but the young man of her choice, and he using his best skill in trying to be seen by the young lady of his choice first, and by no one else until after this momentous question was determined, and a great deal of innocent sport was the result of all this maneuvering.

The missives now called valentines are usually made of small sheets of paper, in various styles, sometimes in the form of cards, letters, pictures, boxes, and contain verses, printed or written, with portraits and pictures of various objects, usually flowers, caricatures and the like. Some are made up in silk or satin in various shapes. Very costly valentines are to be had in the cities, ranging in price from ten dollars to one hundred dollars. They are made in all grades, down to the penny daub. The shop windows in the smaller towns are usually full of the cheaper kinds for a week or two before St. Valentine's Day and attract a good deal of attention. Some are sentimental, some comic and occasionally some are even vulgar. Valentines are usually sent, duly enveloped, postage prepaid, through the post-offices, and for a week or two before and after St. Valentine's Day, the post-offices are overloaded with this kind of matter, to be sent in every direction.

And when these little missives are sent and received, and are of a proper character, much pleasure is enjoyed by those who take an interest in them.

But sometimes this custom, like many others, is abused, and ill-conditioned, vulgar or malicious people make use of it to injure the feelings of others, or bring them into ridicule. Comic valentines are perhaps more used at this day than any others, and create much sport when no malice is involved.

Valentines are used sometimes to remind people of various things, and sometimes with not much propriety, yet occasionally with some benefit. For instance, an individual whom fortune has favored, may perhaps be disposed to "put on airs" and make himself very disagreeable to his neighbors, and someone who thinks he should be rebuked by being reminded of something, but does not wish to



say to him that his father was a city collector—that is, a collector of soap grease—sends him an anonymous valentine containing, perhaps, some suitable verse and a highly colored portrait of an old man with his greasy cart and barrels and scare crow of a horse. Spilkins may know that old Soaker is an arrant drunkard, but don't wish to say so to his back, so he sends him a valentine representing a man with an enormous and very red nose and an empty whisky jug. Such valentines usually do much more harm than good and should not be indulged in.

Used as an amusement, or for purposes of friendship or affection, and within the bounds, always, of propriety, these customs of St. Valentine's Day may be made a source of benefit and of much innocent pleasure, and may certainly be commended. But on the other hand, any one should be severely censured, who should so far degrade himself as to be guilty of wounding the sensibilities of others, making sport of their misfortunes, or gratifying his malice at their expense.

#### THE NEWSPAPERS.

About the ninth of March, J. L. Christie, formerly of the *Minnesotian*, at Blue Earth City, purchased the *Whig* at Winnebago City. Mr. Christie, in his first issue, very wisely says, among other things, that "A paper, properly conducted, can do much toward attracting immigration, and no pains will be spared to make the paper what it should be in this respect. The editorial department will be under the charge of H. W. Holley."

On the 29th of the same month, the first number of the *Blue Earth City Advocate* was issued at Blue Earth City, by Carr Huntington, editor. It was a six column, four page sheet, and made a very creditable appearance—motto "Freedom (?) and Union now and forever."

The editor says: "*The paper will stand square for the Union, and the men in every capacity who are engaged in the work of its preservation.*"

In April, the name of the paper—the *Whig* of '76—at Winnebago City, was dropped, and the paper appeared under the very—proper head

#### "THE FREE HOMESTEAD."

The former editorial management continued. Of the new name the editor writes: "Located as we are in the very midst of free homesteads, which the government has given, or will give for the asking to the actual settler, it seems to us appropriate to identify our paper in name with these homesteads, as we intend it shall always be identified with them in interest." Having now got our county papers—now two of them—squarely before the public and at work, as they remained for several years, we shall pass to other topics.

## WIND MILLS.

In writing this sub heading immediately after the remarks on newspapers, there is no implied design of continuing our observations on that subject, but to state that in the early part of the year an enterprise was inaugurated at Blue Earth City, looking to the erection of a grist mill at that place. At that time there was but one grist mill in the county, and that but a small one, located at Winnebago City, and the majority of those who desired milling done carried their grists twenty, thirty and even forty miles to mill. This was a great inconvenience and quite expensive, and the people of Blue Earth City concluded that no enterprise would be of more advantage to the village and the surrounding country than the building of a grist mill.

After the expenditure of enough wind in talking over the matter to run three ordinary wind mills, a number of meetings were held, and it was determined to erect a wind grist mill. On the second day of April a joint stock company was formed under the incorporation laws of the State. The officers went manfully to work, and after the timbers were gotten out and some of the machinery purchased, the company sold out to private individuals who completed and put the mill in operation. It was not a great success, yet it proved quite a convenience and of considerable public advantage for some time. And this was the second grist mill in the county. The water power mills, of which we now have a goodly number, were next, and later "evolved," and these milling facilities were increased still later by the addition of first-class steam grist mills.

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MATTERS.

The agricultural society held a meeting at Winnebago City, March 26th, at which a new constitution and by-laws were adopted. It appears that another meeting—the regular quarterly meeting—was held at Blue Earth City April 4th, at which, also, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, but whether the same as those adopted in March, does not appear—presumably they were. This meeting adjourned to May 16th, at the county auditor's office, for the election of officers. The adjourned meeting was held, and J. A. Latimer was re-elected president, D. Birdsall, secretary and A. Bonwell, treasurer, for the current year. Another meeting was held June 25th, when it was determined to hold the fair at Winnebago City on the 14th and 15th of September, but the time was subsequently changed to the 23d and 24th of September.

## FIRST INSURANCE AGENCY.

As a matter of interest to the insurance fraternity, it may be recorded here, that in April of this year, the first permanent insurance agency was established in this county—one which still continues after a lapse of sixteen years. The agency was established at Blue Earth City by the old Ætna Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn. J. A. Kiester was appointed agent.

In the next month, May, the Madison Mutual Insurance Company, of Madison, Wisconsin, appointed an agent in the town of Verona—A. B. Balcom—but this agency did not continue a great while.

At this time many different companies have agencies in this county, among which are found many of the oldest and strongest companies of America and Europe.

The business of underwriting, in its higher departments, is a learned and honorable profession. Insurance is a science, having an important history and literature. Many of the periodical and weekly publications, devoted to this science, are of a high order. As a business, its transactions are second only to those of the great railroading interests of the country. The vocation of an insurance agent is an important and honorable one. It is upon the agents of the companies that the great business of insurance rests, and is dependent for success, and insurance agents, as a class of business men, are as honorable, correct in the transaction of their business, and as trustworthy as the members of any other profession or occupation; yet, as in other departments of business, there are some who dishonor the profession, and the companies should be, in fact generally are, ever ready to weed out such employees when discovered.

## OYER! OYER! OYER!

The district court held a session of one day, at the usual time in May. This was the last term in this county at which the Hon. Lewis Branson presided, his term of office expiring January 1st following. He had presided at all our courts from the first organization of the county to this time. A number of distinguished lawyers from abroad were present at this term, among whom was Hon. C. G. Ripley, afterwards chief justice of our supreme court.

## A COURT CRIER.

A lawyer, living on Walnut Hills, has a son about seven years old, and a daughter about three times that age. The boy has been around the court room a good deal, and the girl has a solid beau. The other evening the gentleman passed the house, and the young lady wanted to see him.

"Johnny," said she to the kid; "won't you please call Mr. Mann."

Johnny knew the state of affairs, and with a ready "of course," he flew to the front door and called out in the usual loud monotone of a crier:

"John Henry Mann, John Henry Mann, John Henry Mann, come into court."

Mr. Mann came in, and Johnny withdrew to a safe place.

## SETTLING UP THE COUNTRY.

Immigration this year commenced in May and continued all summer, at high rate. A great deal of land was taken up, many farms opened and many buildings erected. Money became quite plenty and lands and grain brought good prices. This year was in fact, one of the great years of immigration and improvement in this county. In a new country few things are so encouraging and beneficial as a large immigration. People and improvements are the chief requisites to make a country, and the Americans are the greatest country and state makers in the world. It is said that the Americans are nomadic. This is true in a limited sense in the west, and while the old saying that "a rolling stone gathers no moss" is quite true, thousands of people are greatly benefited by a change of location, if they do not change too often. It was about this time that the homestead law, passed in 1862 by congress, began to have its effect, inducing a vast emigration for years to the new states and territories. Our county was not only the recipient of much immigration, but it was also the highway over which passed much of the immigration to the southwestern and northwestern counties of the State. The long lines of white covered wagons often called "prairie schooners" and droves of stock, passing through to the north and west, were for many years a common and an interesting sight, even though they did not stop with us. The day will come when they shall be only a thing of the past, and even now are less frequently seen than formerly. What western man can fail to feel an interest in the emigrant as he passes along in his covered wagon now his only home on earth? Generally there are tired looking teams, tired looking men and women, tired and hungry children, and the plodding stock following, all toiling along over the prairies, through forests, over the mountains, weary and dusty, but still patient, enduring, persevering until the Eldorado is at last reached. The heart involuntarily utters "God bless you stranger, may He prosper your venture. It was thus most of our people came to this new land. It is thus great states are built. It is a venture with the emigrant, it is always a venture, and we, the early settlers all well know what it implies. The old home far behind perhaps beyond the sea, forever deserted, old and dear social and kindred ties and associations of all the by-gone years forever broken, the toilsome journey, the land of strangers, the building of the new home, the establishment of business, the making of new friends and the beginning of a new life. The new-comer and the way-faring emigrant, is indeed entitled to the kindly greeting, the helping hand, if needed, and generous encouragement, of whatever name or nation, tongue, or kindred, he may be.

## SEE HERE!

About the last of May a fair and festival was held at Winnebago City by the Ladies' Soldiers Aid Society for the benefit of sick and disabled soldiers at the front. It was a grand success in every respect. The people were enthusiastic and everyone contributed liberally to the good cause. The amount realized from the fair and festival, together with some additional sums afterwards contributed was the handsome donation of \$456.47. On the first day of June a like fair and festival was held at Blue Earth City by the Ladies' Soldiers Aid Society of that place. Notwithstanding the many enlistments, the large town and county bounties and other aid extended to the soldiers, the people were not weary. At Blue Earth City on this occasion a large concourse of citizens full of patriotism and liberality attended. They assembled at Young's Hall about 11 o'clock in the forenoon, where an address was delivered by J. A. Kiester.

After alluding to and briefly explaining the monarchical theories and systems of government, which had ruled the world through all the ages, and the results, and after explaining the new and better principles of civil government, asserted by the Declaration of American Independence, the speaker said, among other things:—

“But the American Revolution produced a change in the affairs of man—light broke in upon, and hope dawned for the down-trodden and oppressed millions of the earth. Those new and better and truer principles asserted by that revolution, recognizes man as a being of rights and of equal rights. And these better principles are becoming recognized. Mankind are progressing in knowledge everywhere, and in the knowledge of the true principles of political science. The shackles of the old despotic systems are slowly but surely loosening—they must loosen as the mass of the people progress, or be burst assunder in bloody revolutions overturning all government and order. The despots of the old world already see, and to some extent admit this truth. The glorious car of human freedom is rolling forward. It is but a short time since the perjured villain and despot who rules France, in a call for a European Congress, stated that this progress of the people must be recognized. The English people are becoming more jealous of their civil liberties—Russia has freed her millions of serfs—Poland and Hungary are in revolution—and classic Italy, under the leadership of Victor Emanuel and that glorious patriot, Garibaldi, has risen from her divisions and degradations of ages to an honorable position among the nations with the glad shout of free and united Italy. Thus are those principles asserted by our revolution becoming recognized—thus is mankind progressing in the pathway of true advancement and elevation, and may this progress in the true principles of government, hand in hand with that in science, art, literature and religion, move forward without let or hindrance, until every system of slavery, wrong and oppression with despots, and their systems, thrones, sceptres and minions shall be swept from the earth forever.

And now let us revert to our own country and its great interests, its condition and destiny. Eighty odd years have passed away since, through the fire and blood and storms of the revolution, our government was organized upon the principles asserted by that revolution—what is the result? Let us view it

for one moment as it existed before the breaking out of the rebellion. This people, who, at the time of the Declaration of Independence, consisted of thirteen colonies and three million of inhabitants, without commerce, without a name and without a place among the nations—had grown to be a mighty people, composed of thirty-four states, and more than thirty million inhabitants. We had taken our place as a first-class power of the earth. Our empire was almost a continent. We had a country possessing every variety of soil, every character of climate and all kinds of productions. We had thousands of miles of sea coast, the longest rivers, railroads and canals in the world, a commerce that spread its sails on every sea, and manufactories of every description. Our people were industrious, intelligent, enterprising and brave. But this is not all—in the higher blessings of free government the universal diffusion of knowledge, progress in the arts and sciences, the freedom of conscience, of opinion, of speech, and of the press—in all these we had no equal on earth. In short, we had the most free, most tolerant, and best government ever possessed by man.

And now drawing aside the thick veil which hides the future destinies of our country, let us contemplate it an hundred years hence, in the spirit and faith of the patriot's hope. Behold! A nation of more than two hundred millions of people, whose states indissolubly united embrace the area of a continent, whose lands are in the highest state of cultivation and productiveness, whose manufactures supply the world—whose commerce covers every sea, whose arts and sciences are carried to the highest perfection—the precepts of morality and religion governing its people—having no entangling alliances with foreign nations, but the just arbiter of their differences—a nation whose schools are free, and the benefits of an enlarged physical and mental education and development, possessed by every citizen—where all classes, castes, and distinctions, except such as are based upon virtue and wisdom, are unknown in the social and political systems—where the widest freedom of speech, of opinion of the press, of conscience and of personal action, consistent with the well-being of society, are indisputable rights.

What a nation of prosperity, power and glory is this! This nation at the breaking out of the rebellion was a subject of pride and congratulation, but how much more worthy of pride is that nation which we may hope to become in the future!—And to me that future is no Utopian dream—no unreasonable hope. But there is a condition necessary to the maintenance of our country as it is or was—a condition necessary to be fulfilled, in the consummation of the future we hope for. And what is this condition? I answer, *the maintenance of the Union, the Constitution and the Supremacy of the Laws*. This is the simple, fundamental condition. And if we fail in this, we may now bid adieu to our liberties, to our wealth, power, prosperity and future prospects as a nation. The blood of our fathers will have been shed in vain, and the last and only hope of the political elevation of man will have perished, and on the broken columns of our ruins, the future moralizer on the destiny of nations, may write the sad but then truthful commentary—

“—Such is the moral of all earthly tales,  
 'Tis but the sad rehearsal of the past;  
 First Freedom, then glory, and when that fails,  
 Slavery, corruption and barbarism at last,  
 And history with all its volumes vast,  
 Has but this page.”

Alas my countrymen! the black flag of treason, rebellion and disunion has been thrown to the breeze. Led on by traitors whose treason is as black as hell because of its ingratitude and want of excuse, the deluded people of the South,

lifting their bloodstained hands to heaven, swear to dissolve the Union, overturn the nation, defeat and destroy our just and equitable system of government and establish one upon the basis of slavery. Shall this be so? Shall the Union and the Constitution be maintained? Let us reason for a moment, then to the men who are defending them with their lives.

The American Union should be a holy thing to us. "It was baptized some eighty years ago, in a river of sacred blood. For that Union thousands of brave men left their homes, their wives, all that man holds dear, to die amid ice and snow, the shock of battle, the dishonor of gibbets. No one can count the tears, the prayers, the lives that have sanctified this American Union, making it an eternal bond of brotherhood for innumerable millions, an altar forever sacred to the rights of man. And for eighty years and more the smile of God has beamed upon it."

"And the man that for any pretence would lay a finger upon one of its pillars, not only blasphemes the memory of the dead, but invokes upon his memory the curse of all ages yet to come. I care not how plausible his argument, how swelling his sounding periods, that man is a traitor to the soil that bore him, a traitor to the mother whose breast gave him nourishment, a traitor to humanity everywhere, and a traitor to the dead whose very graves abhor the pollution of his footsteps."

There is, my countrymen, no light in which you can view this question, no possible hypothesis upon which to base a probable condition consistent with the liberties, material and other prosperity of this people, if we should fail to crush this rebellion. There is nothing left but to maintain the Union, the Constitution and the Laws, whatever the time and treasure and life it may cost. And to accomplish it, is worth the lives of one generation of men, yours, my hearers, and mine among the number, and all the wealth of this continent, for it is not the cause of this country alone, nor of this generation, but of all mankind and of all the generations to come.

And here this question of slavery presents itself. But I will not try your patience by a long homily upon this subject. Let me tell you in a few words the character of this most accursed institution and the fate that awaits it as I read the signs of the times. I look upon chattel slavery as it existed in this country as the greatest social, moral and political evil upon the face of the earth. It is the essence of all and every system of despotism. It is antagonistic to the principles upon which our government was founded. It is "the sum of all villainies." It is without warrant in revealed law, and is condemned by the law of nature, and there is absolutely no argument in the whole range of human reason, that can excuse, much less sustain it.

And this great curse, this gigantic crime against man and God, the evils of which we are now reaping in this rebellion against the Union, against our laws and liberties—this evil, which, with its authors and apologists, men will execrate through all ages, is about to be destroyed as a result of this war for the Union. The Proclamation of Emancipation will be sustained. The shackles are breaking and the oppressed shall go free, and when this war shall be ended and the Union restored, there may not be a slave on our soil, and the glad shout the mighty anthem of freedom shall resound throughout the universe—Glory be to God.

Understand me friends, standing upon the law of God and nature, I am the friend of human freedom, of liberty, civil and religious, for all men everywhere. I care not of what nation or color they may be, and I verily believe as I stand here to-day, that as in the dark day of the revolution, the finger of God was everywhere manifest, so in this war is He evolving the great problem of human freedom, and that the restoration of the Union and the annihilation of slavery as a result of the war, are the ends He will accomplish.

Such, friends, is my humble comprehension of the importance of this war for the Union—some of its results and in the dim but certain future the glorious destinies of our country. And I have no fear for the result if we do our duty, and the only question now is, what is our duty as loyal citizens? It is very plain, laying aside all party prejudices and passions, creeds and mere personal interests, we must stand by our government with all our property, with the best exertions of our minds and bodies *even unto death*. And hundreds of thousands of our noble countrymen have gone forth determined to sustain the government, restore the Union and protect our liberties or perish in the attempt. God's best blessing be upon them. What a glorious cause like that for which our fathers toiled, the best for which man ever fought, or bled, or died.

But we have not only the openly declared rebel and traitor to fight—throughout the North there are many who sympathize with our enemies. There were such men in the days of the revolution, so in the war of 1812. They were called Tories and traitors then—they are called copperheads now. And if I knew a more loathsome and repellant name, a name embodying all scorns and shames, I would shout it in their ears until they would hide their deformed heads and principles from the light of day, and the gaze of all honest men. The traitor who openly backs his treason with his life, may demand some respect for his courage and sincerity, but for the grovelling, sneaking, cowardly whelp of Satan, who with his heart filled with the foulness of treason, his mouth with lying words, seeks to hinder, distract and ruin the very government whose liberties, security and protection he enjoys, there are no words too bitter, no hate too strong this side of Hell. Admitting as we must, that there is some corruption in the war, that there are many mistakes made, all of which is inevitable in any war, it is no reason whatever to give up the contest. But copperheads, with motives and feelings as evident as the designs of the devil upon the human race, and with no view to temperate discussion and remedy of these evils, but to magnify and distort everything in the interest of their Southern friends, tell us the Constitution is violated every hour—that the President is a tyrant—that the government is wholly corrupt—that the country is ruined by debt—that Congress has no objects in its labors but base political and pecuniary ends—that our generals are all incompetent and mercenary—that this is a war against the rights of the South and should be given up—that it is an abolition war and a war for the benefit of speculators and rotten politicians, men who have no sympathy with our cause in its failures, mistakes and misfortunes—not a word of praise in its victories and achievements, who tell us there is no patriotism in the men who are fighting its battles,—that their motives are all mercenary.—Great God! Can this all be true? Are these men who have left their business, their wives and children, their peace and security and comfort, sacrificing every thing that men hold dear—are these men after all but mercenary wretches? See them on the hundred battlefields of this war, from the highest commander to the commonest soldier, toiling, suffering, bleeding, dying, facing the most appalling dangers, and as company, regiment and battalion are swept away by the murderous fire of the foe, still with the battle shout, cheer and song, fill up the thinned ranks, marching into the very jaws of death, determined on victory. Is this mercenary? Are these men thinking of bounties and thirteen dollars a month? See them lying strewn upon these hundred battlefields, dead and silent, or in hospitals suffering from disease and ghastly wounds, still true to the holy cause—Is this mercenary? No, friends, this charge is a lie—a base born traitor's lie. There is patriotism in this war, established by the best proofs men have ever asked. The lives, the accursed machinations of these copperheads have cost, will be kept as a record of blood against them through all time, like the Tories and traitors of the revolution and of the war of '12, they will be remembered but to be hated.



“Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
 And doubly dying, shall go down  
 To the vile dust from where they sprung  
 Unwept, unhonored and unsung.”

Now what should be our course towards these cowardly miscreants? I will tell you in a word. Have no association or sympathy with them—put no man in office of doubtful patriotism, and be not deceived by specious assertions or changes of opinion. Let the past consistency of every man's conduct prove his sincerity, and give no ear to their falsehoods—they will cry out against this, and the worst pinched will be the first to howl, but remember the mighty trust reposed in every patriot's hands, and as you value the success of our cause and country, heed them not—be true to your trust.

And now to return to the brave men who are fighting our battles, and our duty to them and to our country, and I am done. They are fast falling in the mighty struggle—by the hardships and dangers of disease, and wounds, and death. Thousands of them will return to us no more in this world—they have fallen with their faces to the foe. Thousands are languishing in hospitals from sickness and wounds—other thousands are still bravely facing the storms of battle amid want and toil and suffering. Oh! what is our duty! What can we do who are yet surrounded by peace and plenty and ease? I will say it—let us bury all party, all prejudice creeds and differences, and stand, as the struggle may grow fiercer and darker, more closely together, and when our time comes, as soon it may, let us go forth manfully to fill the thinned ranks, and while we remain here let us not be idle. Let us show our brave countrymen that we sympathize with them—that we appreciate their services. Yes, there is a great and good work for us to do—what is it? Find your answer in the organization of the Sanitary and Christian Commission and Soldiers' Aid Societies, all intended for the benefit of the men in the field. And now here to-day the opportunity is offered to give your aid, and let no man, or woman, or child, be found wanting. You know the righteousness of the cause in which they are suffering and dying—it is our country's, humanity's, my cause, your cause, the cause of posterity. Let us open our hands wide, and as every man has received from God, so in the name of God let him bestow. If your gift is small, so be it. It may be enough to send an agent of the Commission with a cup of cold water, a bandage, a little cordial, for the wounded and dying soldier.

Fathers and Mothers! You have long enjoyed the blessings of our good government. Your son may be battling bravely to sustain it. Give of your abundance. It may moisten his parched lips, ease his broken body or stop the flow of his life blood.

Young Men and Brothers! It is especially for us to sustain our brothers in the field, and the cause of our country. Give in your health and strength and your hopes of a manly life.

Wives and Sisters! You who are ever ready in every good work. Remember your husbands and brothers in the ranks of war. Prove again to-day that you are worthy descendants of the Mothers of the Revolution.

Little Children! Remember your fathers far away, battling for your future welfare, and while your mothers teach you the first duties of patriotism, bring your little gifts.

Let us all do our duty this day. The soldier will bless us, humanity will bless us, posterity and God will bless us.

After the address and some patriotic music, a splendid dinner was served free to all, but for which many paid liberally. A subscription was passed around, and everybody gave largely beyond ex-

pectation. Several town lots and many other things were put up for sale and sold and re-sold at high figures, the proceeds going into the soldier's fund. From these and other sources the grand sum contributed was \$452.38, which with twenty dollars contributed a day or so later made the sum of \$472.38, making in all the splendid aggregate of \$924.85 for Faribault county and which, considering the population and means of the people, made this *the Banner County of the State*. The funds were sent to the Christian Commission. Everybody was proud of this patriotic affair at the time, and those who took an active part in it like to talk about it and are proud of it to this day.

#### A TOPIC OF THE TIMES.

During the spring and summer there was again considerable talk in certain localities of another attempt to remove the county seat from Blue Earth City, but it failed to "crystalize" into action.

#### THE NATIONS' BIRTHDAY.

The Fourth of July was not generally celebrated in this county, in this year, but a pic-nic was held in the town of Verona on that day, which was largely attended, and proved a very pleasant affair, and, in fact, is still remembered by many.

On the 18th of this month the President called for five hundred thousand more troops. The war was being prosecuted with terrible energy, as will be seen by reference to the summary of battles, etc. at the end of this chapter. Men were falling daily at the front, by the thousands, but the glorious shouts of victory over treason were resounding throughout the land.

#### THE HUSBANDMAN'S REWARD.

The harvest commenced this year as early as the middle of July. The weather was fine, and the crops were never better in this county than this year. Every kind of grain was good and abundant, and was safely harvested and secured. Wheat in Winona, in this State, in the early part of July, sold at \$2.05, the price, however, was much less than that here. But there are some people who are never satisfied. Uncle Josh—an old settler—has always been a grumbler. If it rains he grumbles; if it is dry he has great forebodings. "Well, Uncle Josh, you have very fine crops this year," said a neighbor to him one day, to see what he would say. "Yes," said Uncle Josh, "that are so, very fine craps, but these heavy craps is mighty hard on the land, I tell yer."

## THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

A special session of the commissioners was held August 13th, when the following resolution was adopted:

'Resolved, that the sum of one hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, as a bounty to each person who has enlisted, or may enlist in the military or naval service of the United States, and be credited to any township in Faribault county, under the present call of the president for 500,000 men, to be paid upon satisfactory evidence of such enlistment and credit.'

At this same time the several town districts in the county were giving very liberal bounties, as will be seen by reference to the historical sketches of the several towns. The commissioners met again September 6th, and on the thirteenth day of October, but we find nothing in their action to be noted here.

## INDIANS AGAIN.

All along during the spring and early part of the summer, rumors of renewed Indian troubles in the west and southwest, were current, and a general Indian war, all along the border seemed imminent. The fears entertained were not without foundation, as the Indians did commence hostilities on the plains, in Nebraska, and at various points on the extreme western frontiers. Many whites were killed, and emigrant trains, on the plains, were attacked and destroyed, and in Minnesota a number of small hostile predatory bands of Indians were skulking and marauding on the frontier. About the 11th of August two murders were perpetrated by Indians near Vernon, in Blue Earth county, Mr. Root and Mr. Mack were killed, and a number of horses stolen.

The government sent out strong forces in every direction against the red skins. Gen. Sully again advanced with a strong force up the Missouri river. With this expedition was Brackett's battalion in one company of which—Capt. J. A. Read's—were some twenty Faribault county men. An expedition under command of Col. Thomas, in which was Capt. Davy's company, composed largely of Fairbault county men, left Minnesota in May, and crossing the western part of the State and Dakota in a westerly direction joined the Sully expedition in July, on the Upper Missouri.

The result of these rumors and murders here was another great excitement and much uneasiness. But the people did not leave their homes. No actual outbreak occurred in the State, but to quell the excitement and protect the country, Col. B. F. Smith, of Mankato, was directed by the Governor of the State, to organize companies of "Mounted Minute Men," along the Blue Earth river. On the 25th of August a company of forty-two men, was organized and armed under command of Dr. R. R. Foster, lieutenant at Blue Earth City.

Here is the company roll:

R. W. Foster.	B. D. Gillett.	G. B. Kingsley.
C. Getchell.	F. A. Squires.	M. E. Gano.
G. Bartholomew.	A. Gray.	P. C. Seely.
J. B. Landis.	J. B. Gillett.	S. Mead.
J. A. Rose.	J. Marble.	G. D. Nash.
F. Mead,	W. Silliman,	I. S. Mead.
J. Blocher.	C. Butler.	C. W. Gillett.
M. McCrery.	C. Huntington.	F. Morehouse.
J. Dayton.	Henry Kamrar.	W. Sharp.
Levi Chute.	A. Bonwell.	Frank Read.
J. Behse.	Z. Carbell.	Wm. Coon.
A. E. Champney.	E. J. Earl.	E. Ellis.
G. T. Foster.	G. Franklin.	Edward Wakefield.

At Winnebago City a similar company of thirty men was enlisted under command of James Crays, lieutenant. We have not succeeded in getting the names of the members of this company for incorporation in this history as we should have liked. The minute men received \$2.50 per day, paid by the State.

A line of strong military posts having been established through the counties west and north of this, between which constant communication was kept up by scouts, the companies of minute men were, about October 2d, disbanded. Many of these frontier posts were maintained through the next year, and until the spring of 1866, and were very necessary as we shall see hereafter, to the protection of the borders.

#### SAVING THE COUNTRY.

The presidential election came on this year. Vast interests were involved, and at stake, but not so much in local as in national politics. Very early, statesmen, politicians and the rank and file of the two great parties were at work.

Abraham Lincoln had been nominated by the republicans for re-election to the presidency. Gen. Geo. B. McLellan was the candidate of the democracy.

Wm. Windom was the republican and H. W. Lamberton the democratic candidate for Congress in this district.

Horace Austin, of St. Peter, republican, and Daniel Buck, of Mankato, democrat, were the candidates for judge of the Sixth Judicial District, of which this county was a part.

The Republican Union County Convention met at Blue Earth City on the 24th day of August. It was largely attended, and har-

monious in its action. The proceedings resulted in the following nominations:

A. Bonwell, for Register of Deeds.

F. W. Cady, for County Auditor.

Jno. K. Pratt, for Clerk of Court.

Geo. Hart, for Judge of Probate and Court Commissioner.

Thos. Blair, for County Commissioner 3rd District.

The democracy met in mass convention at Blue Earth City, August 30th, and made the following nominations:

For Senator, 20th district, George B. Kingsley.

For Representative, R. B. Simmons.

For Register of Deeds, James H. Huntington.

For County Auditor, Thomas S. Fellows.

For Clerk of Court, Chester M. Sly.

For Judge of Probate and Court Commissioner, Jo. L. Wier.

The republican union district convention met at New Ulm, in Brown county, on the 3d day of September, and unanimously nominated D. G. Shillock, of Brown county, for senator, and J. A. Kies-ter, of this county, for representative.

James L. Huntington was an independent candidate for Register of Deeds.

The general election was held on the 8th day of November. A large vote was polled. The following table gives the result of the official canvass of the votes.

Names of Townships.	Whole Number Ballots Cast.		Presid'tl Electors		Dis. Judge 6th Dist.		State Senator		State Rep.		Register of Deeds		County Auditor		Clerk Dis. Court		Probate Judge		Court Com.		Co. Com'r 3d Dist.	
	Republican.	Democratic.	Horace Austin.	Daniel Buck.	D. J. Shillock.	George B. Kingsley.	J. A. Klester.	R. B. Simmons.	A. Bonwell.	J. H. Huntington.	J. L. Huntington.	F. W. Gady.	T. S. Fellows.	J. K. Pratt.	C. M. Sly.	G. Hart.	J. T. Weir.	Scattering.	G. Hart.	J. L. Weir.	Scattering.	Thomas Blair.
Blue Earth City.....	134	21	107	44	130	22	132	19	129	10	10	132	20	121	28	128	21	1	129	21	41	1
Brush Creek.....	20	17	17	2	17	1	17	1	17	1	00	17	1	17	1	17	1	1	17	1	1	1
Barber.....	32	15	17	13	15	17	28	4	28	2	2	16	17	15	17	15	17	15	15	17	6	1
Elmore.....	47	41	37	10	41	6	41	6	41	6	00	41	6	20	14	41	6	3	19	3	19	3
Foster.....	25	21	4	19	5	20	3	20	3	3	00	20	3	19	3	19	3	3	19	3	19	3
Guthrie.....	76	54	40	33	52	22	52	22	33	21	18	51	22	49	22	34	28	3	32	28	41	3
Jo Daviess.....	43	27	16	23	19	24	19	16	32	9	2	28	15	16	22	27	16	3	27	16	35	3
Lura.....	49	42	6	37	12	42	7	42	7	10	00	42	7	42	7	37	12	2	37	12	35	2
Marples.....	49	33	31	14	31	14	31	14	32	14	00	32	14	32	14	32	14	2	32	14	30	1
Prescott.....	65	57	8	53	11	56	8	56	8	5	5	55	8	52	9	37	12	2	37	12	30	1
Pilot Grove.....	19	14	14	5	14	5	14	5	13	2	4	16	3	12	7	17	2	16	3	12	30	1
Seely.....	15	15	14	1	15	00	15	00	15	00	00	15	00	15	00	15	00	2	15	00	30	1
Verona.....	67	55	47	18	52	14	54	11	39	4	21	55	8	47	16	47	15	1	48	14	69	4
Winnepago City.....	111	96	73	36	92	19	91	17	30	15	65	93	15	86	20	79	24	1	70	20	69	4
Walnut Lake.....	33	21	21	12	21	12	21	12	17	10	3	21	10	21	10	21	10	2	21	10	69	4
Totals.....	809	642	546	241	622	169	641	146	533	115	130	633	149	564	190	566	181	9	556	177	175	5

As the county returns show the results of election only as to county officers, it may be stated that Abraham Lincoln was re-elected president, Wm. Windom was re-elected member of congress, Mr. Austin was elected judge of this district and D. G. Shillock was elected senator and J. A. Kiester, representative.

#### GOLD AND SILVER.

Soon after the war commenced, gold and silver money began to grow scarcer and scarcer until they entirely disappeared from circulation. They fluctuated very greatly in value. Gold soon began to bring a premium. A dollar in gold was valued at from one dollar to as high as two and eighty-two one hundredths dollars in "greenbacks," depending on the condition mainly of public affairs and the circumstances of the war. A rebel victory of importance sent gold up, a great union victory sent gold down. Speculation and some other causes also affected the value. Silver followed closely upon the heels of gold. During several of the last years of the war and for a number of years after, neither gold nor silver was seen. If some one happened to have a "quarter" or a "dime" and choose to exhibit it, a crowd would soon gather around to see the curious relic. During these times, the "circulating medium" was greenbacks, national bank notes of one dollar and upwards, fractional currency of five, ten, twenty-five, fifty and seventy-five cents called "scrip." That was the "soft money" epoch, the "greenback age." "Hard money" began again to appear near the close of the seventies. First came nickel five-cent pieces, then ten cent pieces, afterwards larger silver pieces (three of which made a dollar) and then silver dollars, and about 1880 and 1881 both gold and silver money, the latter depreciated, became quite common, but greenbacks and national bank notes still formed a large part of the currency.

#### VARIOUS INCIDENTS.

The sixth annual fair was held at Winnebago City on the 23d and 24th days of September. It was a decided success. The weather was fair, the attendance large, and the show of stock, grain, vegetables, fruits and articles of domestic manufacture excellent.

On the 31st day of October the first sale of school lands was had in this county. The commissioner of the State land office, Hon. Chas. McIlrath, attended in person. The sale took place at Blue Earth City. Much interest was manifested in the sale, and people were in attendance from all parts of the county. There were 924 acres of land sold for the aggregate sum of \$17,621.60, of which sum \$14,904.91 were paid in hand, and on the balance remaining unpaid, the interest was paid for one year in advance, according to the terms of sale, amounting to \$109.45, thus adding in money to the school fund of the

State the sum of \$15,014.36. And this was the time when many of our citizens purchased their "wood lots" from which has come the fuel which has kept them warm and made the "pot boil" for many years since.

#### THE WAR.

On the 19th of December the president issued a call for 300,000 more volunteers to finish the war. This was the fourth call during the year and the aggregate number called for during the year was 1,500,000.

The government and the loyal people of the North had become in terrible earnest. Military operations, and matters incident thereto, absorbed every other consideration in all sections of the country. The rebels were putting forth almost superhuman and inhuman efforts, while in the North the cry went forth from the mountain and plain, from the city and the farm house, "no compromise," "down with treason," "crush the rebellion, cost what it may, in men or money!"

In military operations this year was particularly remarkable for the vast destruction of property in the South by the Union armies. This had become a necessity. Of the almost innumerable battles and important events of the year, but a few can be noted here. March 12th, Gen. U. S. Grant made commander of the U. S. armies; March 28th, battle of Cane River, La.; May 5th, the great battle or series of battles of the Wilderness began—one of the greatest exhibitions of military prowess known to history; May 8-10, battle of Spottsylvania; May 15th, battle of Raseca; June 1st, battle of Cold Harbor; June 19th, the rebel pirate Alabama was sunk by the Kearsage; July 1st, public debt, \$1,740,000,000; July 20-22d, great battles near Atlanta, Ga.; July 30th, Chambersburg, Pa., burnt by rebels—loss \$1,000,000; Aug. 5th, Admiral Farrigut takes Mobile, Ala.; Aug. 9th, Atlanta, Ga., bombarded by Gen. Sherman and fell Sept. 2d, and was burned; Sept. 19th, about this time there was great fighting in the Shanandoah Valley, Va.; October 19th, battle of Cedar Creek, Va.—this was a terrific fight; Nov. 14, Gen. Sherman left Atlanta on "the march to the sea"; Nov. 25th, an attempt was made to burn New York City by southern desperados, who set fire in their rooms in fifteen different hotels and other places, but the plot failed. At this time Gen. Grant, with the army of the Potomac, was operating about Richmond, Va., the rebel capital; Dec. 15-16th, great battle of Nashville, Tenn.; Dec. 21st, Gen. Sherman captured Savannah, Ga. Although when the year closed the rebellion was still raging, yet the back-bone of the Confederate power was broken. Any other power on earth, after the terrible defeats suffered by the rebels in 1863 and 1864, would have given up in despair, but the Con-



federates were Americans. And now, as the year closed, hopes of final triumph over treason, and of peace soon to come, were cheering the loyal millions. The year was indeed a mighty one in the history of the nation. Glorious in its victories in the field and forum, and at the ballot box for the Union cause, and correspondingly terrible to the rebels and traitors of the South, and their sympathizers and allies everywhere.

## CHAPTER XI.

A. D. 1865.

“Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths;  
 Our bruised arms hung up for monuments;  
 Our stern alarms changed to merry meetings;  
 Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.”

We now enter upon the record of another year of general reckoning in this history. We have reached, so to speak, another milestone in the journey, the eleventh year of the county. By comparing the very full statistics of this year, with those of former years, we shall see that the county has made great progress in the past, and bids very fair for the future.

## LEGISLATION.

The seventh State Legislature assembled January 3d, and adjourned March 3d.

The members of the legislature for this district, were D. G. Shillock, of Brown county, senator; and J. A. Kiester, of this county, representative.

The only legislation of this year, of special interest to the people of this county, was an act fixing the time of holding the annual term of the District Court, for the first Tuesday of June, in each year, and a Memorial to Congress introduced by Mr. Kiester praying the establishment of a mail route from Blue Earth City, in this county, *via*. Fairmont and Jackson, to Yankton, the capital of Dakota Territory, and an act granting swamp lands to aid the Minneapolis and St. Cloud Railroad Company in the construction of their road. This company was authorized to build a branch road, (Act of 1856), southward from Minneapolis to the Iowa state line, which would pass through either Martin or Faribault counties. This bill was favored by both of our members, as it afforded some prospect of a railroad in one or the other of said counties. At this session Daniel S. Norton was elected United States senator, to succeed Mr. Wilkinson. Andrew C. Dunn, of this county was again chief clerk of the House of Representatives.

Considering the action of this and some other sessions of the legislature, the following statement is not much out of the way.

“A young politician” writes: “Why does a State have a legislature?” My dear boy, it doesn’t. The legislature has the State, every time. Has it by the throat by a large majority. Has it by the pocketbook. Has it on its back. You bet your slippers young man, the State never has the legislature.—*Burdette.*”

## THE COMMISSIONERS.

The honorable board of commissioners met January third. Allen Shultis, of Elmore, was chosen chairman for the year. Other meetings of the board were held March 28th, April 18th, May 26th, and June 27th. No business of historical interest was transacted at any of these meetings. So much for the commissioners during the first half of the year. It may be observed that the County Record about this time exhibits a number of long lists of bounty orders of fifty dollars and one hundred dollars issued to soldiers.

## CONSCRIPTION AND EXEMPTION.

A call for 300,000 additional troops having been made in December, 1864, as we have seen, and a draft having been ordered to take place on the 8th day of March of this year, to fill up the ranks of the army, considerable excitement and activity in military affairs existed throughout the county, during January and February. The quota of each town had been assigned, and to prevent drafting, large town and county bounties were offered, and recruiting agents were abroad everywhere, and men were being enlisted in large numbers. It has often been said during the war, "well, the county cannot furnish another soldier," yet at every call, numbers were still found ready to enlist and march to the front and fill up the ranks of the country's defenders thinned by disease and rebel bullets. In order to reduce the quotas of the several towns to a just basis, by discharging such as were not, because of ill health, or other physical infirmities, qualified for military service, many of our citizens, in February, went before the enrolling board at Mankato, to be examined and exempted, if so entitled. The expenses of those who were exempted, of going before this board, were paid by the several towns. And this proceeding was an entirely proper, in fact a necessary one, to determine the just quota from each town, by striking out of the estimate of the population, or basis of determining the number due from the several towns, those who were really not liable to draft.

Owing to alleged corruption and other causes, all the exemption certificates granted at this time, were subsequently cancelled, and so the whole proceeding went for naught.

## SPRING.

Spring dawned upon the land about the middle of March, and farmers prepared for seeding, but the weather was quite unsettled. Some seeding was done the last week in March, but the greater part along the middle of April, and there was some very cold weather late in this month. In fact this spring, like many others, was one of frequent changes of cloud and sunshine, of alternating smiles and tears.

## FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

On Sunday, March 26th, at about eleven o'clock, a. m., the building used for county offices at Blue Earth City, was discovered to be on fire. The register of deeds, Mr. Bonwell, to whom the building belonged, had left the house but a few minutes before, having first carefully closed up the stove in which was but little fire, and locked the outside door of the office. The stove pipe passed through the chamber floor and out through the roof, there being no chimney. The stove pipe was somewhat old and much rusted, and it is quite probable that the soot in the pipe took fire, making the pipe very hot, thus setting fire to the adjoining wood work, or perhaps holes had been eaten through the pipe by rust, through which fire may have escaped. In the experience of insurance companies, such pipe arrangements have been found so dangerous, that companies have long refused to insure buildings where the pipes pass through the roof.

Albert Sortor first discovered the fire and gave the alarm. He ran to the building and bursting open the door, commenced carrying out the books. C. Huntington, John Blocher and several others, were soon on the ground, and by their joint exertions, all the books and most of the valuable papers were saved, though some of the books were somewhat damaged.

Quite a number of papers, however, on file in the auditor's cases, and a large package of deeds and other instruments in the register's department, which had, fortunately all been recorded, but had been left in the office, were burned. It was a most fortunate escape from destruction, as nothing of great value, in either the auditor's or register's office was lost. But Mr. Bonwell, besides the loss of the building, lost also considerable personal property in the building at the time, and consumed with it.

## VICTORY, VICTORY, PEACE!

About the third of April the whole country was electrified by the announcement of the glorious news that the Union arms had triumphed over the last strong-hold of the rebellion, and peace was at hand. After four years of bloody conflict, in comparison with which, most of the wars of the earth sink into insignificance, the national flag at last waved over the rebel Capital—the head and heart of the monster rebellion. On the 9th day of April, Lee surrendered to Grant, at Appomattox. The full import and significance of these great events cannot be described here. No pen can do justice to the occasion, and no words could give utterance to the emotions of joy and hope and thankfulness which swelled the hearts of the loyal millions of the land, but those of the old hymns—

the grandest of the ages, the Gloria in Excelsis and the Te Deum Laudamus.

“Glory be to God on high and on earth;  
 Peace, good will toward men.”  
 “We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge  
 Thee to be the Lord.  
 All the earth doth worship Thee, the  
 Father everlasting.”

ASSASSINATION, DEATH.

And now following fast upon the joyful news of final victory and peace, and while the people were giving hearty expression to their feelings, there came the appalling tidings of the assassination of President Lincoln, on the 14th day of April, by J. Wilkes Booth. The world was shocked, stood aghast, confounded at the atrocity of the deed.

In the very hour of the final triumph of that cause—the preservation of the Union and the life and liberties of the nation, he, the chiefest actor, the most revered and beloved, the purest, the wisest and most merciful, had fallen by the hand of the dastardly assassin.

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, the friend of man, name blessed evermore with Washington, in the records of our race, was martyred, murdered.

“Divinely gifted man,  
 \* \* \*  
 The pillar of a peoples’ hope  
 The centre of a world’s desire.”

Oh, perfidy! Oh, crime! when didst thou such an other deed as this?

“This is the bloodiest shame,  
 The wildest savag’ry, the vilest stroke  
 That ever wall-eyed wrath, or staring rage.”

conceived, or Hell’s agents executed.

The sacrifice of Lincoln was the crowning sacrifice of the war, the outgrowth, the final culmination of that demoniac spirit of treason, which, in the graphic words of another made “the parricidal effort to destroy the nation’s life by murder; murder on the lakes, murder and piracy on the high seas; murder and arson in cities; murder by the introduction and spreading of loathsome and contagious diseases; murder and highway robbery by guerrillas; murder and starvation of over thirty thousand defenseless prisoners.” It was indeed such a spirit and only this, that could breed such a moral monster as him who did this deed.

And that far-seeing and wise statesman, that kindly man, that incorruptable and faithful executive bore.

“—His faculties so meek hath been  
 So clear in his great office, that his virtues  
 Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against  
 The deep damnation of his taking off—.”

Probably no events in the world's history ever carried a great people to such heights of rejoicing and such depths of grief, almost simultaneously as those we have just related. The citizens of this county always earnest and patriotic, keenly appreciated the significance of these mighty events, and gave utterance to their thoughts and emotions in words and earnestness of manner unmistakable.

#### INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS.

About the first of May the country was again thrown into a great state of excitement by the reports current, that the frontier settlers were in danger from prowling bands of Indians. War with the Indians was still in progress on the plains and on the extreme western frontiers, which lasted until late in August of this year. But the principal local cause of the excitement and apprehensions, was the murder by the Indians of the Jewett family, near Garden City, in Blue Earth county, on the second day of May. The family consisted of six persons, five of whom they murder in cold blood and severely wounded one, a child. Horses were stolen at various points, and other depredations committed by these marauding red skins, but as these events did not occur in this county, we shall not enter into details; suffice it to say, that some of the murderers of the Jewett family were killed by scouts from Fort Wadsworth, and one of them, Campbell, a half-breed, a diabolical wretch, and the leader of the Jewett murderers, was taken, and was hung by order of Judge Lynch at Mankato. As a result of the excitement, the "mounted minute men" of the previous year, were again, by order of the State authorities, called out. The company at Blue Earth City was reorganized under Lieut. Foster, and the one at Winnebago City and others along the Blue Earth river and at other points on the frontier reorganized, but did not long remain in service, for very soon a line of military posts was established and kept up, from Alexander on the Red river of the North, to Spirit Lake on the Iowa boundary.

About the time of these depredations, a novel idea was conceived by certain persons on the frontier for the protection of the border, and the hunting down of these skulking Indian marauders. The expedient adopted in many of the slave states for the recovery of runaway slaves by putting bloodhounds upon their track to hunt them down in the cane breaks, swamps and jungles of the south, recommended itself as a feasible method of pursuing these Indians in their devious ways. Several persons were sent to the southern states for the purpose of procuring hounds, and they returned with quite a number, which were parcelled out to several frontier counties, and were paid for by those counties. The hounds were to be kept at certain points, and be used when occasion required. This county did not enter into the "bloodhound scheme"

as it did not appear to be of any practical utility. The whole project finally proved useless. And now the writer is happy to say that the above is the last notice of the Indians it will be necessary to take in the course of this history, for the above incident was the last one in the history of our relations to the red men, our predecessors on this soil. The Indian Reservations in Blue Earth county and on the Upper Minnesota, had now been broken up for several years and ere this year closed, the Indians were driven far from this immediate country, to return as hostiles, no more forever, and

"Of their mortal weal or woe,  
No trace is left to-day,  
For like the foam upon the wave  
They all have passed away."

#### A GRAND REVIEW.

On the 23d and 24th days of May of this year, there occurred the grandest military review the world ever saw. On those days—the victory won, the war ended—the victorious eastern and western armies of the republic made their triumphal entry into Washington, the capital of the nation. On those great days these battle-scarred legions of the Union, the heroes of many bloody conflicts with treason, travel worn, covered with sweat and dust, but proud and victorious, marched in review for the last time, and through the broad streets of the capital city of that nation which had been redeemed, protected and made one forever. No such pageant as this was ever seen before. History tells, indeed, of the grand triumphal displays accorded to Roman conquerors in the days of old, but they bear no comparison with this, they were but the rewards of conquests and robbery and the soldiery were in the main.

"——— But ambition's tools, to cut a way,  
To her unlawful ends."

But here, on those days, marched in the serried ranks, thousands and tens of thousands of the intelligent volunteer soldiers of the republic, not with the spoils of conquest and arms befouled with rapine and plunder, but bearing the honors of freemen—of citizen heroes, who fought for constitutional liberty, for the maintenance of the Union, the supremacy of law, that the grandest, freest nation of all time—the last hope of the world might continue to live. And in those gallant companies and regiments and battalions there marched many of our own citizens, men of Faribault county, proud as the proudest, brave as the bravest, following their tattered battle flags, the relics of many a bloody day.

And borrowing the imagery, though not the language of the poet, we may well express the thought that with the mighty hosts

that marched along those broad avenues on those proud days, there was another and a mightier host which kept step with the triumphal music, invisible indeed to mortal eyes, but indeed there, great hosts, proud and victorious too, led by the immortal Washington and the other heroes of the Revolution, and the martyre Lincoln, and numbering in the vast throng the patriot dead of all the battlefields of the Republic and the heroes of every age and land who have suffered and died for human freedom, for civil and religious liberty.

No, reader, no such another pageant has the world ever seen, or may ever see again.

#### THEY COME.

Immigration began to pour into the county the last of May, and continued throughout the season, much of it, however, going through this county to the counties of Martin and Jackson, immediately west of this. The settlement of the near counties on the west was deemed by many, at that time, to be of almost as much importance to this county (at least the next best thing) as the settlement of the county itself, for the people must, in those counties, be for a time, and in many respects, tributary for supplies to this county.

#### HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

The first day of June was appointed by the national executive, as a day of prayer and humiliation, on account of the death of President Lincoln. It was observed in this county by appropriate services in the churches and other places of religious gatherings. "Remember not, Lord, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither take Thou vengeance of our sins; spare us good Lord, spare Thy people. From lightning and tempest, from plague, pestilence and famine; from battle and murder and from sudden death; from all sedition, privy conspiracy and rebellion. Good Lord, deliver us."

#### HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

The District Court held a session of one day on the first Tuesday, the 6th day of June. Hon. Horace Austin presided, and this was his first term in this county.

#### POSTING UP THE BOOKS.

A State census was taken in June, of this year, the work being done in each county by the assessors. Our statistics for the year are made up partly from the census tables, and partly from other official reports subsequently made.



NO. 1—POPULATION.

	tal	Males	Females	Families
Barber.....	244	144	100	58
Blue Earth City.....	807	425	382	150
Brush Creek.....	233	115	118	39
Elmore.....	295	162	133	66
Foster.....	166	88	78	30
Guthrie.....	367	200	167	75
Jo Daviess.....	241	124	117	49
Lura.....	362	199	163	64
Marples.....	290	158	132	56
Pilot Grove.....	175	90	85	30
Prescott.....	384	207	177	82
Seely.....	88	43	45	24
Verona.....	337	178	159	67
Walnut Lake.....	283	152	131	58
Winnebago City.....	463	232	231	78
Totals.....	4,735	2,517	2,218	926

NO. 2—STOCK, ETC.

The returns show 1,257 horses; cattle, 5,587; sheep, 6,004; hogs, 991; 760 wagons of all kinds, and 81 watches.

NO. 3—VALUATIONS.

The total value of all taxable personal property was set down at \$172,647.00; value of real estate, \$650,094.00; total, \$822,741.00.

NO. 4—CROPS, ETC.

The number of acres under cultivation was 10,887 and the farm products of the year were wheat 109,672 bushels, oats 115,872 bushels, corn 92,110 bushels, barley 7,331 bushels, potatoes 51,537 bushels, beans 729 bushels, buckwheat 200 bushels, sorghum syrup 12,387 gallons.

NO. 5—SCHOOL MATTERS.

The number of persons between five and twenty-one years of age, was 1,854, number of school districts 62, number of teachers 50, number of school-houses 22, which were valued at \$4,925.00 in the aggregate.

NO. 6—PRICES.

The prices of grain, in the fall, average as follows per bushel: wheat 50 to 55 cents, oats 20 to 25 cents, corn 25 to 30 cents. All kinds of "store goods" still continued at high figures, but "with a downward tendency." As a matter of curiosity it may be stated that a record kept in Raleigh, N. C., in the closing Confederate days of February, 1865, shows that apples were \$8 per dozen, bacon \$8 per pound, beef \$3 per pound, butter \$10 per pound, corn \$30

per bushel, coffee \$40 per pound, eggs \$4 per dozen, flour \$500 per barrel, sugar \$18 per pound, syrup \$25 per gallon, sheeting \$6 per yard, salt \$90 per bushel, calico \$15 per yard, wood \$95 per cord.

About the 1st of April of this year, the *Richmond Whig* published at Richmond, Va., quoted flour in that city at \$900 to \$1,000 per barrel, corn \$100 per bushel, and butter \$20 per pound, in Confederate money, however.

The statistics presented here from time to time are made up from official reports, but it is time now to remind the reader, that our ordinary state statistics are not very reliable, or accurate. The assessed valuation of property, at least until very late years seldom exhibits the true value. Perhaps fifty per cent. could be added to the official estimates, and not exceed the real value.

The reports of the amount of the different kinds of grain, etc., raised, and the numbers of the various kinds of stock, are almost, if not quite, equally faulty. All these statistics are imperfect, and are only valuable in a general way, but they are the best we have and we give them as we find them, for whatever they are worth. The statistics collected when the national census is taken, are usually more reliable than our ordinary state statistics, and help to "correct up" and show quite nearly the actual facts and conditions, from time to time. The collection, collation, classification, adjustment and verification of statistics constitute a science of much importance, and is one understood by but few. Our state commissioners of statistics doubtless do the best they can, with the means and methods they have at hand, but the primary collection of all the necessary data is in hands that but little comprehend the importance of the work, and have little incentive to do it well.

#### THE PATRIOT'S DAY.

On the Fourth of July a great celebration of the day was had at Blue Earth City. Very extensive preparations had been made and a large number of people attended and took part in the festivities. The good old Declaration of Independence was read by Capt. P. B. Davy, and James B. Wakefield delivered the oration, and what with the address, the music, an abundant dinner, the great attendance, the fine day and the spirit of rejoicing over the close of the war, the celebration was a grand success.

The day was also celebrated at Minnesota Lake. The largest concourse of people ever assembled in that portion of the county gathered there on this occasion. The Rev. A. W. Childs read the Declaration and J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, delivered the address. Here also patriotic music and a bounteous dinner were a part of the programme. These were the only celebrations of the day in

the county, the people having generally concluded to attend at one or the other of these places.

It may be mentioned as an incident of the time and the patriotic spirit of our local press, that the *Blue Earth City Advocate* came out in colors, the outside being printed in red, the inside blue, the paper white in honor of the brave old flag, "red, white and blue," which now waves victorious over the whole land.

And never to this time, at least, was there such a general and enthusiastic celebration on the Fourth of July, such a great outpouring and rejoicing of the people as occurred this year throughout the whole country. And it was very right and proper that it should be so, for at no time in the history of the country, since the achievement of independence had there been so much to render the day illustrious and worthy of commemoration and rejoicings. The final triumph of the nation over treason and rebellion, the Union restored, the great war just ended, peace, white-winged and all glorious, once more hovering over the whole land, the great body of the citizen soldiers—the heroes of the war—returned again to their homes, all now added much to the previous significance of the day and its grand memories and associations.

#### A SUMMARY.

The great civil war having now closed, we give a brief summary of the closing events which occurred during the year to this time, and also certain other facts and figures relating to the war of interest and value.

January 15th, Fort Fisher was taken by the Union army. This was the last port of the rebels. February 18th, the Union troops enter Charleston, S. C. March 4th, President Lincoln inaugurated. March 16th, battle of Averysborough. March 19th, battle of Bentonville, N. C. April 2d, Gen. Lee evacuated Richmond and Petersburg, Va., and retreated westward. Same day the battle of Selma, Ala. was fought—a Union victory. April 3d, Union troops took possession of Richmond, Va. April 9th, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. April 10th, Mobile, Ala., evacuated by the rebels. April 12th Union troops captured Salisbury, N. C. April 14th, President Lincoln assassinated. April 25th, Booth, the assassin, shot. April 26th, Gen. Johnson surrendered to Gen. Sherman. May 4th, Gen. Taylor surrendered to Gen. Canby. July 7th, four of the villains engaged in the assassination plot were hung. No great battles were fought after the middle of April. The armies were disbanded, and a great majority of the troops returned to their homes during the next six months.

In the Adjutant General's report for the year, we find the following statement of quotas and credits of men for this county, under all calls during the war.

	Quota.	Credits
Blue Earth City.....	88	97
Brush Creek } .....	25	21
Foster..... }		
Elmore .....	27	28
Guthrie.....	27	35
Marples.....	46	18
Pilot Grove.....	35	25
Prescott .....	18	31
Seely .....	5	4
Verona .....	46	48
Walnut Lake.....	31	19
Winnebago City.....	48	74
	396	400

There were eight others furnished by the county, not included in the above table, making our total credits 408.

While a few of the town districts in the county were in arrears, yet the county as a whole, furnished twelve more men than was required, and the number of soldiers furnished by this county, in proportion to population, was greater than that of any county in the State except perhaps two.

It was reported about this time that there was one county in the State, which in this respect surpassed all others—the whole population, without exception, having enlisted—it appeared however, that there was but one resident in that county.

The aggregate amount of bounties paid by this county and the several towns, and otherwise contributed to encourage enlistments, was the very large sum of seventy-five thousand dollars.

The entire enlistments in the Union armies, during the war, were 2,688,523, but many of these were re-enlistments, and it is estimated that the entire number of individuals, forming the armies, was really but 1,500,000.

Of these 56,000 were killed in battle, 35,000 died in hospitals of injuries received in battle and 184,000 died in hospitals of disease. Many died afterwards in other places, of disease, and thousands were ruined in health for life. The national government also employed over 7,000 vessels on the waters, in the great contest. Of the Confederate forces, there was, during the war, an aggregate of 600,000 men, but this is deemed a low estimate. The Confederate killed and wounded and sick, who died in hospitals, was about 300,000. In a late work we read that "The entire amount expended by the national government, by states, counties and towns, and contributed in other ways, to the comfort or sustenance of the army, is computed at \$4,000,000,000. The support of the southern army

cannot be ascertained, but it is thought that those expenses and destruction of property, inflicted about an equal loss on them. These losses in life and property are fearful, but they are the price of freedom and nationality." And now, so far as this history is concerned, we are done with the great civil war, and we have only to add that it should be the earnest hope, the constant prayer of every heart, both north and south, that never again, in all our history as a nation, may another so great a calamity be inflicted upon us, and to this end let us forget the past, cease recriminations, drop the hard names of rebel, traitor, copperhead and all other epithets, and all unite as brethren in strengthening the foundations, rearing the structures, promoting the interests and enjoying the blessings of the strongest, the most enlightened, most progressive and best government ever known among men.

#### BUSINESS.

With the close of the war came a new era in many respects. Money became plenty, real estate took an upward tendency, outside capital came into the State and county for investment. All branches of trade and business greatly revived and there was employment for all at fair wages, and the attention which the war and its affairs had absorbed was now turned to local interests and enterprises.

#### THE INGATHERING.

On the first of August the song of the reaper began to be heard in the land. The harvest was quite favorable. The wheat and oat crops were very heavy, but other crops quite light. The price of wheat in August was seventy cents.

#### CALAMITIES.

The potato-bug, a very destructive insect, made its appearance in this region near the middle of June, and did some damage, and in July several immense swarms of grasshoppers visited the upper Minnesota river and came as near to us as Garden City, some twelve miles north of this county, where they did much injury to crops. But little notice was taken of these incidents at the time and they were soon forgotten, but we shall have much more to say hereafter about these pests. We are now done with the Indians and the war of the rebellion, what other calamities now await us? It is often true that

"Coming events  
Cast their shadows before."

#### THAT BOARD.

The commissioners met September 5th, and had a session of three days. It having appeared by the returns of the last preceding general election, that over eight hundred votes had been polled in

the county, the county now became entitled under the law, to five instead of three county commissioners and the board at this meeting proceeded to divide the county into five commissioner, districts, as follows: The First district was comprised of the towns of Campbell, Elmore, Pilot Grove and Jo Daviess. The Second district, of Blue Earth City, Emerald and Prescott townships. The Third district of Kiester, Seely, Foster, Brush Creek, Walnut Lake and Cobb townships. The Fourth district of the towns of Winnebago City, Verona and Guthrie. The Fifth district was composed of the towns of Barber, Lura, Marples and Dunbar. The board also appointed school examiners, in conformity to the new commissioner districts, as follows: No. 1, J. A. Dean; No. 2, J. A. Kiester; No. 3, S. L. Rugg; No. 4, J. H. Welch; No. 5, Joseph Claggett. This was the last meeting of the board for this year, and the last board of only three commissioners, it subsequently being composed of five members.

#### THE FAIR.

The officers of the Agricultural Society for this year were J. A. Latimer, president; C. M. Sly, secretary and D. Birdsall, treasurer.

The fair was held at Blue Earth City on the 21st and 22nd days of September.

The fair while passably good, was not considered much of a success. While the officers of the society and a very few others made considerable effort to keep up the society and make the fairs of interest and useful, it must be written that about this period in the history of the society, extending over several years, there was not that interest manifested in it and that unity of action on the part of the people, generally, which is so necessary to the support of such an institution.

#### THE FALL FIGHT.

The political campaign of this year covered a considerable period of time, and it was quite a lively and in some respects a peculiar contest. Among the other interesting features of the campaign, a governor of the State and several other State officers were to be elected.

The republican candidate for Governor was Wm. R. Marshall and Henry M. Rice was the democratic candidate.

On the 30th day of August, the Republican County Convention met at Blue Earth City and made the following nominations.

For Treasurer, Wm. Dustin.

For Sheriff, W. J. C. Robertson.

For County Attorney, J. B. Wakefield.

For Surveyor, D. Birdsall.

For Judge of Probate, A. Preston.

For Coroner, D. H. McDowell.

On the 16th day of September a mass convention was held at Blue Earth City, at the instance and in the interest of those who did not approve of all the nominations of the republican convention. This meeting nominated R. B. Johnson for treasurer and Hiram Raymond for sheriff. The other republican nominations were indorsed. This convention was rather slimly attended, there being persons present from only seven towns, and the prospects for the election of the new nominees were not at the time very flattering. But "great oaks from little acorns grow, etc."

And sometimes "great aches from little toe-corns grow."

But the situation was still not satisfactory to all, and so on the 23rd day of September a mass convention was held at Winnebago City, where certain republicans and the democrats formed a coalition. This convention made the following nominations:

- For Sheriff, Charles Chaple.
- For Treasurer, R. B. Johnson.
- For County Attorney, J. L. Weir.
- For Surveyor, A. H. Pelsey.
- For Judge of Probate, A. Preston.
- For Coroner, D. H. McDowell.

It will be observed that several of the regular republican nominees were re-nominated by this convention. The principal contest was for the offices of treasurer and sheriff.

The Republican Legislative Convention met at Winnebago City, October 2nd and nominated J. B. Wakefield for representative. For the same office the democracy again placed in the field R. B. Simmons, of Martin County.

The election was held on the seventh day of November, and the following table exhibits the result as officially declared :

	Repr.		Judge	Sheriff			Treas.		Sur.	Atty.		Cor.
	Wakefield	Simmons	Preston	Raymond	Robertson	Chaple	Johnson	Dustin	Birdsall	Wakefield	Wier	McDowell
Brush Creek .....	14	....	14	3	7	4	9	4	14	14	....	14
Barber.....	11	20	32	....	....	32	32	....	16	11	21	32
Blue Earth City.....	104	16	140	31	54	53	60	80	119	117	19	140
Elmore.....	27	5	31	2	4	26	15	17	27	27	5	32
Foster.....	9	....	15	....	8	7	....	15	15	10	....	15
Guthrie.....	32	10	35	....	8	35	34	8	30	29	13	42
Jo Daviess.....	14	17	31	....	8	23	21	10	14	15	16	31
Lura.....	28	....	28	....	1	27	27	1	28	28	1	28
Marples.....	28	13	41	....	19	22	20	20	28	22	19	41
Prescott.....	53	3	56	1	17	42	46	13	36	56	4	35
Pilot Grove.....	20	4	24	1	19	5	6	19	21	22	3	24
Seely.....	12	....	12	....	12	....	....	12	12	12	....	12
Verona.....	34	4	44	1	1	42	42	2	38	37	6	44
Walnut Lake.....	22	2	31	3	14	15	14	19	26	3	5	31
Winnebago City.....	67	17	64	....	8	93	92	9	75	34	64	65
Total.....	475	111	598	42	180	426	418	229	499	437	176	586

For Governor, Wm. R. Marshall had a total vote in the county of 501; Henry M. Rice had 138.

The following-named persons were elected county commissioners without opposition:

- Allen Shultis, District No. One.
- Henry J. Neal, District No. Two.
- John R. Sisson, District No. Three.
- H. H. Gilman, District No. Four.
- J. Claggett, District No. Five.

Marshall was elected Governor of the State by a large majority, and Wakefield was elected representative of the district. The returns, as given above, indicate who were elected as county officers. The result of the election as to sheriff and treasurer, was surprising to most of the people, and quite as surprising to the candidates themselves. This was the first regularly organized "bolt," or formal opposition to the regular nominees backed by convention nominations, which had occurred in the republican party, or in fact in the politics of the county.

The two newspapers took a great interest, on opposite sides, to some extent, in the local campaign, besides some questions of difference had arisen earlier in the year between them, and an examination of the old files proves the fact that a great deal of a very poor class of dirt was "slung" back and forth by both, and both equally bad, reminding the reader of the story of the Dutchman who, on being asked the age of himself and wife said, "mine wife is dirty (30) and I ish dirty two."

No frost occurred in September of this year, and the autumn was an unusually mild and pleasant one, and continued until about the middle of December, when the winter set in, introducing its reign by a heavy snow storm.

#### THE GRAND ROSTER OF THE SOLDIERS OF FARIBAULT COUNTY.

THE NAMES OF THE MEN FROM THIS COUNTY, WHO HELPED TO  
FIGHT THE GREAT BATTLES.

"Ye have kept the flag and seal,  
Emblem of the Nation's weal;  
Ye have stood like hardened steel  
In war's crimson way—the battle field—  
When shot and shell did ring the knell  
Of comrades brave who 'round ye fell,  
Ye did leave your friends and home,  
And loved ones weeping, left alone  
To see the flag and country saved,"

And saved them. —TALBOT.

There is presented in this history of the county many rolls of honor of the early settlers of the county and lists of public officers



and of the actors in many important events, but there is now presented here the most honorable of all our rolls, that of the names of the men who enlisted from this county, in the military service of the United States, during the Rebellion and the Indian war in the Northwest.

This year practically closed the war, and it is now time to name the men of our county, who in the day of mighty conflicts with powerful foes, took an active part, as soldiers, in the great struggle for our homes, for the Union and for the maintenance of free government on this continent.

The list is not absolutely correct in every respect, but it is as nearly so as it is possible to make it, for there are errors in the public official records themselves, but many, if not all of which, are corrected here.

The writer is greatly indebted in making up this roster, to Charles A. Rose, now of St. Paul, but a former resident of this county, and a soldier, enlisted from this county.

Mr. Rose, as a public officer of the State for many years, has had access to all the official records in the capitol of the State and, owing to his long services in the army, is also possessed of a large personal knowledge of individuals and events connected with the war and there are few, if any persons, who are better qualified to prepare such a list than he.

The writer is also indebted to James H. Mead, of Blue Earth City, another old soldier, for valuable assistance and suggestions in making up the roll.

The companies and regiments given are those in which the first enlistments were made, but many, after the expiration of their term of service, re enlisted in the same or other companies and regiments. But of the re-enlistments, official positions or promotions, no record is here made, the principal object being to present and preserve here simply the names of those who enlisted in the service of the nation from our county. The re-enlistments numbered about twenty-eight per cent. of the original enlistments.

ENLISTMENTS.

BLUE EARTH CITY TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.

Andrews, Alfred D.....	Company D,	9th Regiment Infantry,	three years
Brown, Aaron.....	" B,	Bracket's Battalion,	"
Botsford, Isaac.....	" B,	" "	"
Butler, Zimry C.....	" C,	5th Regiment Infantry,	"
Blackmer, Frank A.....	" C,	5th " "	"
Converse, Geo. S.....	" B,	Bracket's Battalion,	"
Decker, A. L. M.....	" F,	1st Regiment Infantry.	"
Grout, Albert K.....	" C,	5th " "	"
Harris, Peter E.....	" C,	5th " "	"
Johnson, John.....	" F,	5th " "	"

Leslie, Sam., Jr.....	Company H,	2d Regiment Infantry,	three years
Mead, Jas. H.....	"	C, 5th	"
McFall, Orlando.....	"	C, 5th	"
Morris, Wm. D.....	"	F, 5th	"
Pratt, Albert.....	"	D, 9th	"
Rose, Chas A.....	"	C, 5th	"
Squires, Freeman A.....	"	B, Bracket's Battalion,	"
Schroeder, Peter.....	"	F, 5th Regiment Infantry,	"
Schroeder, Herbert.....	"	F, 5th	"
Schroeder, Wm.....	"	D, 9th	"
Thompkins, Hiram.....	"	B, Bracket's Battalion	"
Wheeler, Wm.....	"	H, 2d Regiment Infantry,	"
Young, E. C.....	"	F, 5th	"
Anderson, Evan.....	"	L, Mounted Rangers,	one year
Anderson, Jeff.....	"	L, " "	"
Anderson, Geo.....	"	L, " "	"
Brown, John.....	"	L, " "	"
Bennett, Leon.....	"	L, " "	"
Cusick, Wm.....	"	L, " "	"
Cook, Geo.....	"	L, " "	"
Davy, Peter B.....	"	L, " "	"
Davis, Geo. R.....	"	L, " "	"
Ellis, Ezra M.....	"	L, " "	"
Ellis, Henry.....	"	L, " "	"
Ewald, Henry C.....	"	L, " "	"
Frاندall, John J.....	"	L, " "	"
Fox, Markham L.....	"	L, " "	"
Frاندall, Geo.....	"	L, " "	"
Frاندall, Jos.....	"	L, " "	"
Franklin, Benj.....	"	L, " "	"
Griffin, Lucius.....	"	L, " "	"
Howland, Geo. H.....	"	B, " "	"
Hyatt, Norman B.....	"	L, " "	"
Johnson, Ole.....	"	L, " "	"
Johnson, Henry.....	"	L, " "	"
Jameson, James.....	"	L, " "	"
Kamrar, Henry.....	"	L, " "	"
Krinke, Michael.....	"	L, " "	"
Larson, Henry E.....	"	L, " "	"
Leslie, Sam. Sr.....	"	L, " "	"
Landis, Samuel.....	"	L, " "	"
Manthie, Julius H.....	"	L, " "	"
Neal, Henry J.....	"	B, " "	"
Newton, Wm. J.....	"	B, " "	"
Nelson, Christian.....	"	L, " "	"
Nelson, Ole.....	"	L, " "	"
Oleson, Harvey S.....	"	L, " "	"
Rose, Jacob A.....	"	B, " "	"
Salor, Abel.....	"	L, " "	"
Smith, Cyrus.....	"	L, " "	"
Sailor, Martin.....	"	L, " "	"
Sailor, Jacob.....	"	L, " "	"
Silliman, Wayne B.....	"	B, " "	"
Weber, Henry C.....	"	L, " "	"

Waterbury, Sam B.....	Company H,	Mounted Rangers,	one year
Weger, John.....	" H,	2nd Regiment Cavalry,	three years
Williams, Wm.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Caddy, Geo.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Kennedy, Chas.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Conklin, Wm. H.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Bartholemew, R. R.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Bartholemew, Arthur.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Bakeman, Girard.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Coutier, Leon L.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Caddy, Geo. Jr.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Dagner, Geo.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Ellor, Joseph.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Hunter, Otis M.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Kortt, Chas.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Labatt, Geo.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Mathews, Geo.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Orr, Richard.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Rude, Geo.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Tallow, Stephen.....	" H,	2nd " " "	"
Wheeler, Wm. G.....	" H,	2nd " " Recruit	"
Wirt, George.....	" B,	Bracket's Battalion,	"
Gulickson, Evan.....	" C,	11th Regiment Infantry,	one year
Dalziel, James.....	" F,	1st " Artillery	"
Ellis, John E.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Franklin, German.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Getchell, Theo. W.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Gardner, O. N.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Getchell, Chas. O.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Ingalls, Ed. C.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Jones, Chauncy W.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Katzung, Vallon.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Moore, Robert.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Mead, Orrin F.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Ogilvie, James.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Pugsley, Gardner O.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Sauvain, Just.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Truesdell, Hill.....	" F,	1st " " "	"
Billings, Levi.....	" G,	1st " Infantry, three years	"
Dullard, Michael.....	" G,	1st " " "	"
Elivess, Fran.....	" G,	1st " " "	"
Ordway, Isaac F.....	" G,	1st " " "	"
Whitney, John.....	" G,	1st " " "	"
White, John J.....	" G,	1st " " "	"
Seely, Philander C.....	" H,	1st " " "	"

BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.

Emerson, John.....	Company L,	Mounted Rangers,	one year
Fletcher, Chas.....	" L,	" " "	"
Peterson, Regnald.....	" L,	" " "	"
Walter, Wm.....	" L,	" " "	"
Seaton, Leon C.....	" H,	2d Regiment Cavalry,	three years
Bartheaume, Ruck.....	" H,	2d " " "	"
Ackerman, D. J.....	" H,	2d " " "	"

Chupau, Bapt.....	Company H,	2d Regiment	Cavalry,	three years
Foley, Wm.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Johnson, Herman B.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Martin, Joseph.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Dunbar, Chas. S.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Pine, John.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Dinsmore, Wm.....	" D,	1st	Artillery,	one year
Nelson, Elling.....	" D,	1st	"	"
Nelson, Peter.....	" F,	1st	"	"
Shirk, Jacob E. ....	" F,	1st	"	"
Livingston, Duncan.....	" G,	1st	"	"
Wood, Mason H.....	" G,	1st	"	"
Whitney, Lorin J.....	" drafted 2d	"	Infantry,	three years
Hunt, Nathan.....	" drafted 5th	"	"	"

## ELMORE TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.

Boon, Daniel.....	Company D,	9th Regiment	Infantry,	three years
Cummings, W. P. F.....	" F,	5th	"	"
Chute, Levi.....	" C,	5th	"	"
Chute, Zach.....	" C,	5th	"	"
Dobson, Jas.....	" F,	5th	"	"
Edes, Ed.....	" F,	5th	"	"
Greer, Mark M.....	" C,	5th	"	"
Howland, Fred L.....	" B,	Bracket's Battalion,		"
Hale, John E.....	" C,	5th Regiment	Infantry,	"
Preston, Sheridan.....	" F,	5th	"	"
Schneider, Simon.....	" I,	2d	"	"
Schneider, Freeman.....	" I,	2d	"	"
Way, E. M.....	" F,	5th	"	"
Dane, Hartwell.....	" L,	Mounted Rangers,		one year
Ingalls, A. C.....	" L,	"	"	"
Tankard, Robt.....	" H,	2d Regiment	Cavalry,	three years
Barker, Walter.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Little, Robt. W.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Cook, Chas. E.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Woolery, Reuben.....	" C,	11th	Infantry,	one year
Eberline, Edward.....	" F,	1st	Artillery,	"
Gano, Marian E.....	" F,	1st	"	"
Morehouse, Francis.....	" F,	1st	"	"
Morehouse, Rich. T.....	" F,	1st	"	"
Strong, Moses A.....	" F,	1st	"	"
Winn, Wm. B.....	" F,	1st	"	"
Allen, Horace B.....	" G,	1st	Infantry,	three years
Baldwin, Wm.....	" G,	1st	"	"
Comstock, Wm. H.....	" G,	1st	"	"
Pugsley, Wyman.....	" G,	1st	"	"

## GUTHRIE, (NOW DELAVAN) TOWNSHIP.

Alvey, Wm. T.....	Company H,	3d Regiment	Infantry,	three years
Burke, John F.....	" D,	9th	"	"
Beatty, J. R.....	" H,	2d	"	"
Gray, Donald.....	" H,	3d	"	"
McKinney, John.....	" D,	9th	"	"
Marsh, Enoch.....	" H,	2d	"	"

Propper, Chas.....	Company D,	9th Regiment Infantry,	three years
Terry, Geo. R.....	" A,	7th " "	"
Johnson, Elef.....	" H,	Mounted Rangers,	one year
Miller, Saml. B.....	" H,	2d Regiment Cavalry,	three years
Chestnut, John.....	" H,	2d " "	"
Snell, Isaiah H.....	" H,	2d " "	"
Boyer, John H.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Fessenden, Ed. D.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Fessenden, Chas. M.....	" K,	2d " "	"
McColley, Alonze.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Reichart, Henry.....	" C,	11th Regiment Infantry,	one year
Bemis, Lucius.....	" D,	1st " Artillery,	"
Johnson, Ellip.....	" D,	1st " "	"
Donaldson, Cramers.....	" F,	1st " "	"
Fuller, Myron L.....	" F,	1st " "	"
Falsett, John.....	" F,	1st " "	"
Johnson, Bennett.....	" F,	1st " "	"
Henson, Halver.....	" F,	1st " "	"
McGuiggan, John.....	" F,	1st " "	"
Mandigo, Danl. L.....	" F,	1st " "	"
Ryan, Joseph.....	" F,	1st " "	"
Ayers, Moses.....	" H,	1st " "	"
Gordon, Samuel.....	" H,	1st " "	"
Nickerson, F. L.....	" H,	1st " "	"
Thorp, Henry C.....	" K,	1st " "	"
Sharp, Henry.....		Substitute.	
Sycks, F. Lewis.....		Substitute.	

MARPLES, (NOW MINNESOTA LAKE,) TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.

Brown, Henry.....	Company H,	3d Regiment Infantry,	three years
Beebe, R. W.....	" F,	4th " "	"
Myrick, Telf A.....	" H,	3d " "	"
Taylor, Alfred L.....	" F,	4th " "	"
Heisey, Wm... ..	" L,	Mounted Rangers,	one year
Taylor, E. H.....	" H,	" "	"
Taylor, Phineas B.....	" F,	4th Regiment Infantry,	three years
Fish, Sam. Jr .....	" F,	10th " "	"
Graves, Geo. M.....	" D,	1st " Artillery,	one year
Bandt, Fred.....	drafted	5th " Infantry,	three years
Miller, Christian.....	drafted	5th " "	"
Urban, Wilhelm.....	drafted	5th " "	"
Stephens, Fred.....	darfted	5th " "	"
Marples, Charles.....	drafted	3d " "	"
Smith, Geo. A.....	drafted	3d " "	"

PILOT GROVE TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.

Albee, Albert C.....	Company D,	9th Regiment Infantry,	three years
Blochner, John.....	" ..	1st Sharpshooters,	"
Gardnier, Joseph.....	" B,	Bracket's Battalion,	"
McCrery, R. R .....	" B,	" "	"
McCrery, Jas. P.. ..	" F,	5th Regiment Infantry,	"
Mount, Humphrey.....	" D,	9th " "	"
Waite, Reuben.....	" D,	9th " "	"
Wallace, Horace.....	" D,	9th " "	"

Ybright, Jas. M.....	Company C,	5th Regiment Infantry,	three years
Davis, Orin G.....	" L,	Mounted Rangers,	one year
Hazleton, Daniel.....	" L,	" "	"
Manthie, Fred. W.....	" L,	" "	"
More, Andrew R., Jr....	" L,	" "	"
Petit, Thos. W.....	" L,	" "	"
Smith, Josiah.....	" L,	" "	"
Olds, John.....	" H,	2d Regiment Cavalry,	three years
Cook, Amasa.....	" C,	11th " Infantry,	one year
Couthardt, Wm.....	" C,	11th " "	"
Fetterly, Jas. S.....	" C,	11th " "	"
Foss, J. B.....	" C,	11th " "	"
Stoddard, Nathan.....	" C,	11th " "	"
White, John D.....	" C,	11th " "	"
Cummings, Wm.....	" C,	11th " "	"
Dean, John A.....	" B,	5th " "	three years
Teeter, Reuben.....	" C,	5th " "	"
Hunter, Wm., drafted...	" ..	2d " "	"
Woolery, Robt., " ....	" ..	2d " "	"

## PRESCOTT TOWNSHIP.

Brown, Jas. M.....	Company C,	5th Regiment Infantry,	three years
Crandall, Leroy M.....	" D,	9th " "	"
Eberline, Fred. E.....	" C,	5th " "	"
Morehouse, James.....	" D,	9th " "	"
Young, Lewis.....	" D,	9th " "	"
Carver, Samuel.....	" L,	Mounted Rangers,	one year
McDowell, David H.....	" B,	" "	"
Razey, Norman B.....	" B,	" "	"
Spencer, F. L.....	" B,	" "	"
Crandall, Minor M.....	" H,	2d Regiment Cavalry,	three years
Crippin, Sam. S.....	" H,	2d " "	"
Miles, Geo. S.....	" H,	2d " "	"
McDowell, Jonathan.....	" H,	2d " "	"
Straight, Merrit.....	" H,	2d " "	"
Straight, Oriville.....	" H,	2d " "	"
Straight, Forester.....	" H,	2d " "	"
Straight, Jas. M.....	" H,	2d " "	"
McColley, Nathaniel.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Anderson, Geo. R.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Brelsford, Daniel S.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Fuller, Albert L.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Gibbs, Geo. E.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Razay, Silas.....	" K,	2d " "	"
Brelsford, Isaac W.....	" C,	2d " "	"
Huntington, Loyal.....	" H,	1st " Artillery,	one year
Hodgman, A. J.....	" H,	1st " "	"
Rose, Chris.....	" H,	1st " "	"
Woodruff, Wallace A.....	" H,	1st " "	"

## SEELY TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.

Bontrager, John.....	Company C,	11th Regiment, Infantry,	one year.
Wickwire, Michael S.....	" C,	11th " "	"
Kellogg, Judson....	" G,	1st " "	three years.
Otten, Mathew, drafted...	" ..	2nd " "	"

VERONA TOWNSHIP.

Burgess, Harvey	Company D, 9th Regiment Infantry,	three years.
Carlton, E.	B, Bracket's Battalion.	"
Carlton, Wm. H.	D, 9th Regiment, Infantry,	"
DuCate, Moses M.	D, 9th " "	"
Darlin, E. J.	D, 9th " "	"
Dunham, John H.	D, 9th " "	"
Forbes, Benj. F. jr.	D, 9th " "	"
Franklin, Morrison	D, 9th " "	"
Geiser, Fred	A, 1st " "	"
Huntington, Henry M.	D, 6th " "	"
Kent, Philo.	D, 9th " "	"
Mayson, Wm. P.	D, 9th " "	"
Nightengale, John A.	D, 9th " "	"
Patton, George.	D, 9th " "	"
Robertson, Jas. M.	D, 9th " "	"
Towndro Wm. N.	D, 9th " "	"
Walker, Henry R.	D, 9th " "	"
Bursall, Mitchell	L, Mounted Rangers,	one year.
Cooper, Barney	L, " " "	"
Cooper, Sylvester	L, " " "	"
Pomeroy, Simeon	L, " " "	"
Stone, Lewis	L, " " "	"
Sancomb, Henry	L, " " "	"
Wakefield, Edward	L, " " "	"
Harding, Hiram I.	H, 2nd Regiment Cavalry,	three years.
DuCate, Mitchell	H, 2nd " " "	"
Foss, Melvin A.	H, 2nd " " "	"
Nelson, Albert C.	H, 2nd " " "	"
Nelson, Alex G.	H, 2nd " " "	"
Shufelt, Sheldon	H, 2nd " " "	"
Whiteman, Joseph	H, 2nd " " "	"
Carlton, Nelson W.	K, 2nd " " "	"
Carlton, Jas. S.	K, 2nd " " "	"
Brayton, D. L.	C, 11th " Infantry,	one year.
Chapin, Morris P.	C, 11th " " "	"
Cooper, Joseph	C, 11th " " "	"
Middaugh, John A.	C, 11th " " "	"
Maiers, Jas. A.	C, 11th " " "	"
Park, Frank L.	C, 11th " " "	"
Richardson, John L.	C, 11th " " "	"
Rice, Tobias L.	C, 11th " " "	"
Robertson, Chas. D.	C, 11th " " "	"
Dayton, John D.	F, 1st " Artillery	"
Netzel, John A.	F, 1st " " "	"
Dibble, Jerome P.	H, 1st " " "	"
Champney, A. E.	H, 1st " " "	"
Cripps, Wm.	F, 1st " Infantry,	three years.
Allen, David F.	G, 1st " " "	"
Filbel, Henry	G, 1st " " "	"
Nash, Elbert	G, 1st " " "	"
Wickwire, Philander	G, 1st " " "	"
Stone, Lewis A.	H, 2nd " Cavalry,	"
Yetter, Samuel	F, 1st " Artillery,	one year.

## WALNUT LAKE TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.

Duffy, James.....	Company I,	9th Regiment Infantry,	three years.
Duffy, John.....	" I,	9th " "	" "
Sauer, Chris .....	" L,	Mounted Rangers,	one year.
Post, Aaron S.....	" H,	2d Regiment, Cavalry,	three years.
Post, W. H.....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Balmat, Jerome.....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Mattin, James.....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Merry, James E.....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Rolph, Geo. W .....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Trowbridge, David.....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Waterbury, Sam: B.....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Ford, James E.....	" C,	2d " "	" "
Aschman, John.....	" C,	11th " Infantry,	one year.
Kaufman, Jacob.....	" C,	11th " "	" "
Melady, Richard.....	" D,	1st " Artillery,	" "
McGrady, Chas.....	" D,	1st " "	" "
Weston, Chas. B.....	" D,	1st " "	" "
Terhurner, John H.....	" D,	1st " "	" "
Stewart, Wm. W.....	drafted, 2d	" Infantry,	three years
Trowbridge, Truman.....	" 4th	" " "	" "

## WINNEBAGO CITY TOWNSHIP.

Baker, George.....	Company B,	Bracket's Battalion,	three years.
Brown, Frank M.....	" D,	9th Regiment Infantry,	" "
Burk, C. F.....	" D,	9th " "	" "
Badger, Jas. S.....	" H,	4th " "	" "
Badger, Sam. M.....	" H,	4th " "	" "
Cogrove, John W .....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Chapel, Chas. E.....	" C,	5th " "	" "
Chapin, Henry.....	" B,	Bracket's Battalion,	" "
Crosby, Reuben H.....	" H,	2d Regiment Infantry,	" "
Chapel, John B.....	" D,	9th " "	" "
Clabaugh, James.....	" D,	9th " "	" "
Chesrown, Ezra.....	" K,	9th " "	" "
Ellis, Wm. H.....	" D,	9th " "	" "
Fagin, Daniel.....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Goodfellow, Levi C.....	" D,	9th " "	" "
Huntington, Jas.....	" D,	6th " "	" "
Latimer, Wash. K.....	" D,	9th " "	" "
Miller, John N.....	" B,	Bracket's Battalion,	" "
More, John.....	" B,	" " "	" "
Miller, Peter M.....	" D,	9th Regiment Infantry,	" "
Madison, Bailey.....	" D,	6th " "	" "
Sinclair, John.....	" D,	9th " "	" "
Terhune, Daniel F.....	" D,	9th " "	" "
Terhune, Maurice.....	" H,	2d " "	" "
Taylor, Lyman.....	" C,	9th " "	" "
Vannice, Robt. R.....	" B,	Bracket's Battalion,	" "
Christie, J. Lute.....	" H,	Mounted Rangers,	one year.
Fossett, Isaac.....	" L,	" " "	" "
Lucas, Thomas.....	" B,	" " "	" "
Moar, Andrew.....	" B,	" " "	" "
Mason, Jas.....	" L,	" " "	" "



Snell, Jacob.....	Company B,	Mounted Rangers,	one year
Washburn, Lewis.....	" B,	" "	"
Warn, A.....	" L,	" "	"
Hoover, Joseph.....	" H, 2d	Regiment cavalry,	three years
Shufelt, Henry C.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Robbins, Henry C.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Brown, Wm.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Clow, F. A.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Dunn, Geo. B.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Daby, Moses.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Daby, Samuel.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Hockenhall, Joseph.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Kimball, Chas. H.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Lamphear, Mason H.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Robinson, John.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Saunders, Geo. W.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Thurston, Wm. L.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Walter, Edwin.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Webster, Sanford.....	" H, 2d	" "	"
Latimer, Pleasant.....	" D, 9th	" Infantry,	"
Denton, Myron S.....	" C, 11th	" "	one year
Goodnow, Julius C.....	" C, 11th	" "	"
Hardwig, W. H.....	" C, 11th	" "	"
Leise, Benj. F.....	" C, 11th	" "	"
Mason, Jas. K.....	" C, 11th	" "	"
Miller, Wm. C.....	" C, 11th	" "	"
Hoffman, Leonard.....	" F, 1st	" Artillery,	"
Forsythe, Geo.....	" G, 1st	" "	"
Carel, Patrick.....	" H, 1st	" "	"
Dumpprope, David H.....	" H, 1st	" "	"
Kiefer, Scott.....	" H, 1st	" "	"
Snell, Jacob.....	" L, 1st	" "	"
Borden, Lysander.....	" F, 1st	" Infantry,	three years

Here the record of this tremendous year of triumphs, of great joys and profound sorrows, must close.

And now but a decade of years has passed since the first settler, with his family, took up his residence here, not another white man within the borders of the county and surrounded only by the silent, virgin prairies, marked alone by Indian trails. But the fine soil, the distribution of the timber, the beautiful landscape and the salubrious climate gave him good reason to hope that in the not distant future he should be surrounded by a prosperous and happy people. He was not disappointed. But ten years had passed and the county had a population of nearly five thousand people, two thriving villages, mills and workshops, many good farms, schools and churches, society established, the laws administered and all the blessings of civilized life, existing under favorable auspices.

## CHAPTER XII.

A. D. 1866.

“Tis done: again the conquering Chief appears,  
 In the dread vision of dissolving years;  
 His vesture dipped in blood, His eyes of flame,  
 The word of God His everlasting name;  
 Throned in mid-heaven, with clouds of glory spread,  
 He sits judgment on the quick and dead.”—*Montgomery*.

The year 1866 was one of the years, which by religious enthusiasts and would-be prophets, as well as by some careful investigators, have from time to time been foretold, as the last of the earth's history, the year, which should close the great drama of time, and be the final consummation of all sublunary things.

Some of these predictions were based upon the supposed effects of the near approach to, or collision with, the earth in its passage, of that anomalous body, known as Biela's Comet, due in 1866. But the comet, though due, did not appear during this year. There has been for many years some forebodings as to the influence of this comet upon the earth.

We proceed to relate briefly what events transpired in this county during this year, and it is necessary, in the order of time, to refer first to the new board of

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The Board, now consisting of five members, met on the 2d day of January and organized for business, by electing Allen Shultis, of Elmore, chairman for the year. A session of three days was held, during which much important business was done. Prior to this time the supervision of the public schools of the county was in the hands of five persons, known as school examiners. But a system existed by law at the time, which provided for a single superintendent of schools for the whole county, and who should receive such salary as the Board might deem proper. This system of school supervision could be adopted by any of the counties of the State, whenever the commissioners thereof deemed it advisable. At this session of the Board, the system was adopted for this county, and A. H. Pelsey was appointed superintendent, at an annual salary of \$175 00. The examiner system then ceased to exist. The commissioners met again on March 19th, June 28th, and Sept. 4th, but their action of historic interest is referred to elsewhere.

## OUR STATESMEN.

The eighth State Legislature met January 2d and adjourned March 2d. The district was represented in the legislature of 1866, by D. G. Shillock, of Brown county, in the Senate, and James B Wakefield, of Fairbault county, in the House. Mr. Wakefield was elected speaker of the House, being the first representative of the district who held that very important and honorable office. Andrew C. Dunn, of this county, was again elected chief clerk of the House of Representatives.

The legislature of this year re-districted the State for legislative purposes. It was enacted that "The twentieth district shall be composed of the counties of *Faribault*, Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock, and shall be entitled to elect one senator and one representative."

The other acts of this session, relating to this county were:

"An act authorizing the president of the town council of the town of Winnebago City to execute certain conveyances, and to amend an act entitled 'An act to incorporate the town of Winnebago City, approved Feb. 19, 1857.'"

"An act to authorize the trustees of School District No. 7 in the county of Faribault to issue bonds for the purpose of building a school house in said district."

"An act to legalize the action of the trustees of School District No. 14, in Faribault county, in issuing the bonds of said district to build a school house therein."

"An act to provide for the payment of certain taxes by the town of Emerald in Faribault county."

"An act to provide for the location of a state road from Winnebago Agency in Blue Earth county to Walnut Lake in Faribault county."

"An act to locate and establish a state road from Wilton in Waseca county to Winnebago City in Faribault county."

"An act to change the name of the town of Marples in Faribault county to that of Minnesota Lake." Approved Feb. 23, 1866.

## RAILROADS.

In January, the legislature being in session, a railroad project was inaugurated by certain of the members, in which this county was interested. The following notice of the matter taken from the *St. Paul Pioneer* indicates the object and scope of the project.

"Articles of incorporation of a new railroad company were yesterday filed with the Secretary of State. The object as the name indicates, is to construct a railroad from the Mississippi river through the southern tier of counties of this State to the Missouri river. The route of the road is described through Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Nobles and Rock counties, and the main line is designed to run through the flourishing young cities of La Crescent, Chatfield, High Forest, Austin, Albert Lea, Blue Earth City, thence to Yankton on the Missouri, with a branch line from High Forest to Rochester. The capital of the company is to be \$10,000,000."

Among the incorporators were the names of J. B. Wakefield, Geo. D. McArthur and Wm. Dustin, residing in this county.

The Southern Minnesota Railroad Company had already been organized, and designed building a road through the counties above-named and had already made a partial survey of a route. But this route ignoring many of the villages above named, gave much dissatisfaction to the people of those places. It was at the time expected that congress would soon make a grant of public lands to the State, to aid in the building of a road through the counties named above, and which grant was made on the 6th day of July following. This new company was therefore organized to compete with the S. M. R. Co. for the grant, if satisfactory terms could not be made with that company as to the points or localities through which the road should run.

The new company was named the La Crescent, Rochester and Yankton Railroad Company.

It is proper here to give a synopsis of the act of Congress making the grant of lands, as it was through this grant our county secured its first railroad, and further, because out of these railroad matters grew, subsequently, a great deal of political strife, in this as well as in some other counties.

The grant was made by Congress to the State of Minnesota "for the purpose of aiding in the construction of a railroad from Houston in the county of Houston, through the counties of Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn and *Faribault* to the western boundary of the State" and gave "every alternate section designated by odd numbers to the amount of five alternate sections per mile on each side of said road." But in case it should appear that any of the lands granted as aforesaid, should have been already claimed by settlers or otherwise disposed of, then other lands nearest to the lands granted, designated by odd numbers and within twenty miles of the line of road, might be selected to supply the deficiency. The public lands remaining to the general government, within ten miles of the line of road were raised in price to \$2.50 per acre.

And it was further enacted, "that the land hereby granted shall be disposed of by said State for the purposes aforesaid only, and in manner following: Namely: When the Governor of said State shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior that any section of ten consecutive miles of said road is completed \* \* \* then the Secretary of the Interior shall issue to the State patents for all the lands in alternate sections, designated by odd numbers, situated within twenty miles of the road so completed, and lying co-terminous to said completed section of ten miles, and not exceeding one hundred sections, for the benefit of the road having completed the ten consecutive miles as aforesaid."

"Provided, however, that the co-terminous principal hereby applied, shall not extend to such lands as are taken by the said rail-

road company to make up deficiencies. Provided that no land to make up deficiencies shall be taken at any point within ten miles of each side of the line of said road."

The proceeding was the same for each ten miles of the road completed. The road was to be completed within ten years from the acceptance of the grant, or the lands not already patented reverted to the United States.

This magnificent grant of lands was to be disposed of by the next succeeding legislature to such company and upon such terms and conditions as might be thought expedient.

Out of these facts and circumstances arose the great "points" and "no points" contest in this and several other counties, which existed for several years and caused much turmoil, expense, bad blood and aspersion of character. It is interesting, even somewhat amusing at this distant day, to look back upon these events, which once so engaged the attention of our people, but are now almost forgotten. The events of those times also illustrate through what great tribulations, grand and beneficent enterprises have often to pass before completion.

#### METEOROLOGICAL.

The weather during the latter part of December, 1865, and January of this year, was very cold and stormy, and several persons in this county who were exposed, were frozen to death—one at Pilot Grove, two reported at Rice Lake and two at Minnesota Lake. About the 13th of February a terrific snow storm prevailed over the whole country, lasting some twenty-four hours, and will long be sadly remembered for its fury and intense cold. A number of persons were frozen to death and others badly injured during this storm in this, and in Martin county.

Much snow covered the ground during the winter and the spring was late and cold. But little seeding was done until the latter part of April. The spring of this year is well described in the following ironical words, lately penned by some cynical individual, who evidently does not "take much stock" in the usual platitudes written in relation to spring.

"Gentle spring, wrapped in flannel and furs; wheezing, coughing, sneezing and running up a doctor's bill; airy, draughty, rheumatic spring, lotions, mixtures, cough drops and chest protectors—Hail, gentle spring."

#### WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

February twenty-second of this year was the 134th anniversary of Washington's birthday, and it was observed with more than the usual formalities in the large cities, and especially at the Federal capitol. The day is one of our national legal holidays. It has not,

during the past years, been observed to any great extent in this county, nor is it generally observed to the extent it should be in the rural districts. In the larger cities it is, however, usually celebrated by extensive military parades, the closing up of business houses, the dismissal of the public schools for the day, the adjournment of public bodies and other appropriate ceremonies and demonstrations..

George Washington was born on the 22d day of February, 1732, and died December 14th, 1799. During the time intervening between these dates some of the most important political events in their particular character and far-reaching influences upon the political destinies of mankind known to history, transpired on this continent, at the head of which, as chief actor, was Washington.

But of all men living or dead it is the least necessary to write a eulogy on Washington, and the writer does not propose to attempt it, for the life, character and deeds of this man who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," are known to all people of intelligence everywhere. Even little children can talk to us about Washington. Yet a few words may be written here as the author's humble tribute to this great man. His, indeed, is the most illustrious name in history, unapproached and unapproachable. And the justice of his exalted position is such that this place is accorded to him by the universal judgment of mankind.

As commander-in-chief of the patriot armies in the long war of independence he proved himself to be one of the greatest military commanders of any age or nation. He was not only successful, but he accomplished success in the face of the most persistent opposition of the best drilled soldiers of the age, and these results he achieved, *not with ample means, but with less means to accomplish a purpose than those possessed by any commander of ancient or modern times.* Then having won the independence of his country and a position in which he could have assumed and retained absolute power, he crowned his military career and honors by as sublime an act as is anywhere recorded—*he voluntarily surrendered his position and authority to those who gave it.* Then placed at the head, as chief magistrate of a new nation, surrounded by great and difficult problems and untried ways and methods on every hand, *he proved himself as eminent a statesman and patriot as any age can name.* Confidence in Washington was that of all things which made possible the organization of our government, and no man, in any age, *stood for so much to his country and mankind as he.* His ability, sagacity, firmness, foresight and moderation, provided not only for the exigency of the time, but marked out and plainly designated the way of the future, and then, this great work done, *he again voluntarily laid down all state authority and power and retired to private life.* Other men

have founded great empires and established governments, but Washington surpassed all other founders of empire in that, while they based theirs upon monarchical principles, arbitrary rule and self-aggrandizement, and depended for the support of their governments upon military power, *he founded his upon the highest known principle of civil government—that of self-government, the equality of all citizens, from the highest to the lowest, in political right, and dependent primarily, for its support and perpetuity, not on the power of arms, but on the virtue and intelligence of the people governed themselves.*

Of the many illustrious men who surrounded Washington and assisted in the grand work of founding a great nation, many were great orators; he was not an orator. Some were great lawyers; he was not a professional lawyer, and many of them possessed greater learning than he, but after all is said and admitted, he after all was the center of all, the chief, his the guiding hand, and his the final directing wisdom. He seems to have been always not only master of himself but the final master of every emergency, and he was the central figure and the most revered of every assembly in which he ever appeared.

Ambition, fame, glory, power, riches, honors, make up the sum total of the motives of the vast majority of great men, but Washington seems to have been above all these things.

Neither any, nor all of these motives combined furnished the motive of his actions, and so spotless was his personal character, both in public and private life, and such the unassumed natural majesty of his presence and bearing, that agents of venality, intrigue, dishonor or disrespect, never thought of approaching him. He was a good man as well as great, a quality much lacked by most great men, if indeed true greatness can exist without goodness. Justice, truth, honor, unselfishness and a conscientious performance of duty, were his characteristics. His fame, too, differs from that of most other eminent men in the fact that while their names and deeds are becoming forgotten in the lapse of time, his but becomes better known and more honored.

The great Napoleon once said, "the name of Washington will be remembered and honored among men long after mine has been lost in the vortex of revolutions."

Yet Washington was not a God, nor a Demi-God. It was his great glory that he was a man, a man of like passions and temptations as other men, yet so wise, so pure, so unselfish, so great.

Finally, if any man's personal character and deeds are worthy of respect, if any man's example is worthy of imitation, if any man's birthday is worthy of perpetual remembrance, then may all generations revere the name, imitate the example and celebrate the birthday of George Washington.

## EXIT ADVOCATE.

The *Blue Earth City Advocate*, on the third day of April, came out under the new and very appropriate heading, *Minnesota South-West*. Of the change the editor says: "We propose to do our share in aiding southwest Minnesota to strike a gait that shall build up her railroads and place her on a footing equal at least to the rest of mankind in the race of progress. It was with a design to call attention more particularly to this, the best portion of the State, that we have changed the title of the paper, and we hope its readers will be satisfied and pleased with the change."

## THE COURT.

The district court held its annual term in June. The officers of the court were:

Hon. Horace Austin, Judge presiding.

John K. Pratt, Clerk.

Charles Chaple, Sheriff.

The term lasted four days, and much important business was done.

As Blackstone long ago intimated, in that admirable poem, "The Lawyer's Farewell to his Muse," there is in court proceedings but little of poetry, and less of romance. And there is also but little of historic interest, usually.

"The wrangling courts and stubborn law

\* \* \* \* \*

The tedious forms, the solemn prate,

The pert dispute, the dull debate,

The drowsy bench, the babbling hall."

Rarely, in this county at least, have furnished any incidents worthy of historic record; and hence some few amusing and other incidents which have occurred in courts other than our own, and illustrative of the proceedings of the courts and the practice of the law, for they are much the same everywhere, are incorporated here occasionally.

A famous writer has embalmed in a book, and we may do the same, the Irish Court Criers, Call, who desired to break the tedious monotony of the form of opening court, by adding to the usual dull sing-song words, "Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye, the court is now open," the following expressive command, "And all ye blaggards that are not lawyers lave the building."

## THE HOMESTEADERS.

On the 19th day of June, a Homestead Convention was held in Prescott township, of which J. C. Woodruff was president, and James Beard, secretary.



By the act of congress approved May 20th, 1862, and subsequent acts amendatory thereof, known as the Homestead Laws, it was enacted that any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his intention to become such, shall be entitled to enter one quarter section, or less, of any public lands, not appropriated, on the payment of ten dollars and one-half the fees of the local land office. No patent for the land entered was allowed to issue, until the expiration of five years, when proof had to be made of actual settlement and cultivation of the land, when the party was entitled to a patent, which vested in him, his heirs and assigns forever, a fee simple estate. The passage of this act gave a wonderful impetus to immigration. "Lands for the landless," "Homes for the Homeless," became the popular cry of the times, and under this act many thousands of acres of land in this county were settled upon. Subsequently by order of the State Auditor dated June 16th, 1863, to the several County Auditors, these lands were entered on the assessment books, and were assessed and taxed as land to which the title had been perfected. This proceeding was sustained in several elaborate opinions by the Attorney General of the State. The homestead settlers, however, took another view of the matter, and claimed that these lands were not taxable. Their opinion is set forth fully in a number of resolutions passed at the convention above referred to, several of which we quote.

*Resolved*, That it never was the intention of congress that we should pay taxes on these lands until after the issuing of our patents, as can be fully maintained by the decision of the Secretary of the Interior, the Homestead Law and various other acts of government."

*Resolved*, That we respectfully refuse to support for office any man who has been, or is likely to be, instrumental in taxing our homestead claims as deeded property until we receive our patents."

It is not within our province here to discuss the merits of the question raised, but to state events as they transpired. The homestead settlers throughout the State held about the same views on this subject of taxation, but no specific action or organization was effected except in a few of the southwestern counties, of which this was the principal one. Another new issue had now entered into our local politics for the homestead men, as they avow in one of the foregoing resolutions, determined to and did carry the matter into politics. There proceedings shall be noted as we proceed.

#### HIGHER PRICES.

About the first of July there was a remarkable advance in the price of grain and provisions. Wheat went up to \$1.70 per bushel; flour to \$11.00 per barrel; groceries advanced 25 per

rise was caused mainly by the beginning of war in Europe between Prussia and Austria.

#### THE NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY.

The Fourth of July was appropriately celebrated at Blue Earth City. A. H. Pelsey read the Declaration and the Rev. Mr. Cooper, of the Presbyterian church at that city, delivered the oration.

The day was also celebrated in Prescott township by homestead settlers and others. In fact, the meeting was called the "Homestead Celebration." By a resolution passed with great unanimity, those who favored homestead principles were designated formally the homestead party. The party was thus christened on the great day of Independence. It does not appear that the day was celebrated formally at any other places, but an unusual number of pic-nics were had throughout the county.

And now another word in reference to homestead matters, which at the time created much interest with a large class of our citizens. Another homestead convention was held on the 14th of July in the town of Barber, at which a number of resolutions declaratory of homestead principles were adopted. These township meetings and organizations were preparatory to a county organization which occurred subsequently.

The reader will observe, that there were many pic-nics on this Fourth of July day. Many of us know what this means, in the way of recreation. For those who do not care for the more elaborate and formal celebrations of the day, the pic-nic party, made up of a number of neighbors, held in some convenient grove, and having some appropriate speaking, readings and especially singing, is a luxury indeed. And this is not only a good way of observing the Fourth of July, but is a pleasure which should be enjoyed at other times. No one of right constitution can fail to approve the frequent out doors pic-nic for the old folks as well as for the young folks, for the day school and the Sunday school.

The ride, the scenery, the shady grove, the freedom from restraint, the balmy air, the dinner, the invigorating exercise, are pleasures not soon forgotten.

We all greatly overlook, or make too little of the many ways of social and individual enjoyment ready at hand and all about us. For many persons one of the best means of relief and recreation for the over-taxed brain and body of the toiler in life's busy work, is a quiet leisurely walk in the green fields and along country roads and by-ways, away from the great world, divesting the mind as much as possible of care and anxiety and the every-day subjects of interest. In the contemplation of the beautiful natural scenery which surrounds us in the summer days, the broad, free open prairies, with their

green, luxuriant grasses and wild flowers, the groves and forests, the silent river and the silvery babbling brooks, the cool, glimmering lakes, the waving grain promising a golden harvest, the singing birds, the grazing herds and flocks, the free, pure breezes, the quiet, the peace and above all the glorious sunshine, we are lifted out of the dull, plodding, weary work of ordinary life, to a higher plain of existence. The exercise fills the lungs with new air, increases the action of the blood, stimulates the appetite, helps digestion and drives away nervousness.

The mind and body are thus rejuvenated, the thoughts elevated, the heart and the life purified, and we have a foretaste of that golden age foretold by the seer and sung by the poet—the millennium—when war and strife shall be over, and pain and toil be forgotten and wrong and fraud and oppression forever ended, when the promise “on earth peace, good will toward men” shall be realized. Bless you! workman in the shop, the office, the mart, there is a better life, a better world, than that of toil and strife and bickerings and ambition and the lust for gold, and the cheatings and frauds and lies, and conventionalities and tyrannies of fashion, the jealousies and envyings and hates which so darken the life, wither the soul and curse the world.

While we cannot ignore that which is necessary and proper on the practical side of life, yet every man, whatever his business, will be the better if he shuts up his shop, his office, his store, or at least retires from it occasionally, and goes out into the green fields and breathes the free, pure air, relaxes his mind and muscles and banishes for a while corroding care. And if he has a wife and children he should take them with him. Let the aged go out and renew their youth, and the young grow wise and strong, in communion with nature and its blessed works.

“There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,  
 There is a rapture on the lonely shore,  
 There is a society where none intrudes,  
 By the deep sea, and music in its roar;  
 I love not man the less, but nature more  
 From these our interviews.”—*Bryon*.

#### THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

We must here turn aside for a moment from the relation of common-place local events, to state that in this year success crowned the oft-repeated but heretofore unsuccessful efforts to lay a telegraphic cable across the Atlantic ocean. The work was completed in the month of July. Telegraphic communication was at last successfully established between the old world and the new, and the work was pronounced, and very justly so, one of the grandest achievements of science and human enterprise, a permanent and

almost inestimable blessing to all nations, and crowning with immortal honor, the men whose genius, money, energy and perseverance, accomplished the great work.

#### THE HARVEST, ETC.

The harvest was interfered with somewhat, as the first week in August was characterized by the most intense heat, accompanied with storms and terrific thunder and lightning.

The crops were a failure in a great measure—except perhaps wheat in a few localities, and in consequence, business and improvements were much affected. The year was more than ordinarily wet, and the quite unusual circumstance occurred of high waters in August. But the year in these respects was not to be compared with the next. Several things, however, conspired to counterbalance the evils of the time, one of which was the large immigration and the other was the disbursement by the general government of immense sums of money in paying claims growing out of the war, as a result of which, the year in many localities, was deemed one of ease, financially.

To add to the injury already suffered by the crops, a heavy and destructive frost followed by cold weather and cold rains occurred on the 20th of September by which the corn and vines were much damaged.

There was much "saft cawn the year." This will be remembered as one of the very few years in the history of our county in which the corn crop was nearly a failure.

#### HARVESTING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

The reaping of the cereal and gathering of some other crops takes place in different periods throughout the world, because of the different latitudes and consequently different seasons. The following statement sets forth the harvesting period in almost all countries of the world:

January—Harvest is ended in most districts of Australia, and shipments have been made of the new crop; Chili, New Zealand, Argentine Republic.

February—Upper Egypt, India.

March—Egypt, India.

April—Coast of Egypt, Syria, Cyprus, India, Persia, Asia Minor, Mexico, Cuba.

May—Persia, Asia Minor, Algeria, Syria, Texas, Florida, Morocco, Mid-China, Japan, Central Asia.

June—California, Oregon, Southern United States, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Hungary, Turkey, Roumenia, Danube, South Russia, South of France, Danubian Principalities, Greece, Sicily, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, Kansas, Arkansas, Utah, Colorado, Missouri.

July—Southern, Eastern and Midland English counties, Oregon, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, New England, New York, Virginia, Upper Canada, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Poland.

August—United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Manitoba, British Columbia, Lower Canada, Hudson's Bay Territory, Denmark, Poland.

September—Scotland, England, hops and roots; America, maize; Athabasca, wheat, barley, corn; Sweden, North Russia, France, beet root, buckwheat.

October—Scotland, America, maize crop; France, Germany, vintage.

November—Australia (North), Peru, South Africa.

December—Australia (South), Chili, Argentine Republic.

#### THE FAIR.

The Agricultural Society held a meeting at Winnebago City on the 14th day of September, at which time a list of premiums to be awarded at the annual fair, was made, and it was determined to hold the next fair at Winnebago City. The fair was held on the 2d and 3d days of October. The weather proved to be favorable, and the attendance was larger than was expected. On the premiums awarded, but sixty per cent only, was paid. Officers for the ensuing year were elected at this time, and they were L. W. Brown, president; J. H. Welch, secretary, and G. D. McArthur, treasurer.

#### THE ANNUAL TUSSLE.

We now proceed to relate the political events of this year. Wm. Windom was again the republican candidate for congress, and R. A. Jones was the candidate of the democratic party for the same office. On the 2d day of October, the Republican District Convention was held at Fairmont, Martin county, for the nomination of candidates for senator and representative of this district. The convention consisted of eight delegates apportioned as follows: Faribault county, five; Martin county, two, and Jackson county, one. The other counties in the district were not represented as they had but little or no resident population at that time. Allen Shultis, of Faribault county, was elected chairman of the convention, and A. C. Dunn of the same county, secretary. These details are mentioned because this convention was the most remarkable in some respects ever held in the district, and constituted the initiation to the most stubborn, bitter and personal political contest ever waged in this county until the year 1870, and was only surpassed by the contest of that year. In this convention the issue was "points" or "no points." Blue Earth City having three Faribault county and one other delegate in

the interest of points, and Winnebago City having two Faribault county delegates and two others, in the interest of no points, the former interest wished to nominate candidates favorable to establishing by law the points or localities through which the railroad receiving the grant of lands heretofore mentioned, should be built, and the latter interest desired to nominate candidates opposed to confining the railroad to any definite points.

A. Bonwell, of Blue Earth City, was the "points" candidate for the nomination for senator, and A. C. Dunn, of Winnebago City, the "no points" candidate.

The vote was a tie, standing four to four on senator for a number of ballots, when on motion the nomination of senator was dropped for a short time and the convention proceeded to nominate a candidate for representative. Mr. A. Andrews, of Martin county, a points man, was nominated, his opponent being H. S. Bailey, of Jackson county. The balloting was then resumed on senator, and after a number of ballots a motion was made to adjourn, but was voted down and the convention proceeded to ballot for senator, but always with the same result—a tie. Everything possible was said and done, and some things said were in hot blood, to bring about a favorable result for one party or the other, but to no consequence.

"When Greek meets Greek,  
Then comes the tug of war."

About 8 o'clock in the evening, after some forty-six ballots had been taken on the nomination of senator, an understanding was had with one of the delegates, who before had voted against adjournment, and the motion to adjourn without making the nomination of a candidate for senator was made and carried. This was the only thing that could be done, as on this question of senator each party was immovable, and if possible in the nature of things, would have been voting there probably to this day without a result on that issue rather than give in an inch. After the convention Mr. Bonwell withdrew from the field and Jas. B. Wakefield, at the request of the people of Blue Earth City and others favorable to points, came out as an independent points candidate for the senate. Andrew C. Dunn was announced as the no points independent candidate for the senate and H. S. Bailey, above-named, as the no points candidate for representative.

On the 13th of October, the Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City for the nomination of candidates for certain county offices.

The following nominations were made:

For Auditor—F. W. Cady.

For Register of Deeds—F. Lent.

For Surveyor—J. R. Sisson.

For Court Commissioner—R. Waite.

For Coroner—W. A. Way.

For County Attorney—Andrew C. Dunn.

On the 20th of October, pursuant to call, a Homestead Convention assembled at Blue Earth City. Regular delegates were present from seven towns and the number of others in attendance, interested in the homestead cause, was large. The convention was harmonious and somewhat enthusiastic, and with great unanimity made the following nominations: For Auditor, Rev. A. H. Brown; and for County Attorney, Jas. B. Wakefield. For the other county offices the nominations made by the Republican Convention were approved.

As no formal nomination had yet been made for senator by any party, this convention proceeded to nominate Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Andrews the republican candidate for representative was endorsed on motion. The convention then appointed a county central committee and the homestead party entered the campaign ready for the fight.

The democratic party placed no candidates in the field.

The election was held on the 6th day of November and the following table exhibits the result as officially declared in this county.

Wm. Windom was elected congressman, Wakefield and Andrews senator and representative in the District. A. R. Moore was elected county commissioner for District No. 1, and James Crays was elected to the same office in District No. 4.

	Senate.		House.		Auditor.		Reg.	Sur.	Attorney.		C. C.	Cor.
	Wakefield.	Dunn.	Andrews.	Bailey.	Cady.	Brown.	Lent.	Sisson.	Wakefield.	Dunn.	Waite.	Way.
Seely.....	23	....	23	....	5	18	23	21	23	....	23	23
Elmore.....	101	....	101	....	85	16	97	98	101	....	99	96
Pilot Grove.....	48	....	48	....	24	23	48	48	48	....	48	48
Foster.....	28	....	28	....	6	22	28	28	28	....	28	28
Brush Creek.....	43	2	44	3	10	31	45	36	43	2	45	45
Emerald.....	91	....	91	....	66	25	91	91	91	....	91	91
Blue Earth City.....	189	1	189	1	150	37	183	189	187	1	180	185
Jo Daviess.....	63	....	63	....	21	42	63	63	63	....	50	63
Walnut Lake.....	48	14	49	14	29	34	63	63	47	15	63	63
Barber.....	41	36	57	20	7	70	77	77	51	26	77	76
Prescott.....	47	35	46	36	19	62	80	81	48	33	79	79
Verona.....	15	68	14	69	46	31	81	81	14	67	81	81
Dunbar.....	....	23	....	22	22	....	22	22	....	23	16	22
Minnesota Lake.....	26	31	28	29	55	3	58	58	30	28	58	58
Lura.....	....	63	....	63	57	2	62	63	....	61	63	63
Guthrie.....	9	57	2	66	67	20	63	67	5	59	66	67
Winnebago City.....	2	123	1	127	88	29	122	122	1	120	121	121
Totals.....	774	453	784	450	757	465	1206	1208	780	437	1188	1209

The election over, the victors of course, rejoiced—the beaten were disgusted and silent. “Points” won and although Mr. Brown, the homestead candidate for auditor was defeated, yet as Mr. Wakefield was the senatorial nominee of the homestead party and was elected, the other issue “no taxation of homesteads” also triumphed.

The fight was made on the candidates for senator, representative and auditor. “No homestead taxation” and “points” were united against “no points.” As to the newspapers the *Free Homestead* at Winnebago City favored “no points,” and the *Southwest* at Blue Earth City, sustained the homestead and “points” cause.

The contest from the beginning, until the ballot box finally decided the issues, was very bitter and personal not only in this county, but throughout the legislative district. Both the county and the district were canvassed in their length and breadth, and every voter understood the issues. Party politics were entirely thrown aside, and democrat and republican, rallied shoulder to shoulder, on one side or the other of these local issues.

Here is a story for politicians, taken from the *Scientific American*. “A man wanted to learn in what profession he would have his son engage. He put the boy in a room, with an apple, a Bible and a silver dollar. He left the room and decided that if upon his return he found the boy reading the Bible, he would make a minister of him. If he was eating the apple he should be a farmer, and if he had put the dollar in his pocket he should be a banker. When he returned he found the boy sitting on the Bible eating the apple, and had put the dollar in his pocket. What did he make of the boy? Well he made him a politician.”

#### THE END.

The year 1866, like all preceding years, came to an end, having completed its full time.

Notwithstanding the prophecies of “the end of the world,” to occur this year, the earth regularly, as through countless years and centuries before, performed its diurnal revolutions, kept within its orbit and pursued its journey around the sun. The sun continued to shine, and the seasons to follow each other in their regular course and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. “For the prophecy came not in the old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Many years after writing the foregoing sketch of the year 1866, the writer deemed it proper to add the following section. During the last three-quarters of a century and at least for a period dating back as far as the time of the great Millerite excitement of 1843, there has been a widely-spread opinion existing, not only among



persons given to alarms, wonders and sensationalism, but also among many thoughtful, intelligent and conservative investigators, that we are living in the "last times," or as has been variously expressed or understood, that some great crisis in the affairs of mankind is near at hand—that we are near the close of the Christian dispensation—that the final judgment "the judgment of the great day" is imminent—that we are near "the end of the world." And the prophecies of the second advent of Christ being so frequently and explicitly declared in the Scriptures, it is not remarkable that there should be found one or more religious bodies making that important truth and the near approach of the final judgment—the destruction of all material things—the end of the world, as they believe, and the duties of Christians, growing out of these facts if such they be, primary points in their religion beliefs.

And considering these prophecies and the stupendous character of the events they foretold, and those which they purport to foretell as yet to occur, it is not strange that many persons through the past centuries and in the present times have sought to interpret these prophecies and determine the time of the second advent or "the end of the world," whatever that may signify.

The wonder is that if the prophecies relating to this matter, can be interpreted, the subject has not attracted universal attention, for it is certainly a subject of universal and overwhelming interest.

But there are many—far too many, indeed, who are of the class described in 2d Peter iii: 3, 4, and will be to the end of time itself.

## CHAPTER XIII.

A. D. 1867.

And now the thickening sky,  
Like a dark ceiling stood; down rushed the rain  
Impetuous.

—*Milton.*

This year was one remarkable for scarcity of provisions, high prices of grain, railroad excitements, heavy rains, deep mud and high waters.

During the winter of 1866 and 1867 there was a very heavy fall of snow. The winter commenced early in 1866 and lasted until late in the spring of this year. There was good sleighing during the first half of April.

## A GENERAL OFFICIAL OUTLOOK.

During this year Andrew Johnson was president of the United States and William R. Marshall, governor of the State of Minnesota, Our United States senators were Alexander Ramsey and Daniel S. Norton, and our representative in congress was William Windom. James B. Wakefield, of this county, was our state senator, and A. Andrews, of Martin county, was our representative in the legislature of the State. Horace Austin, of St. Peter, was the judge of this judicial district.

And by reference to the history of our county government and of the several county offices—part third of this history—it appears that the board of county commissioners was composed of the following-named gentlemen: Henry J. Neal, chairman; J. R. Sisson, A. R. More, Sr., James Crays and J. Clagget.

County Auditor—F. W. Cady.

Treasurer—R. B. Johnson.

Clerk of Court—John K. Pratt.

Register—Frank Lent.

County Attorney—J. H. Sprout.

Judge of Probate—Amos Preston.

Sheriff—C. E. Chaple.

Superintendent of Schools—A. H. Pelsey.

Count Surveyor—J. R. Sisson.

Coroner—W. A. Way.

## THE ARBITERS OF THE COUNTY.

On the first day of January, New Year's Day, the commissioners met in annual session, preferring, apparently, to attend to the functions of their high office than spend the day in the usual holiday observances. The board organized by electing Henry J. Neal chairman for the year, and proceeded to business.

Another session of the board was held on the 20th day of March, at which time a proposition was discussed in reference to the building of a county jail, of the proportions of sixteen feet by twenty-four feet and one story high.

## OUR STATUTE MAKERS.

The State legislature assembled January 8th and adjourned March 8th.

The acts passed at this session, of special interest to the people of this county, were the following: An act authorizing the Minnesota Valley Railroad Company (now the St. Paul and Sioux City), to build a branch road from Mankato, or some point near thereto, to the south line of Faribault county, by the way of Blue Earth City.

An act approved February 25th, accepting the grant of lands by congress of July 4th, 1866, and vesting the same, subject to the provisions of the act of congress, in the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, and subject to the further condition, that the "Said company should construct its road from its then western terminus, to the village of Preston, in Fillmore county, and from thence to the village of Austin, in Mower county, to the village of Albert Lea, in Freeborn county, to the village of Blue Earth City in Faribault county, to the village of Fairmont, in Martin county, to the village of Jackson, in Jackson county, and thence to the west line of the State."

The company was required to formally accept the grant with the conditions, within thirty days from the passage of the act.

The company resisted the fixing of the points through which the road should be built, by all the influences they could bring to bear, but they were unsuccessful. Our members of the legislature, of course, with others along the line of the road, labored successfully to secure this provision of the act, as it was upon this "point" question mainly, they had been elected the preceding fall, as will be remembered. The company, however, accepted the act with the conditions, within the time limited.

The securing of the "points provision" in the land was deemed a great triumph by the "points-men" throughout the whole southern tier of counties. But, alas! How uncertain are many supposed certainties in human affairs. How often people rely upon and rejoice over what after all proves but a delusion.

To make a long story short, it is sufficient to say that the road was never built on the line defined by the act, but the county secured the road, however, on a more northern route.

As above stated, James B. Wakefield in the Senate and A. Andrews in the House, were the members for this district in the legislature of 1867.

#### QUOTATIONS.

The price of wheat early in February reached \$2.14; oats, \$1.00; potatoes, \$1.00 per bushel. Flour, \$7.00 per hundred pounds and butter 25 cents per pound. These were high prices, but we were destined to see and pay still higher figures further along in the year.

#### THE DELUGE.

The snows of the winter began to go off about the middle of April, with heavy rains. In fact the spring was characterized all over the country by almost incessant and deluging rains, and was very late and cold. The streams became very high, and vast districts of country along the course of the great rivers were submerged, and much damage was done by the floods. Bridges were swept away, all lowlands were overflowed, and the roads for a time were literally impassable. During the spring many cattle died of disease and short feed. Hay was very scarce, and the price went up to \$7.00 per ton. High waters and rains accompanied by heavy storms continued until the latter part of June. It was almost impossible to do the necessary seeding, and immigration and improvements were much retarded. To add to the general discomfort and distress, provisions of all kinds, owing to the short crops of the previous year, became very scarce and high. Wheat, near harvest, sold at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per bushel; oats, \$1.00 per bushel; potatoes, \$2.50 per bushel; flour, \$10.00 per hundred weight; pork, twenty-five cents per pound, and money was very scarce.

Actual suffering existed in many localities in the county because of the want of the commonest articles of food. It was truthfully said that many of the poorer families in the country were compelled to subsist for weeks on a few coarse vegetables, such as rutabagas and turnips, and several instances were related in which several families subsisted upon rutabagas and coarse bran alone for weeks, and in some other instances on ground corn and potatoes. Relief to a limited extent was afforded in a number of the worst cases, but few were able to assist others.

The state of distress at one time became so pressing that in certain sections of the neighboring country the people, it was rumored, designed clubbing together and making a raid on the stores, graneries and mills in Blue Earth City, and take by force what they had

not the means to buy. But it should not be thought that the residents of the villages were insensible and selfish. The fact was that no one had anything to spare. Many in the villages were as destitute almost as those in the country, and all that could be done was done to assist the most needy. Aid, in the way of food, clothing and seed grain was granted by the State, benevolent societies and individuals, to the people of many of the frontier counties.

During the high waters a boat came from East Chain Lakes, in Martin county, to Blue Earth City by way of Badger creek, and returned safely with several sacks of flour. This is the only known instance of the navigation of the Badger. Several boats also came from the same locality by way of Center creek and the Blue Earth river to Winnebago City, for supplies.

#### SMALL TALK.

We find the following announcements in the *South West* of June 8th and 15th of this year:

"Subscriptions are being received for building in this city a new steamer for the Cincinnati and New Orleans trade."

"Nobody is prophesying a dry season this year. He may be a false prophet."

"Navigation is now open by way of the Badger to Chain Lakes."  
 "These statements are more valuable as showing the condition of the country than for their wit."

As the rain ceased and the new crops of the year came into market the general distress was relieved, and matters assumed a more cheerful and encouraging aspect, but were still far from being entirely satisfactory.

#### OUR NEWSPAPERS.

On or about the 20th day of February the *Free Homestead*, at Winnebago City, changed proprietors, J. L. Christie retiring and E. A. Hotchkiss becoming the proprietor and editor of the paper. Mr. Christie says, good naturedly, in his brief valedictory, among other things, "And now kind friends and patrons, wishing you all a prosperous future, we bid you all a kind adieu, hoping you have no ill-will toward us and assuring you that we have none toward you." On assuming charge of the paper Mr. Hotchkiss writes, "The political character of the *Homestead* will not be changed, but remain ever ready to advocate the right and condemn the wrong, as it is viewed through republican glasses."

About this time a novel idea seems to have seized the editor of the *South West*. In the issue of March 2d, of that paper, there appears on the first page some twenty-six revival hymns, and the tenth chapter of St. John's gospel in full. It was certainly a very curious

newspaper page and attracted considerable attention. Did the editor suppose that this matter would be considered "news" to the benighted people of this region?

While treating of newspapers it may be well to state that the first convention of newspaper editors ever held in Minnesota met during the month of February, of this year, at St. Paul, at which time the Minnesota Editorial Association was formed. A large number of delegates were present and the convention was in every way a perfect success. The *Homestead* says:

"The citizens of St. Paul nobly responded to the efforts of the city press to make the guests welcome. The governor gave a reception, the mayor took them in, the senate invited them within the bar, the doors of the Opera house were opened, hotel proprietors presented rare bills of fare, and an artist offered to photograph the whole lot, free."

#### HO! FOR MONTANA.

In the early part of the year, considerable public interest was created in this county and elsewhere throughout the State, in consequence of the organization in this State, of what was known as "The Great Overland Expedition to Montana," by Capt. P. B. Davy, of this county. Montana was supposed to be rich in the precious metals—a new California—and many desired to go to this new El Dorado. But the journey was a long one, and somewhat perilous and hence the organization of this expedition, which provided a comparatively cheap and safe way of reaching the land of gold. The expedition, when finally made up, consisted of about seven hundred souls, and included some seventy families, about one-half of the whole number, however, were destined ultimately for the Willamette Valley, Oregon Territory.

The company with its great train of one hundred and thirty wagons and other conveyances, left Minneapolis, Minn., on the long journey, near the middle of May. The expedition reached Fort Abercrombie about the 1st of July, Fort Stevenson about August 1st, and proceeded thence by way of Fort Buford, near the mouth of the Yellow Stone river, to Fort Benton, the head of navigation on the Missouri. Here the company divided, about one-half proceeding on the way to Oregon, the other portion pursuing the route to Helena, Montana, the objective point, which place was reached the middle of September.

The expedition was conducted through without loss of life, or serious accident, and was in the main a success. In December following Capt. Davy returned to this State and immediately began the organization of a large company for the exploration of the Black Hills of Dakota, to which some reference will be made hereafter.

THE COURT.

The June term of the district court was adjourned until the 21st day of October, the Judge assigning as one reason for the adjournment, "the backwardness of the season." A term of five days was held in October, and quite a number of causes were heard and disposed of by the court.

They have a curious way of deciding law-suits in Siam. Both parties are put under cold water, and the one staying longest wins the suit. It is different here. In this country, both parties are got into hot water, and then kept there as long as possible. The result is about the same.

THE COMMISSIONERS.

On the 26th day of June, the commissioners again met and among other business transacted, we find the granting of licenses to run ferry boats on the Blue Earth river. One ferry was established at Latimer's Ford, and one at Dunham's Ford. As being of some interest and possibly useful in similar cases occurring hereafter, it is well to state the rate of tolls which was established at this time. Here is the schedule:

- One pair of horses or oxen and wagon . . . . . Fifty cents.
- One horse and buggy . . . . . Twenty-five cents.
- One horse and rider . . . . . Twenty cents.
- One footman . . . . . Ten cents.

The chairman of the board was authorized to grant licenses and fix tolls thereafter.

The board met again September 3d, but, either not caring for history, or having nothing of importance to do, they did nothing worthy of being rescued from oblivion.

"LIBERTY FOREVER."

And now we have to record a singular fact. It does not appear that our nation's birthday was celebrated in this county in 1867. Indeed the editor of the *South West* announced in his paper that, "on account of the lateness of the season, the 4th of July has been postponed."

THE HUSBANDMAN'S REWARD.

The harvest was light. The grain was not all cut even as late as the 28th of August, and then nearly all of it had yet to be stacked. Much of the wheat was blighted this year, especially that grown on corn ground. The corn crop was not a good one.

THE NATIONAL GAME.

It was in this year, 1867 that the new National game of base ball was introduced into this county, and for many years after was the

great game of the young men and boys. Games of ball had existed long previous to this, but they were only simple affairs. This new game of ball was made up upon new and scientific principles and was conducted according to strict regulations. Base ball clubs, under the new system, were organized everywhere throughout the United States, and some of these clubs acquired a national reputation because of their great skill and success. There were also National and State organizations. Clubs of professionals traveled great distances to meet others in match games, in which as much interest was felt by certain classes as in the great horse races and trotting matches. A notable game was played at Blue Earth City, in this county, on the 30th day of August, of this year, between the Blue Earth City club and the Frontier club of Mankato. The "Frontiers" did not win the game. They came up in great style, but the country "Jakes" were too much for them. Each club, according to the regulations, had its officers, and when playing match games usually were dressed in a close, neat fitting and picturesque uniform. The game required nine men on a side—the captain, who was the catcher; the pitcher, the short stop, first, second and third base, the right field, the center field and the left field. There was also an umpire who decided all disputes, and a scorer who kept the count. Changes are made occasionally in the regulations, but the above outline constitutes the basis arrangement.

Ball clubs have been formed in all the villages and in most of the townships of the county, and match games between the various clubs were quite frequent for some years, especially on great public days, as the Fourth of July, and afforded a great deal of amusement. Cracked heads, disjoined fingers and bruised shins, were often among the haps and mishaps of hardly contested games. Very novel matches were gotten up sometimes, to the great amusement of the spectators, such for instance as a game between the "heavy nines," usually composed of the heaviest men of the locality, and the "small nines," made up of small boys. It is a remarkable fact, never yet satisfactorily accounted for on any well-established philosophical principles, that in these matches the boys always contrived to win the game, and inflict more or less misery of various kinds on the other side.

It may be further added that each ball club assumed a name by which it was known and addressed, as the White Stockings, the Red Stockings, the Blue Jackets, the Innocents, the Greentops, the Yell-hards and like apt titles.

Of late years the interest in this once great game has much subsided, and in many sections of the country, especially in this county, the clubs have ceased to exist, but will doubtless be revived again.



## THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

There is but little to write of the proceedings of the agricultural society for this year, and that little may all be expressed in this one paragraph. There was a meeting of the society held at Blue Earth City, July 27th, at which time a list of premiums was drawn up. Early in September, L. W. Brown, president, offered in behalf of the society, a premium of fifteen dollars to any ball club in the State which would win the prize in a game to be played on the last day of the annual fair.

The fair was held at Blue Earth City on the 25th and 26th days of September. The weather was fine, but the fair was not a great success.

## BIG TALK.

Some of the subjects of public interest and discussion, during the year, were the following:

In February: The passage, by congress, of the military government bill, for the southern states.

In March: The appointment of military governors, to various districts in the South; the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

In May: The admission to bail of the arch-traitor, Jeff. Davis.

In June: The shooting, in Mexico, of the invader, Maximilian.

In September: The dedication of the national cemetery at Antietam.

In December: The organization of the Patrons of Husbandry, or Farmers' Grange, at Washington, D. C.; the commencement of proceedings to impeach President Johnson.

## THE CLAMOR FOR OFFICE.

The election of a governor and several other State officers, added somewhat to the interest of the campaign this fall.

The candidates for governor were Wm. R. Marshall, republican, and Chas. E. Flandrau, democrat. A proposed adjustment of the State railroad bonds and several amendments to the constitution were to be voted upon.

The Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City, on the 25th day of September. The following nominations were made.

For Treasurer—R. B. Johnson.

For Sheriff—F. F. Harlow.

For Judge of Probate—A. F. De La Vergne.

For County Attorney—J. H. Sprout.

For Coroner—A. J. Rose.

For Court Commissioner—A. F. De La Vergne.

The Republican Legislative District Convention was held at Fairmont, Martin county, on the 2d day of October, and nominated for re-election, as representative, A. Andrews, of that county.

Several days later another legislative convention was held at Winnebago City, in the interest of the "No-pointers," and nominated A. B. Colton, of Martin county, for representative.

The democracy, rallying from their lethargy, held a district and county convention at Blue Earth City, on the 12th day of October, and made the following nominations.

- R. B. Simmons, for Representative.
- Silas Richardson, for Sheriff.
- C. M. Sly, for Treasurer.
- G. B. Kingsley, for County Attorney.
- D. H. Morse, for Coroner.

The only issue in this campaign besides that of general politics was that of "points" or "no points," and the main contest was, of course, upon the office of representative.

The law had established the "points," and the railroad company had accepted the grant of lands with the "points" fixed, it is true, but the company alleged that they could not and would not build the road through the points named, and that unless the "points" condition was removed the building of the road would be indefinitely delayed or entirely defeated. The "points" party held that the public convenience and "the greatest good to the greatest number," required the road to be built through the points named, and that it could be as easily built on that line as on any other, hence the "no pointers" sought to elect a representative favorable to removing this restriction, the other party to retaining it.

The election was held on the 5th day of November. The following table exhibits the vote in this county:

For Governor—W. R. Marshall.....	919
Chas. E. Flandrau.....	301
For Representative—A. Andrews.....	583
A. B. Colton.....	502
R. B. Simmons.....	104
For Judge of Probate—A. F. De La Vergne.....	955
For Sheriff—F. F. Harlow.....	903
S. Richardson.....	301
For Treasurer—R. B. Johnson.....	941
C. M. Sly.....	277
For County Attorney—J. H. Sprout.....	887
G. B. Kingsley.....	328
For Court Commissioner—A. F. De La Vergne.....	952
For Coroner—A. J. Rose.....	917
D. H. Morse.....	296

H. J. Neal was elected county commissioner for district No. 2, and W. J. Robinson for district No. 3.

The remainder of the legislative district gave Mr. Colton a majority sufficient to elect him representative, and this was a triumph for the "no pointers."

STAMP TAXES AND LICENSE FEES.

The reader will remember how odious Stamp Acts were held to be by the people of this country in our early history.

In 1765 an attempt was made by Great Britain to levy a tax on the colonies in this manner. It will be remembered, also, how earnestly Benjamin Franklin, then in London, labored to prevent the passage of the act, and how Samuel Adams, the "Father of the Revolution," denounced this act; how the indignation of the people blazed out when they heard of the passage of the act, because of its gross injustice, and how the "Sons of Liberty," in Boston demolished the building where the stamps were to be sold. A similar spirit at the time prevailed over the whole country. This obnoxious act was repealed the next year.

But times and circumstances and hard necessities, alter cases. During the great rebellion—1861-5—stamp duties or taxes were laid by our general government on almost every form of legal instrument, and other papers of value, and on packages of a great variety of manufactured articles, some of which still continue to be imposed. The stamps were of various sizes, values and devices and resembled our postage stamps. License fees were also charged on various occupations and pursuits. The object of all this was, of course, to aid in the raising of revenue to support the government and pay the enormous expenses of the war. There was but little opposition to this form of taxation, among the loyal people. Stamp duties on legal instruments, and license fees on occupations continued for a number of years after the war, and were in full force at this time, but were finally repealed, except on some manufactured articles as above stated.

We state here some of the more common stamp duties and license fees required by law, as a matter of interest to the generation which has come upon the stage of action since the war:

Agreement or contract, in writing, each sheet.....	\$ .05
Bank check or draft.....	.02
Promissory note, per each \$100 or fraction.....	.05
Bond of indemnity, for each \$1,000 or fraction.....	.50
Bond of executor, administrator or guardian, where the property exceeded \$1,000 in value.....	1.00
Official bonds.....	1.00
Deeds, conveying lands, consideration under \$500, 50 cts. Consideration \$1,000, \$1.00 and each \$500 additional or fraction thereof.....	.50
Life insurance policy for less than \$1,000.....	.25
Exceeding \$1,000 and not exceeding \$5,000.....	.50
Fire insurance policy, not exceeding \$10.00 premium.....	.10

Not exceeding \$50 00.....	.25
Leases, rental \$300 per annum or less.....	.50
Mortgages of real or personal estate, same as deeds.	
Power of attorney to sell lands.....	1.00
Probate of will, value of estate over \$1,000 and not exceeding \$2,000, \$1.00 and every additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.....	.50
Receipt for money paid, over \$20.00.....	.02
Trust deed, as security, same as a mortgage.	
License fees on occupations, etc.	
Lawyers, \$10.00; physicians \$10.00; claim agents, \$10.00; insurance agents, \$10.00, and many other occupations—like fees.	

## LOOKING HEAVENWARD.

On November 14th of this year, a remarkable meteoric shower was witnessed in the United States, of which Prof. Loomis, of New Haven, Conn., gives the following account:

“A display of shooting-stars occurred this morning, and attained its greatest magnificence about 4:30 o'clock. I counted 500 meteors alone in one hour, which would indicate about 2,000 per hour for the entire heavens, and that, too, in the presence of a full moon, which probably eclipsed two-thirds of the whole number. So far as the numbers are concerned, the exhibition was, therefore, more remarkable than that seen in Europe last November, and was but little inferior to that seen in the United States in 1833.”

“What eye can pass Him over,  
Spreading aloft in the clear night? Him (God), first,  
Whoever scans the heavens is sure to trace.”

Nothing further remains to be said of the history of this year. It was one of the least eventful, least interesting and least profitable, in the history of the county. The times during the whole year were, taking all things together, very discouraging to all classes of people, especially the farmers. Many were gloomy, lost their energies and felt as though their labors and efforts were in vain. Such seasons of despondency and fear of difficulties ahead come to all sometimes, whatever their station in life may be, and is a very unhappy and unprofitable condition, from whatever cause discouragement may come. It is never best, in any of the proper ways of life, or business, to lose hope or abandon effort and it would be well if every one should know and oft repeat the following golden words of the poet, so apt, truthful, practical:

“The wise and active conquer difficulties  
By daring to attempt them; Sloth and folly  
Shiver and shrink at sight of toil and hazard,  
And make the impossibility they fear.”

## CHAPTER XIV.

A. D. 1868.

In this historic panorama of the year, as it passes in review before us, we at last behold, high up on the canvas, the emblazoned figures 1868. What of this almost forgotten year? How little any one remembers definitely of the events of any past year. Two or three personal incidents makes up the sum total. All other events are vague and uncertain and may belong to a year, two or three years before, or after. But for the historian's labor the events of the past, however important would soon, in the lapse of time, become mere traditions in which truth and fable are indistinguishable. and they constantly growing more uncertain, would at last pass forever from the memory of man.

In recounting the events of this year, a proper regard for our local legislative body and the order of incidents as to time, requires the statement that our county commissioners assembled on the 7th day of January and had a session of four days. All the further actions of the board at this session, which it is needful to record here, is that Henry J. Neal was re-elected chairman, and it was decided to let the contract for building the county jail, a much-needed improvement in the light of public economy.

The board met again on the 10th and 11th days of February, but did nothing of importance, but reject a number of exorbitant bids for building the jail. Other meetings of the board were held March 10th, June 12th and Sept. 1st, but the business done was of no special interest.

## A CONVENTION.

Though somewhat out of the order of events, it may be noted here that on the 25th day of January, a convention of homestead men was held at Blue Earth City, of which John A. Dean was chairman. In view of the demand of the "homesteaders," that further action be had by the legislature, then in session, in relation to taxation of homestead claims, the party at this convention was re-organized, a number of by-laws were adopted for the government of the society, and the name "The Free-Homestead Society of Faribault County," was adopted. This convention meant to accomplish something for the relief of homestead men, as will be seen hereafter, they

eventually succeeded. This convention much assisted in hastening certain legislation mentioned hereafter.

Let us now look towards the Capitol of the State where the legislature was in session and see what was being done for the good of the people by

#### THE LYCURGUSES.

The State Legislature of this year which assembled January 7th and adjourned March 6th, passed several acts having a direct relation to this county. The titles of these acts were as follows:

An act to provide for the payment of certain taxes by the town of Grant (Rome), in Faribault county.

An act to locate, survey and establish a State road from Blue Earth City, in Faribault county, via Fairmont, in Martin county, to Jackson, in Jackson county. This road was subsequently surveyed and established.

An act to authorize the towns in Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, *Faribault*, Martin and Jackson counties, to issue bonds to aid in the construction of any railroads running into, or through said counties. Under the provisions of this act, most of the towns in this county, at one time or another, voted to issue bonds, in various amounts, to aid in the construction of railroads in the county, as may be seen more fully by reference to the history of the several townships.

An act to provide for the taxation of improvements on homestead claims, made under the act of congress approved May 20th, 1862, entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain, and the interest of claimants in such claims."

By this law all improvements on homestead claims were required to be assessed and taxed, but section 4 enacted that "no tax shall be assessed or levied on any *lands*, held or occupied by settlers under said act of congress, other than on improvements made on the same, and the interest of the claimant therein, so long as the fee of the same remains in the United States.."

This act was passed to satisfy the demands of the homestead settlers of the State who objected, as we have already seen, to the taxation of their homestead claims.

In this connection it should be stated that on the first day of February, Mr Wakefield, senator from this district, introduced in the senate: "A bill for an act to compel the county auditors of the several counties of the State to strike from the several tax duplicates, certain taxes therein named." Section first enacted, that the county auditors of the several counties of the State are hereby required to strike from the several tax duplicates for the year 1867, and the several delinquent tax lists for previous years, all taxes upon lands entered under the act of congress, entitled an act to secure homesteads to actual settlers, etc., approved May 20th, 1862, when such taxes

have been levied upon such lands prior to the time the person or persons entering the same, were entitled to receive a patent or patents therefor. Section second enacted, "such lands shall not be subject to taxation for any purpose prior to the time that the persons entering the same, may be entitled to patents therefor, from the United States."

During the first days of February many petitions were circulated through the county and were numerously signed, praying the State legislature to pass Mr. Wakefield's bill. The bill passed the Senate but failed in the House, and the act above referred to relating to the taxation of improvements on homesteads became the law of the State. That act at first sight, appeared in the main satisfactory but as construed for a time subsequently, proved a delusion as much as a relief measure. It was very much as though a stone had been given when bread had been asked. All improvements upon the homestead "and the interest of the claimant therein, so long as the fee of the same remains in the United States," being assessed, taxed and held as personal property, the last cow of the homestead settler could be taken as in all other cases of personal property taxes for the payment of the tax. And the payment of the tax, too, being personal, was imperative, and more immediate than if assessed as a land tax. But the act was the best and in fact all that could be obtained of the legislature at that time, and was construed differently from the intention of many of the makers of the law. It may also be stated here incidently, that an act was also passed, approved March 4th, relieving the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company from building their road to two "points" "Preston" and "Austin," named in the bill granting them the lands, and although this action had no direct reference to this county, it was the first and most important step towards the removal of all the points.

James B. Wakefield, of this county, in the Senate, and A. B. Colton, of Martin county, in the House, represented this district in the legislature of 1868.

#### SOWING THE SEED.

The spring of this year opened about the 20th of March, and seeding was done as early as the 23d of March. All the seeding was done early, and the weather continued quite favorable until the 24th day of April, when quite a snow storm occurred.

In view of the short crops of the two preceding years, a greater breadth of land was seeded this year than ever before, every available acre being put under cultivation. The farmers were encouraged to hope for good prices, as wheat, in May, brought two dollars per bushel, and the fact was that prices during the whole year ruled very favorably to the farmers.

## TOPICS OF THE TIME.

On the 24th day of February the House of Representatives of the United States adopted articles of impeachment of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, which event created great commotion in political circles, and much interest throughout the country. It is not proper here to discuss what, in that day, were known as "the reconstruction measures," the "my policy," of the President, nor the President's conduct, in the exercise of the functions of his high office; they are simply alluded to here, as showing the subjects of public interest at the time, and in reference to the impeachment proceedings it is sufficient to say, that a trial before the Senate of the United States, sitting as a High Court of Impeachment was had, which terminated May 16th. The vote stood thirty-five for impeachment, and nineteen against. The law required a two-thirds vote to impeach, and the vote cast for impeachment lacked one of the requisite number.

Another subject of much public interest at the time, was the overland expedition to the Black Hills of Dakota, projected by Capt. P. B. Davy, a resident of this county, and which created considerable excitement through the county and State during the spring of this year. There was very good evidence that great mineral wealth existed in that wonderful tract of country, gold, silver, copper, iron, coal, besides immense forests of pine timber, and the object of the expedition was, as stated by the projector of the enterprise, "to open up that beautiful and fertile region to settlement and cultivation, and establish in her rich valleys a thriving and energetic people, who will bring to light the weight of her slumbering wealth and prospect her yet undeveloped and comparatively unknown mines."

Many agencies were established throughout the State for the purpose of affording information as to the objects of the enterprise, and facilities for joining the company. The expedition was gotten up on a large scale, and it was designed that the various detachments should leave the State about the 20th of May, and all gather at Yankton, D. T., the place of general rendezvous, from whence the line of march would be taken up early in June, for the Hills.

But when the expedition was about organized, it was countermanded by the general government, on the ground that the territory of country known as the Black Hills had been reserved for the occupancy of the Indians, and all others were forbidden to trespass upon it, and consequently this whole project had to be abandoned.

It is hardly necessary to observe at this day, that the subsequent opening and settlement of that region, which occurred in



later years, have abundantly proved the correctness of the previous conjectures and statements as to the great mineral wealth of the country.

In connection with the Black Hills project, a pamphlet of twenty-eight pages was published at the *South West* office, in April of this year, under the supervision of Capt. Davy, containing an elaborate notice of the expedition and its objects, and containing, also, an article descriptive of Blue Earth City and Faribault county. Soon after harvest following, when the expedition had been abandoned, another pamphlet of twenty-eight pages, more fully descriptive of the county, gotten up by Capt. Davy, with the assistance of several other residents of Blue Earth City, was published at the *South West* printing office, for general distribution throughout the Eastern states and Canada. These publications constituted the first, and it may be said the last efforts, until late years, beyond a few newspaper articles, to afford information, to the world at large, of the character of this county, its natural advantages for settlement, and to induce immigration.

Another topic of much interest at this time, with the people generally, was the building of the Southern Minnesota Railroad. Its progress was closely watched. When it should reach this county, if ever, was a matter of considerable discussion. At this time, and for several years, Waseca, in Waseca county, on the line of the Winona and St. Peter Railroad, was the great grain and lumber market of this region of country. An immense traffic was done over the roads leading from this county to that place. Long trains of from ten to thirty or more teams—farmers' wagons and the carryalls of the regular teamsters, were almost daily passing back and forth, hauling out grain and bringing back lumber, merchandise, etc. A number of stopping places on the line became quite famous hostelrys for a number of years—Barber's and Schoffman's at Minnesota Lake; Hill's, Caster's, Larrabee's, the taverns at Wilton, are still remembered. Many an adventure, incident and joke of the road, occurring in those days, are still told by those who journeyed to and fro.

#### THE TRIBUNAL.

On the 2d day of June, the District Court commenced its annual term, Hon. Horace Austin, presiding. The term was a very important one and lasted nine days. A large calendar was disposed of, but none of the cases were of public interest. Some of the cases, however, involved the decision of a number of very difficult legal points. Owing to "the smooth tongues of the lawyers and the thick heads of the jurors," several suitors were greatly surprised at the

outcome of what they thought just causes, and were led to soliloquise with Shakespeare:

“In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt;  
But, being season'd with a gracious voice,  
Obscures the show of evil?”

#### THE FIRST CIRCUS AND MENAGERIE.

Whatever may be thought or said of the moral aspects and influences of the circus or menagerie, or both combined, it is a fact that at this day, these great travelling shows have become a great American institution and their annual visits, during the summer months, are as regular and as much expected by almost all classes of people in the cities and in the towns and villages of the country, as the Fourth of July, and they are generally well patronized.

The first of these great shows which appeared in this county was announced as “Orton Brothers Egyptian Caravan and Great South American Circus,” and exhibited at Blue Earth City, on the 18th day of June of this year.

It proceeded thence to Winnebago City, where it entertained the people the next day. The attendance at both places was quite large.

The blazing show bills of this institution, posted up for weeks before and studied and canvassed in all their attractions by the boys, employed the gorgeous rhetoric usual in such cases, and read in about the following glowing words:

The most gigantic and magnificent combination of equestrian and artistic talent, with the most interesting and prodigious collection of wonderful animals ever seen on the face of the globe!!

A colossal canvas confederation!!

A dazzling and illimitable collection of art,

Animal and arenic splendors!!

A whole world carnival of super-best, free sensations, a mighty miracle of golden glory!!

Many an aged reader of this brief sketch will call to remembrance what happiness the coming of a great show gave him in his boyhood's years—how he would lie awake most of the night, preceding the day of the circus, full of imaginations, conjectures and anticipations—how early he would awake the morning of that great day, and, perhaps, with many others of his age, probably barefooted and without breakfast, as the writer himself did on more than one occasion during his hopeful youth, go out miles on the road to meet the coming show—how the elephants and camels were inspected, how the wagons were viewed and numbered, with what awe and envy the drivers were regarded, and everything noted, and how proudly he marched with the possession to town—then watching the putting

up of the great tents, and the final culmination of it all, the great exhibition itself. Life as we all know in the country towns and villages, brings but few such genuine, compact masses of real happiness to the stout, healthy and active boy, as the great tented show.

Perhaps but few of the readers of this article ever heard the showman's battle cry: "Hey Rube!" "Hey Rube!" "Hey Rube!"

It has been heard, occasionally, of late years, but not often, especially in the northern states. It is a cry of awful import, and is never uttered, except in the last extremity, and then and always, it means, desperate fighting, blood and death. This is the rallying cry of the showmen when they are attacked by roughs and mobs, and there appears no other way than by fighting to protect themselves and their property.

In the showmans' literature it appears that these desperate encounters have occurred most frequently in the rough, border towns of the southern states, but they have been known, also, at various places in the North. It is, of course, the interest of showmen to avoid such collisions, and it is seldom, though sometimes, their fault that such fights arise. They are almost always made in self defense, and are often bloody contests.

Such a fight occurred at Jacksonville, Texas, years ago, when twenty-three of the mob were killed and over fifty wounded—at a town in Arkansas where three were killed, many wounded on both sides, and a tent cut to pieces—at Somersett, Ky., where twenty were killed and many injured—at Cartersville, Ga., three roughs were killed—at Plymouth, Ind., where many were wounded. These are but a few of the instances of this character which may be named. All of the old show companies have had some experiences of this kind—the elder Forepaugh, Robinsons, O'Brien, Dan Rice, Coup, Noyes, Barnum and others.

Sitting as a spectator in the grand pavilions of the large combined circuses and menageries of these modern days, and contemplating the scenes—the multitudes of interested people, the wonderful exhibitions presented by the trained knights of the sawdust arena, feats of strength, agility of trained muscles, the marvelous leaping, balancing, riding, the dangerous feats of the flying trapeze, all, apparently, setting the laws of nature at defiance, one is amazed at beholding what the trained human being and dumb animals are capable of.

Yet, in some things, improvements might well be made—the clown's jokes are growing old.

The camel stood quietly chewing and contemplating the scenes with lofty contempt, when he might have been heard to say, "The pyramids, the date palm, myself and the clown's jokes, are the only

things remaining on earth that are really venerable and worthy of respect; all else is modern and worthless."

But, after all, many of the wonderful performances exhibited at these shows, and others far more startling, were performed in their day, by actors who have been dead for nearly two thousand years.

Witnessing these scenes, the mind involuntarily wanders back to the days of ancient Greece and the Olympic games, the jumping, running, boxing, javalin throwing and chariot races, and to the days of the great Roman circuses at Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and other great towns of the Empire, but especially to the Circus Maximus and the colosseum of old pagan Rome, the capital of the world.

Here tens of thousands assembled on the great show days, to witness the scenes. Seated safely high up, but over or near the stone and iron dens of hundreds of ferocious wild beasts, the spectators viewed scenic exhibitions of unprecedented splendor in the vast arena before them; mighty contests of gladiators with each other, or with wild beasts, to the death; the frightful conflicts of great numbers of savage beasts turned into the arena; great feats of horsemanship, acrobatic performances and chariot races, arousing the enthusiasm of the multitudes to madness, and perhaps, last of all the exciting scenes of these great shows, came the infernal culminating act, before which the angels in heaven veiled their faces, the martyrdom of Christian men and women, who in those ages of terrible persecutions, would not deny their Lord, and were often driven naked, or rather clothed only in a halo of purity, innocence and devotion, or of sanctified manhood and womanhood, into the arena and there kneeling on the bloody sands awaited the death decreed for them. Death by what means, reader? Do you hear the grating and rumbling of the huge iron doors opening not far away, and the howling, roaring, shrieking and bellowing of the half starved and ferocious wild beasts, as they bound into the arena and in savage eagerness and fury rush to the feast? Now hide your face and muffle your ears, for this scene is not to be witnessed by enlightened or Christian men, but only by devils and degraded pagan humanity. And when you recall these things do not forget to thank God that you live in an age when such scenes are impossible, an age whose beneficence has been achieved by the blood of the martyrs and the sufferings of the patriots of many centuries.

"THE GLORIOUS FOURTH."

This ever memorable day was celebrated at Blue Earth City. The day was fine and the attendance of the people commendable. Geo. B. Kingsley read the Declaration and Capt. P. B. Davy was the orator of the occasion.

There was also a grand celebration of the day at Winnebago City. It was estimated that some 1,500 people were present. Here A. C. Dunn was the reader of the Declaration and Prof. E. P. Bartlett delivered the oration, which was subsequently published in the *Homestead*.

At the grove of J. Chestnut, in the town of Guthrie, four Sunday schools, and others numbering in all about four hundred people, assembled to do honor to the day, and here the Declaration was read by the Rev. Mr. Foss, and addresses were delivered by Jos. Claggett and J. Gleason. Altogether the demonstrations this year were a fitting recognition of the birthday of the best government the world has yet seen, as the orators of the day usually state, a government which has given the greatest amount of happiness and success to the masses of its people, which has given equal advantages to the rich and poor, exalted labor, made all proper stations in life honorable and the highest stations attainable to all.

The following anecdote, an actual occurrence, may be appropriate right here.

There is a lawyer, yet living, who some years ago was waited upon by a committee from a small village, for the purpose of engaging him to deliver a Fourth of July oration. When they asked him his price, he said he considered \$25.00 cheap enough.

"Mercy on me!" exclaimed the chairman, "but we can't pay no such price as that! That must be for a regular Henry Clay oration."

"Well, yes. I think it will compare favorably with anything Henry got off."

"Oh! but we can't stand it—we must have a cheaper one."

"How cheap?"

"Not over \$5.00. We'll give you \$5.00, your dinner and all the lemonade you can drink for the cheapest oration in your head."

"I'll do it!" replied the lawyer, and the money was paid him on the spot.

He was on hand on the glorious day, and by-and-bye the procession moved to the grove, the orator took the stand and was introduced, and without any fooling around he walked to the front and said:

"Fellow countrymen: We whipped England twice and can do it again. We whipped Mexico once and can repeat that sport. We are a free people. This is the glorious Fourth. Give 'em hail columbia, and go in for a good time. Thanks for your attention."

He had given them a \$5.00 oration and every person in the crowd, except one, was perfectly satisfied. An old lady followed the orator around—she was a Boston woman—until she had cornered him, and then expressed her disgust by saying:

“Seems ter me, that if yer ment to please this ’ere crowd, you would’nt have chopped off that air speech without a single word about the ‘tea party,’ and Bunker Hill and the Pilgrims. You don’t know nothing.”

These well attended gatherings of the people, from year to year, are not only an indication of some inherent patriotic impulses, but of something more—the love of a day of association, social enjoyment and entertainment. It is certainly a mistaken view of life that happiness and success are to be found at the present, or some future day, in a hard, perpetual devotion to labor and pinching economy and miserly saving. Such a life is apt to grow narrow and dark. The individual becomes selfish, sordid, censorious, morbid and unjust. The trite old saying is true, that “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.”

While all should be industrious, energetic in their callings, and not wasteful, it appears to be the better view to take of life, that we should often unbend, relax from labor for a time and seek amusement and recreation, even if it does cost something.

Life at best, for the great majority of the race, is not long, and the time of its end is uncertain, and it is not best to wait until some future day when we shall get rich or become too old to work, but take life’s rational pleasures as we go along.

Though there is somewhat of sorrow, many disappointments, tiresome toil and causes of grief in most lives, it is better to be cheerful and make the best of what we cannot avoid, than to be always sad and gloomy. It is better to look on the bright side of things, the hopeful side, even if we cannot always give much of a reason for it, than it is to be forever looking on the dark side. There is much on every hand to enjoy. The earth itself is beautiful, grand, wonderful, and the natural conditions of the seasons and of bountiful productions and climate and scenery, wherever civilized man can live, are generally beneficent. What is bad is commonly the result of man’s abuse of what is good, and it is not the product of nature. And while it is true that there are some bad, selfish, discourteous people in the world, it is also true that there are many intelligent, frank, generous, hospitable, lovable people in every locality, with whom it is a pleasure and a benefit to associate. And this is another and a chief source of human happiness.

Few communities or individuals are so poor or so driven to toil, or so subject to suffering of any kind, but what there are means and occasions for some recreation and social enjoyments. It would be well if, among other things, people generally should make it a rule to often attend the great assemblies of the people in their section of country, the public lectures, concerts, conventions, fairs, school exhibitions, neighborhood parties and pic-nics when requested and

certainly the religious meetings of their locality, and occasionally visit distant friends, the neighboring villages and places of interest. These things break in upon the lives of most people like rays of sunshine into a dark room.

The body is rested, the mind broadened and enlightened and filled with new ideas and thoughts and hopes. Even in the sordid view of finances it may often prove a great benefit. There may be those who do not see the pertinence here of these common-place remarks, but the prescription was written for the benefit of a gloomy, grunting, growling, penurious class of people who can never see anything except through a smoked glass, and who are apt to get scared at the bugbear of a little expense.

#### THE HARVESTERS AT WORK.

The most of the wheat was ready for harvesting the third week in July, and was a very heavy crop.

The following excerpt from the journal of an old resident, written at the time, covers many items of interest:

"Harvest is now over and the yield has proved very abundant. All kinds of grain and vegetables are good and cannot be surpassed in any country, in either quality or quantity. Prices are satisfactory. Immigration and capital have poured into the county, and for permanent improvements the present year, thus far, surpasses all preceding years. It is estimated that as much ground has been broken this season as the whole amount under cultivation the preceding years. Money is yet somewhat 'close,' but abundant crops and good prices will soon loosen up the money market. Business of all kinds is looking lively, the people are energetic, cheerful and confident of the future."

How different the aspects and prospects and the spirits of the people from what they were the preceding year.

As pertinent to the subject in hand the following quotation is given from the report of the Commissioner of Statistics relative to the wheat crop of this year. It is a gently flowing bland document.

The season began most auspiciously. The spring opened unusually early. A prompt sun quickened the torpid earth into a willing mood. Wooing showers kissed the waiting vegetation, and upland and meadow, forest and prairie, grew radiant with vernal beauty. Coaxed by the soft rain, smiling skies and alluring breath of an early spring, the wheat fields of Minnesota gambolled and rioted in tropical luxuriance. Everywhere in the broad expanse of our wheat domain, the hastening crop grew big with the promise of the greatest harvest ever known, except in the years 1860 and 1865. There was the same bountiful "setting" at the start, the same generous spreading and stately development of stalk, and the same amplitude of head and milky plumpness of berry, which ripened into the golden harvests of those years.

But when in the critical period of development, just as the kernel was in the milk, a "heated term" commenced of wholly unparalleled intensity and duration. For two weeks the fierce heat descended with unmitigated fury upon the gasping earth. The sun, as if obeying the command of a modern Joshua, seemed to stand still and pour a flood of white heat upon the tender heads of the unhardened grain. It is a marvel that it was not wholly blasted in the fiery

ordeal. But there is an invaluable property in the soil or climate of Minnesota, perhaps in both, which enables the grain to measurably resist the extremes, whether of heat or flood. To such cause, whatever it may be, we have more than once owed the exemption of our maturing crops from utter destruction. The worst result, in this instance, was that of forcing a premature ripening, by which the berry was shrivelled and defrauded of its normal development.

The untimely advent of this heated period during the critical transition of the grain from the milk to the dough, was perhaps the sole preventive of as large an average yield as was ever known in this State. Our heaviest wheat crops were those of 1860 and 1865, when the average was somewhat over twenty-two bushels per acre. Before the crop of 1868 was gathered, I estimated the loss from the cause named as equal to about one-fifth of the crop, leaving an average which I estimated at 17.75, which estimate is shown to have been very near correct, the official returns showing 17.9 bushels as the average per acre.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ITEMS.

At the session of the legislature of this year, an important act was passed for the encouragement and assistance of the state and county agricultural societies. The act appropriated, annually, the sum of two thousand dollars, to be equally divided among the county agricultural societies, which should comply with certain requirements, to be expended by them in such manner as they might deem best calculated to "promote and improve the condition of agriculture, horticulture and the mechanical, manufacturing and household arts and interests, in this State, either for the payment of premiums at the annual exhibitions, or in the purchase and distribution of choice cuttings, seeds, plants or tubers, which having been tested, are found to be adapted to the soil and climate of this State, or in the prosecution of scientific investigation and experiments and in the collection and diffusion of information tending to develop the natural and agricultural resources of Minnesota."

An adjourned meeting of the Agricultural Society was held at Winnebago City on the 11th day of July, at which time a premium list was made, judges appointed, and certain other arrangements made for the annual fair, which it was designed should be one of the best ever had in the county. It was determined to hold the fair at Winnebago City, on the 7th and 8th days of October.

Among other interesting items, in the notices of the coming fair, the *Homestead* announced under the head, Agricultural Hop, that it was "proposed, as a finale to the fair, to have a jolly dance on the evening of the 8th."

The fair proved very much a failure; the speaker engaged for the occasion failed to attend, and on the first day the ground was covered with snow and a cold nor'wester blew a regular gale. The following amusing account of the fair is taken from the *Homestead* of the 14th of October.



"The fair last week had the elements for an enemy and could not be started until nine o'clock of the second day. Ministers said the weather was very unpropitious. Hotel proprietors thought it tough. Young ladies declared it to be a shame. Old ladies said there was no use in worrying; while strapping westerners, of full growth swore it was a bad egg. \* \* \* Nevertheless there was a fair and three or four hundred people saw it. Two beets and a harness looked askance at each other down stairs, while out of doors, two fine woolled bucks occupied the rear of a lumber wagon. All took the premium. The department of Fine Arts, up stairs, made a better show. The walls were draped in clothes lines, festooned with bed quilts and pictures, while the body of the room was ornamented with a variety of useful and ornamental articles, including babies. Glancing our eye about, we noticed a smashed water-mellon hanging on the west wall, which on inspection proved to be only an imitation. In close proximity to it, was a good representation of a girl in pantalettes, in the act of drawing a broad-sword. A sick cookoo, in the top of a clock, tried to make a noise, but couldn't pitch the tune, without being bolstered up, and that act of kindness having been done, he did not know enough to go in and shut the door."

"There being abundance of room, little stockings, big stockings, tatted and the shells of the ocean lays scattered around in the order of disorder, each possessing some charm to win a beholder."

"The track was in bad condition, but the running and trotting came off notwithstanding."

But for the weather, this fair would have been a grand success.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

A State Teachers' Institute was held at Winnebago City, commencing Oct. 12th and lasting five days. This was the first State Institute for the instruction of teachers, held in this county, and proved a very useful as well as a very interesting affair.

Thirty-two school teachers were present and took part in the exercises, while many other people interested in the work of education, attended the meetings and lectures.

Hon. M. H. Dunnell, state superintendent, Prof. Sanford Niles and S. J. Abbott, county superintendent of schools in this county, were the instructors.

About the same time notice was given of a Sunday School Teachers' Institute, to be held at Winnebago City, on the 26th, 27th and 28th days of October, under the charge of Rev. Geo. W. Prescott, State Sunday school agent. A very interesting programme of exercises was prepared and published, but for some now unknown cause this institute was either not held, or all record of the event is now lost.

#### THE POOR FARM.

A sale of school lands was held at Blue Earth City on the 23d day of October. At this sale the county purchased a tract of three hundred and twenty acres for a poor farm. This was making a very wise provision for the future. A time comes in the history of all enlightened communities, when some provision must be made for the

aged and infirm poor, who have no means of support. In the manifold chances and changes of this mortal life—sickness, poverty, friendlessness, may come to even the richest and proudest of to-day, and the sad and lonely journey “over the hills to the poor house,” may have to be made by some to whom such a contingency may be thought to be the remotest, or most impossible of all earthly events.

The provision now usually made is the establishment of a hospital, or poor house, which is sustained by the public taxation. Of late years it has been found economical and beneficial, otherwise, to connect a farm with such poor house, from the products of which, in many places, the poor are comfortably maintained or nearly so. Besides many of the unfortunates who find the poor house their last resort, are able and willing to labor to some extent on a farm and thus contribute to their own support. The expense of purchasing lands at this time for the purpose, was much less than it would be in subsequent years when the county should become more populous. The tract purchased was near the center of the county, and comprised the north half of section thirty-six, in town one hundred and three (103) of range twenty-seven (27), being in the town of Prescott.

#### THE POLITICIANS' FIELD-DAY.

We now proceed to give a brief account of another furious and bitter political contest. The campaign was more than ordinarily exciting because, in addition to local issues, another presidential contest was in progress.

Grant and Colfax were the republican candidates for president and vice-president, and Seymour and Blair the democratic candidates for the same high offices.

Morton S. Wilkinson was the republican and Geo. W. Batchelder the democratic candidate for member of congress, in this district.

Three important amendments to the State Constitution were also to be voted upon.

The Republican County Convention assembled at Blue Earth City on the 3d day of October.

The convention nominated:

F. Lent, for Register of Deeds.

W. W. White, for Auditor.

H. J. Neal, for Clerk of Court.

J. R. Sisson, for County Surveyor.

On the 10th day of October the Republican Legislative District Convention met at Fairmont, Martin county, and nominated for senator, A. L. Ward, of Martin county, and James L. Crays, of this county, for representative.

About the same time the democrats held a convention at Fairmont also, for the nomination of legislative candidates.

Dr. Hewitt, of Martin county, was nominated for senator, and Peter B. Davy, of this county, for representative.

The "points" being still the issue in local politics, or rather made so, and the homestead question not having yet been satisfactorily settled, and the nominations made at Fairmont being thought to be opposed to "points" and the exemption of homesteads from taxation, an informal convention was held at Blue Earth City on the evening of the 17th of October, in the interest of the "points" and homestead men to consider the situation. Representatives were present from two counties—this and Jackson.

The convention adopted a series of resolutions as a platform, the substance of which was that the railroad company having accepted the grant of lands with the conditions, agreed to build their road through the points named and were in good faith bound to do so—that they wanted the "points" removed and designed not to build the road into this county or district, and that the nominations made at Fairmont were not binding upon the party, as they were fraudulently made.

James B. Wakefield was nominated as a candidate for senator, and James W. Hunter, of Jackson county, for representative. A committee was appointed to draft and publish an "address" to the people of the district, setting forth, as was alleged, the real issues to be decided. The resolutions and address were published in the form of a circular and were distributed broadcast throughout the district.

Shakespeare somewhere says:

"Get thee glass eyes;  
And, like a scurvy politician, seem  
To see things thou dost not."

What relevancy these lines may have had to the political affairs of the time, the writer of this history will not attempt to say, but they were heard repeated about that time.

On the 31st of October, the democracy held a county convention at Winnebago City, and placed in the field, for county officers, the following candidates:

For Auditor—Geo. Barnes.

For Register of Deeds—D. H. Morse.

For Clerk of Court—H. Hufcut.

For Surveyor—Geo. A. Weir.

Messrs. Hewett and Davy, democratic candidates for senator and representative, subsequently withdrew from the contest, and the lists of candidates being now settled, they all entered upon a fair

field for a free fight, which was conducted without fear, favor or affection upon either side.

Politics in local questions were thrown aside, the district was canvassed from end to end, meetings were held, and the people were visited at their firesides by the candidates or their friends.

Of the newspapers in the district, the *South-West* at Blue Earth City, favored Wakefield and Hunter. The *Homestead*, at Winnebago City, and the *Atlas* at Fairmont, favored Ward and Crays. The election was held on the third day of November. The following table presents the result in this county. Of the votes cast

The Grant and Colfax electors had.....	1,421
The Seymour and Blair electors.....	373
For Member of Congress—M. S. Wilkinson.....	1,418
Geo. W. Batchelder.....	373
For Senator—J. B. Wakefield.....	1,001
A. L. Ward.....	734
For Representative—J. W. Hunter.....	1,002
James Crays.....	743
For County Auditor—W. W. White.....	1,568
Geo. Barnes.....	165
For Register of Deeds—F. Lent.....	1,599
D. H. Morse.....	147
For Clerk of Court—H. J. Neal.....	1,159
H. Hufcut.....	590
For Surveyor—J. E. Sisson.....	1,511
Geo. A. Weir.....	189

J. A. Latimer was elected county commissioner for district No. 4, and Joseph Claggett for district No. 5.

Messrs. Wakefield and Hunter had a majority of the votes cast in the entire district and were elected, and so "points" and "No Homestead Taxation" won again, but the contest was a hard one and the majority small.

The winter closed in about the 15th day of November, when a very severe snow storm began and continued unabated for three days. And now the record of this year's events may be closed with the statement that on the 19th of December, C. W. Thompson, General Manager of the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, made a proposition to some fourteen of the townships of the county, to the effect that the company would build and complete its road to Winnebago City in this county, by the first day of January, 1871, if the towns named in the proposition would vote aid in the form of town bonds, payable in ten years with seven per cent annual interest to the amounts specified in the proposition, which was fifteen thousand dollars in all the towns but Winnebago City, of which twenty-five thousand was required.

In conclusion it may be written that in the way of immigration and permanent improvements, crops, weather, the public health and general prosperity, the year was one of the best in our history.

## CHAPTER XV.

A. D. 1869.

“Pr’y thee friend,  
Pour out thy pack of matter to mine ear,  
The good and bad together.”

## A CHRONICLE.

In those days it was so ordered by the mighty rulers of the State that in each division thereof, known by the name of county, there should exist a body of five wise men who should have the supervision of certain public affairs. And these men of experience in business matters, were chosen by districts composed of certain subdivisions named towns or townships, which small divisions were so made for the better government of the tribes and peoples thereof. Now it came to pass that on the fourth day of the first month of this year, these five prudent men met in council at the City of Blue Earth, the ancient capital of the county.

Now their names were Andrew, surnamed More, a patriarch of the land of Pilot Grove, and one Henry, surnamed Neal, a man of much wordly wisdom from the section of country known as Blue Earth, and Jacob, better known by the name of Alec, surnamed Latimer, who came from the division known as Winnebago City, and there was one named William, surnamed Robinson, whose people lived near the great water, called in the language of the English, Walnut lake, but in the language of the tribes which had been driven out, Ta-zu-ka, and there was the patriarch Joseph, surnamed Claggett, the man of ready tongue, who came from the regions known as Lura, to speak for the people thereof. And now it came to pass that as they were met together in council, the venerable man, Andrew, was chosen as chief for the year, and they then proceeded to consult together in regard to certain public affairs, and they made certain orders and directions, which seemed unto them necessary for the public good. Now they had a scribe, one named William, surnamed White, a learned man who could write, and who was also of the tribes about Walnut lake, who made a record of all that these wise men did, in a great book which has come down even unto our day. But there was nothing done at this council which would be of interest to the people of this generation. Now, after they had conferred together for two days, they returned to their own people. And it came to pass that

these wise men afterwards, in this year, in the third and sixth and ninth months thereof met in council again, and somewhat of that which they then did, is it not written in the book of the chronicles of the county?

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

An important meeting of the Agricultural Society was held at Blue Earth City on the fifth day of January. At this meeting the annual election of officers occurred, and L. W. Brown was re-elected president; Geo. W. Buswell was chosen secretary and Alex. Lati-mert reasurer. A full board of vice presidents, that is one vice president in each township, was selected, and a committee of members was appointed to attend a meeting of the State Agricultural Society, to be held in February. New life and energy seems to have been, from some cause, infused into the sluggish blood of the society, about this time, and was certainly much needed. Another meeting was held at Blue Earth City, July 17th, at which time a committee of one for each town in the county was appointed to prepare a premium list and appoint judges for the next fair, and this committee met on the 31st day of July and performed the duties assigned them. It was at this time also determined that the next fair should be held at Blue Earth City on the 16th and 17th days of September.

#### THERMOMETRICAL.

It may be recorded, as we proceed, that January, of this year was one of the mildest winter months ever known in this region.

#### THE FIRST "BONUSES."

The matter of leading public interest in the county during January, was the voting of "bonuses" by a number of towns, on the proposition of C. W. Thompson, referred to at the close of the preceding year, to aid in the construction of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, the route of which had been surveyed into the county and through the towns of Cobb, Walnut Lake, Lura, Guthrie and Winnebago City. Town meetings were held in these and some other towns, for the purpose of voting the bonds, called "bonuses," of the several towns, in various amounts, to aid in the building of the road. The proposition called forth a great deal of discussion. Many different views were entertained as to the necessity and expediency of the proceeding. The proposition failed in most of the towns, and in one of those voting favorably, Verona, the issue of the bonds was subsequently stopped by injunction, and another, Guthrie (Delavan) made haste to rescind the vote.

About this time petitions were again in circulation through the county praying the legislature, then in session, to pass Mr. Wakefield's bill in relation to taxation of homesteads, and this time they were of some avail.

## THE PARLIAMENT.

The legislature assembled January 5th, and adjourned March 5th. The only acts passed at this session of the legislature in which this county had any special interest were the following:

“An act to amend an act to authorize the towns of Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, Faribault, Martin and Jackson counties to issue bonds to aid in the construction of any railroads running into or through said counties.”

“An act to compel county auditors of the several counties of the State to strike from their several tax duplicates, certain taxes therein named.”

This was Mr. Wakefield's homestead tax bill of the previous year which had then failed.

It was now passed and disposed of—the question of homestead taxation; the views of the homestead settlers had triumphed.

Alexander Ramsey was at this session re-elected his own successor as United States senator.

James B. Wakefield, as intimated above, in the Senate, and James W. Hunter, of Jackson County, in the House, were our members of the legislature for this year.

## HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

The adoption of an important amendment to the homestead exemption law of the State, during the session of the legislature of this year, may warrant a few remarks here in relation to this important subject.

The homestead exemption law to which reference is here made, has no relation to the question of homestead taxation in regard to which much has been said heretofore in this history. This is a different subject.

The wisdom of the policy of exempting by law, a portion of land, together with the dwelling house thereon and appurtenances, either according to the quantity of land, or the value of the premises, from forced sale in payment of all ordinary debts or liabilities of the owner and his family, and the extension of such exemption to the widow and children of a deceased person, is coming to be recognized by most civilized nations.

We need not hesitate in saying at once, that such exemption is a most beneficent act, both for the individual and the State. And the courts of justice, in modern times, taking this view of the subject, are extremely liberal in their construction of the law, in favor of the beneficiary, and in protection of the right.

In estimating the extent and value of this exemption, it must be remembered that it is granted, not only for the benefit of the individual owner—a favor personal to him alone—who, often, indeed, may not, as a matter of justice, be entitled, because of his dishon-

esty, to such protection, but it is designed for the protection, also, of the wife and children of the owner—a right of theirs as well—who might otherwise be deprived of a home, for no fault of theirs. To the procuring of such homestead, their care and labor may, and generally does, largely contribute.

The ownership of the home secures the family from many ills, however poor the family may be, in other respects, and saves the public charities from many a burden they would otherwise have to bear.

The stale suggestion, heard sometimes, where the credit system prevails, that everything a man has should be holden for his debts, is sufficiently answered by the statement, that as the law exists, and is well-known to everyone, credit need not be granted to the owner of only a homestead, any more than it need be to one who has nothing.

The fault in such case, if any fault there be, is largely with the creditor, in his not exercising proper discretion. The suggestion is one prompted by that selfishness and avarice, which reduces everything to a sordid "business basis," gain, profit, per cent., and is without any conception of a correct public policy, or the higher, wider and more humane views of the subject.

The fact is that the home of a man, and his family, is somewhat different in a number of respects, from ordinary property, and is entitled to special protection.

By this law there is granted to every man and his family, one spot of earth with its sheltering tenements, which they may call their own. A man's dwelling here is "his castle," which no one may enter without his leave, except when he is armed with the strongest writs of the law. And this spot of earth he and his family may make as comfortable and as beautiful as they can afford—a spot which, whatever misfortunes, or mischances of life or business, may befall the owner, cannot be wrenched from him, and they be turned out homeless upon the world, except indeed, as the result of their own deliberate act of mortgaging the premises. Even in this solemn act of mortgaging the homestead, the law manifests a strong leaning towards its protection, and contains the wise provision that where the mortgagor is a married man, any mortgage given, except to secure the payment of the purchase money, shall be void, unless signed by the wife of the mortgagor. Thus are the strong, sheltering arms of the law thrown about this right.

And no mortgage should ever be placed on the homestead, except, possible, for the purchase money. If stress of circumstances compel the mortgaging of property, certainly prudence says, with a loud voice, let the homestead be the last thing to be thus encumbered.



It is unquestionable that having such homestead exemption for himself and family, the owner has not only the advantage of a secure basis from which to work, to repair his fallen fortunes, if such be the fact, or on which to build up prosperity and success, but he retains that manly courage, that hopefulness, and has that encouragement, all so necessary to success in the affairs and business of life. Secure here he goes forth bravely and manfully to fight the battles of life, to earn a subsistence and place in the world. This fact becomes evident when we consider the effects of a reverse condition. Divest a man and his family of their all; turn them out empty-handed, upon the charities of the world, poor and homeless, and it is not hopefulness and renewed effort that are likely to result, but despair, even recklessness and utter destruction are more likely to follow, conditions upon which, in many instances, degradation and crime follow fast. It is such conditions that, all over the world, are breeding communism and anarchism.

It may confidently be asserted that the possession of such exempt homestead has the tendency to make an independent, manly and interested citizen; independent, because he may live within himself, in a great measure, and is not dependent for his very shelter from the weather upon some master; manly, because independent, at least to this extent, and interested in the welfare and prosperity of the land, because he owns a part of it, instead of being a mere sojourner, a mere tenant. There is a pardonable pride, a satisfaction, a spring of hopefulness in the heart of every man who owns his home. How much stronger, in any view, is a land of well protected homesteads, than one of great land owners, and poor dependent tenants? There are principles involved here, that reach even to the liberties of a people.

What is the "fatherland" or any other land worth to a man in which he can have no personal interest, no certain foothold, no political rights worth fighting for? The Hebrew lawgiver realized the good policy of giving and securing to every head of a family a piece of ground with certain ownership thereof.

The same policy was recognized among the people of that wisest of the ancient nations, the Egyptians. To broaden a little more what has already been said, it may be added that ownership in the soil, especially if it is a protected homestead, is not only a question of public safety, but of good citizenship. Men who own property must support the laws and maintain good order, that their property may be protected and the enjoyment thereof made safe and agreeable, and this leads to interest in public affairs and promotes self-respect and patriotism.

A man who has never known the hard struggle of the many for comfortable subsistence, and to provide for and protect a loved

family, dependent alone upon his health and the labors of his hands, can appreciate the value of a protected homestead, and is incompetent to sit in judgment on the subject.

While property exempt from sale on execution for debt, should, of course, be always limited to a reasonable amount, the people should see to it that there is such exemption and that it is well guarded.

#### ANOTHER CONSIDERATION PERTINENT.

One of the greatest evils which oppress the nations of Europe to-day, arises from the fact that the ownership of the lands has passed into a few hands. Great landlords hold vast tracts of the country, while the people have no interests in the soil, and are simply tenants. This same evil existed in many of the ancient nations and was one of the principal causes of their downfall. This condition of affairs was especially intrenched in Europe through the operation of the old Feudal laws, but after their influence and operation began to wane, other causes arose to continue or produce the same conditions. The privileged, or aristocratic and titled classes, who had the wealth and opportunities which they made for themselves, began to acquire the lands, and continually added to their domains, until but few of the people—the masses of the citizens, who really constitute the nation, who are its strength, do its business, create its real wealth and fill its armies, have any interest in the soil they stand upon.

The tendency is now in the same direction in this country. Men of great wealth and rich corporations have begun buying up vast tracts of the best farming lands and holding them for speculative purposes, or by some, for the purpose of creating great estates.

Already more than one-half of the farmers of the eastern and middle states are but tenants, and pay rent in money or share of crops for the use of the land they till. Many of them once owned the land.

And what adds to this menace to our institutions is the fact that foreigners, aliens, individually, and in the form of great companies, are becoming the owners of millions of acres of American soil. And it is possible that this absorption of our lands may go on until alien owners may control the destiny of a state or states, where they have secured such a foothold. And judging from the fact of the great quantities of wild lands still existing here, and the silent and insidious approach of this evil, it will go on, largely unnoticed, for years hence.

But a day will come, and it cannot be far distant, when the people of this country, state legislatures and congress will become aroused to the fact, that our vast domain of valuable public lands, has about passed away, and that some limit must be placed on cor-

porate, and especially on alien, ownership of lands in this country. The lands of this nation should be held only by American citizens, who are actual settlers upon them, or directly interested in their cultivation and improvement.

America for Americans, native born or naturalized, must be our watchwords. Shall we allow it to be the fact that an American citizen cannot enter upon, or use, or buy, except at extortionate prices, any part of certain vast tracts of American soil, because that soil is owned by an alien and non-resident?

This country has no use for European landed estates, nor for any European landlord and tenantry systems. Why cannot the intelligent people of this nation—a people's nation—protect themselves from the well-known evils of which this is one, which have wrought the ruin of all the nations, whose wrecks blacken the highways of time through thirty centuries, or is there a predestined course, which all nations must run, from birth to final destruction?

#### THE HOME.

Intimately connected with the subject of homestead exemption, is that of the home itself, in reference to which the expression of a few thoughts here seem appropriate:

“Better than gold is a peaceful home,  
Where all the fireside charities come,  
The shrine of love and the heaven of life,  
Hallowed by mother, or sister or wife.  
However humble the home may be,  
Or tried with sorrow, by heaven's decree,  
The blessings that never were bought or sold,  
And center there, are better than gold.”

—Whittier.

It is said that the three sweetest words in the English language are “Mother, Home and Heaven.”

It is a true and beautiful thought. They are, indeed, a noble trinity, and they are intimately related, for with almost every home there is the mother, the most important and most loved one of the homefold, and we all hope that when done with time, heaven may be our final home. And it should not be forgotten how near we can make the home to heaven. It can, indeed, be made the doorway, at least, to that eternal home.

The poet and the orator have ever vied with each other in describing the home, its memories, associations and influences, and volumes have been filled with the subject. It may be stated here as a passing remark, that our own—the saxon race—as a general rule, have the best homes, and realize what real home life is to a greater extent than any other race of people on earth.

A man's home, the home of his childhood, or the home of his mature years, constitutes for him the center of the world from which all lines radiate—the point where all lines converge. Home to all is the basic point—the point from which all start on the voyage of life and the chief object of interest in the return from all wanderings. Here are our dearest treasures and nearest and truest friends, and with it are entwined our purest hopes, most unselfish labors and tenderest affections. It is our place of refuge and rest. And it is true that by far the greater sum of human happiness on earth is to be found in the quiet, contented and unambitious life of home.

Such being the importance of home with every human creature, the corresponding importance of making the home what it should be, ought to be recognized by everyone. And how great and generous the law is in protecting and making the home secure, we have seen above and it should be an incentive to all in their labors to secure comfortable and happy homes.

Every man in beginning life, if settled permanently, and, especially if married or if expecting to marry, should secure a homestead—a home of his own. Such a determination would, to begin with, be a method by which many a young man could save his earnings.

A man may have little influence or power in the great world around him, but here at least, in now his little empire, where he may exhibit his heart, his taste and his intelligence and be appreciated according to his real worth.

Homes are of many grades, from those of ease, culture and beauty, to those of ragged poverty, squalor, ignorance and vice, but in every land there are more real homes among those who are classed as the poor, or people in ordinary circumstances, than among those whom the world calls rich. Fortunately riches are not necessary to make a home, but good sense, kindly hearts and generous sympathies are, and these may be among the possessions of the poor as well as of the rich.

Safe and comfortable protection from the weather, healthfulness and as much convenience of arrangement as can be afforded, are a primary consideration in every home, and when all cannot be reached at once, all know how much can be done even by the poorest, in doing little by little, year by year, to reach the desired end.

Shade trees, neatly kept walks, quiet little arbors, evergreens and trailing vines, flowers, shrubbery and a green lawn, even if small, and neatness and cleanliness in all the surroundings are things which all enjoy and which all can have with little labor or cost, however poor, while the more wealthy can have these things and others on a larger scale and in greater abundance, in proportion to their means.

Then besides the articles of household use and comfort, those of the adornment of the home must not be forgotten. Pictures and other articles of taste and beauty should be, and happily can be, had in every home, however humble, and these things are a perpetual pleasure, and are of utility as educators of the mind and tastes and heart.

When man fell from his high estate of purity, and the angels who once had companionship with him went back to heaven, they forgot to take back with them a few things, among which music was one, and in every home on earth there should some sort of music be known and often heard. Let it be vocal, if nothing more can be had, but both vocal and instrumental, of some kind, if possible; yes, let music be cultivated in every home—it purifies the soul, rests the weary heart, elevates the thoughts, awakens our purest emotions and smooths the furrowed brow of care and toil.

Here, too, should be good books, the best the world affords, for in this day the best are as cheap as the poorest, and at the head of all should stand the old family bible. By them we are brought into intimate relations with the greatest and best of our race. And we should have pure newspapers for instruction, and to give us the news of the great outside world; and here the companionship of parent and child must not be forgotten, for it is the purest source of pleasure, the strongest bond of influence over the heart and life of both. The club for the man of family to join, is not the club on the street, or the one that meets in some secluded room, but is the home circle, the home club. Let the home be beautified and made attractive, if for no other reason, at least, for the good one of making the children happy, and when they go forth from it in after years to fight the battles of life, they may ever bear with them the hallowed influences and pleasant memories of childhood's years. The home and its influences will thus hold them in its grasp, however far they may stray away. It will not be long in any case when they must go forth from the home, when the storms of life, its cares, responsibilities and disappointments, will sweep around them. Life's duties of labor, good citizenship, of high and honorable purposes, will rest upon them. Oh! fathers and mothers, make your children, while yet in the home, strong in integrity, patriotism, industry, honor, intelligence; strong in true manhood and true womanhood. Certain erroneous views seem to be entertained by some people as to the home. It is not a place to go to only to eat and sleep and get shelter from the inclemency of the weather, but it is the abiding place. The home and not the public school is the primary place of education. The home and not the Sunday school, nor even the church, should be the primary school of religious instruction. The home and not the great world, or society, should be the primary school of man-

ners and of social life. The home and not the caucus, or the convention, or the public meeting, or the polling place, is the proper primary school in which to learn the duties of good citizenship and the lessons of patriotism. Some one has wisely said that "the real strength of a nation is in the homes of its people." And surely that is the most prosperous country which has the greatest number of happy homes. Home teaching, more than ministers and schools, or politics, is deciding to-day what the men and women of the future, and the destinies of our country will be. And now it may be remarked that no home, however large the tenement, however beautiful the surroundings and tasteful its adornments may be, can ever be a true and happy home, unless constant courtesy, good manners, mutual aid and sympathy, ready forbearance with each other's faults and foibles, respect for and obedience to parents and purity of life are found in it.

But there is still a step higher in the grade of the home and the life there lived.

Every home should be a Christian home, where Christian love and peace and cheerfulness shall reign. There is no development of civilized life so high, and so happy, as that of an intelligent, Christian home. Here the family altar is erected, and the living and known God is recognized in daily praise and prayer, and those many graces abound which spring up in the hearts and live in the lives of the true followers of Christ.

The influence of daily home worship, sensibly, not censoriously and exactingly conducted, is ever beneficent. "It makes men to be of one mind in a house." Though silent, it is irresistible and lasting. It tends much toward allaying selfishness, quieting jealousies and irritability. It subdues the passions, it softens the heart, elevates the sentiments and produces union, harmony and kindly consideration. Where the home is ruled by God's word, angels might tarry there a day, or a night, and not be out of their element. In such homes they have been seen and known in the long ago. May they not visit such homes now, though unseen by mortal eyes? But this is not all that may be said. The children who are brought up around the family altar, seldom, ever wholly, forget or lose the benefit of their teachings there. Among the social forces, none is stronger than the Christian teachings of the home of childhood.

A word more and these observations may be closed. The greatest special enemies of the home and the happiness which should be enjoyed there, are the rum seller, the infidel and the scandal-monger, all representatives of satan, and active about his business, and of all the works of satan, the desecration of the home is the vilest and furthest reaching.

And now it may be stated that all these remarks are but preliminary to the statement of the fact, which the writer is proud to record here as an item of this history, that our county has hundreds of real homes within its borders, happy homes, homes of comfort, taste, culture and refinement, and as the years roll on they increase in number, ever thus attesting to the advancement and elevation of our people.

#### THE SPRING.

The snows of the winter were carried off, early in April, with considerable rain, causing very high waters. The spring was quite unfavorable, and seeding was delayed until the middle of April and later in some localities.

It was encouraging to the people of the county, under the general conditions of the weather and the money market, that immigration commenced in April, to a considerable extent, which is much earlier than usual. The immigration continued during the spring and summer, but going mainly into the counties west of this, and the tide which was then setting strongly to those new counties, was great indeed. Money about this time was scarce, and the times grew pretty "hard," for all of which there was abundant reason.

#### THE UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE.

In the month of April, James B. Wakefield, of this county, was appointed receiver, and E. P. Freeman, of Blue Earth county, register of the United States land office, at Winnebago City, in this county. On the twenty-first day of August, the office was removed from Winnebago City to Jackson, in Jackson county. A very earnest effort was made at the time, to secure the office at Blue Earth City, and it was thought, confidently, for a short time, that the effort would be successful. Some persons were so sanguine that Blue Earth City would succeed, that they had already selected the location of the office building. But Blue Earth City was again, as years before, disappointed in its efforts. The public interests, it was said, required the location of the office further west, and westward with "the course of empire," the office took its way.

#### THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Owing to the rapid progress of settlement and improvement on the Pacific coast, and the requirements of a large part of the world's commerce, the necessity of a great trans-continental line, or lines, of railway, from the east to the west, was long apparent, and much discussed. But little, beyond enthusiastic talk, was done, however, until 1859, when congress authorized the great scheme. It was a project of great national importance, and worthy of, and of necessity had to be, taken under national patronage. Of the details of the

act we cannot here treat, further than to say, the act comprised the building of three lines of roads, the Northern, the Southern and the Central. The Central or middle line was the first to be completed. The construction of this, the greatest railroad in the world, in many respects, spanning the continent from the furthest east to the Golden Gate, was the most stupendous work ever undertaken by man, in any age or country.

The road was built from the western end eastwardly, by the Central Pacific Company, and from the eastern end westwardly, commencing at Omaha, Neb., by the Union Pacific Company. And it was on the tenth day of May, of this year, at Promontory Point, in the Territory of Utah, the two ends were united and this grand work completed.

It was to be expected that the completion of such a wonderful and valuable enterprise should be attended with great rejoicings throughout the whole country, and such was the fact. Spikes of pure gold and a hammer of pure silver were used in laying the last rail, and the blows of the sledge were telegraphed to all the great cities of the Nation, and then came the final telegram, "*The last rail is laid! The last spike driven! The Pacific Railroad is completed!!*"

#### THE FIRST DEPOT—WELLS.

And now let us look at home a little. We have also some railroad interests and many other matters of which to speak right here. It was in this month of May and in this year that the first railroad depot was located in this county. The location was on section 9, in the town of Cobb, town 103, range 24.

At this point it was designed by Col. C. W. Thompson, the proprietor, to lay off a town, which he soon proceeded to do, and the village of Wells loomed up on the prairies. A fuller account of the founding of Wells, will be found in the historical sketch of Clark township.

#### THE POST.

On the twenty ninth day of May the first number of *The Blue Earth City Post*, was issued at Blue Earth City. It was a seven column sheet and one of the neatest papers, typographically, in the State. The editors and publishers were Messrs. W. W. Williams and M. H. Stevens. The following brief extract from the salutatory indicates the views and purposes of the publishers. "The publication of *The Blue Earth City Post* has been commenced to supply, what seems to be, a demand here for a good reliable local and county paper. We shall attempt to supply this demand in a satisfactory manner, striving, faithfully, to do our part and rely on the public to aid us by giving us such an amount of patronage as our enterprise deserves.



‘Politically the *Post* will be liberally republican. \* \* \* We shall aim to make the *Post* a local, rather than a political, paper. The *Post* being published at the county seat, will contain a full record of current events, relating to county matters.” \* \* \*

There were now three newspapers in the county, the *Post* and *South West*, at Blue Earth City, and *The Free Homestead*, at Winnebago City. On the twelfth day of June, the *South West* appeared as a nine column sheet, and with a new and very fine heading. It was now a very large paper, one of the largest in the northwest and the editor, still Mr. Huntington, proudly claimed it to be the best. In typography and otherwise, the paper was greatly improved over former years.

#### JUSTICE.

The annual term of the District Court commenced June 1st. The term lasted eight days. This was the last term of court held by Judge Austin, in this county, he having been, as will be seen hereafter, elected Governor of the State.

#### MISERIES OF JURY DUTY.

“I’ll never serve on another jury as long as I live.” Said one of the jurors, to a friend.

“Yes it must be very tiresome,” replied the friend.

“It is, indeed, but that is not what I’m complaining about.”

“The loss of time is not repaid by the per diem and mileage.”

“I didn’t mind the loss of time so much. It was not the loss of time that galled me.”

“What was it that exasperated you so much?”

“Well when we were impaneled, some young sprouts of the law, looked us over, as if we were a pen of sheep. I heard a lawyer whisper to another, ‘well I guess we can handle that bunch of mullets,’ the other replied, giggling, ‘I guess they have not formed any opinions by reading the newspapers, from appearances,’ and a newspaper next day, describing the jury, referred to me, as being, apparently, a beef-headed young man, with ears that could be pinned together above my head. ‘I’ll plug that editor, when I see him, you bet-your-life.’—From an Arkansaw Paper.

#### THE INDIAN EXHIBITION.

In the spring of this year Capt. P. B. Davy, whose name has been mentioned heretofore in connection with several important enterprises, with several other residents of this county, inaugurated, after considerable discussion, the organization of an Indian show or exhibition.

More fully stated, the plan proposed was to collect together a number of native Red men, from the tribes of the northwest, with their lodges, ponies, carts, dogs, implements of war and the chase, and travel through the country exhibiting under a large canvas, pavillion and tents the Indians and their manners and customs, their

feasts, burials, dances, marriages, domestic economy, family life, modes of warfare and other interesting features of Indian life.

A large company, consisting mainly of residents of this county, was formed. The necessary outfit of tents, teams, wagons and other requisites were procured. The Indians, with all their native accoutrements were obtained, and in short, the Great Indian Exhibition was organized, and in June was announced in circulars and posters, of which the following were the head lines:

Ho! Ho!!

The most Instructive, Unique and Dignified  
Entertainment now travelling on the North American Continent.

Grand

North-western Indian Exhibition.

Consisting of One Hundred Native Indians,  
Including the Chiefs and Head Men of the Ancient Sisseton  
Tribe of Sioux, from the far-off plains of Dakota.

The arrangements moved along very successfully, and on the twenty-third day of June, the first public exhibition was given at Blue Earth City.

This first exhibition proved a great success, and demonstrated the fact, that under prudent management, sustained by sufficient capital until fairly started, and with favorable weather, the enterprise would certainly prove a profitable one.

But it must be added, that after a number of more or less successful exhibitions at various points in the State, the project had to be abandoned, and the company was broken up, mainly in consequence of almost incessant rains and storms encountered by the exhibition and the excessively bad roads.

It was reported currently in the newspapers of the time, that during this year, an unusual number of circus and other exhibition companies, principally from the same cause, became bankrupt.

Captain Peter B. Davy was a native of Canada, where he was born October 7th, 1830. He obtained his education in the common schools and at the Normal Academy at Toronto, where he graduated. He commenced teaching school at the age of fifteen years, and continued in that employment until he became eighteen years old. He was married in 1851 to Miss Calista M. Rose. They had two children, one of whom died in infancy. He came to the United States in 1852, and located in Chicago, Illinois, where he remained until 1854, when he removed to Waterloo, Iowa, where he continued to reside until July, 1857, when he came to this county. On his arrival here he purchased the steam saw mill at Blue Earth City, in which he was interested about two years. For several years he engaged in

the sale of various patents, selling territorial rights mainly, and in this business he visited various states.

In October 1862, he enlisted in the military service of the United States, and was chosen first lieutenant of Company "K," First Minnesota Cavalry, and the following year was promoted to the captaincy. While in the service he was with General Sibley in his expedition against the Indians.

The regiment was mustered out in December, 1863, and he immediately re-enlisted in the Second Regiment of Minnesota Cavalry, and was commissioned captain of Company H. He served until April 28th, 1866, when the company was mustered out of the service. He returned to Blue Earth City, and in 1867 he organized the Montana expedition, as heretofore stated.

Having conducted the expedition to Helena, Montana, he returned to Blue Earth City and organized the famous Black Hills expedition, also heretofore spoken of, but this failing, his next enterprise was the organization of the Indian exhibition above recorded. After settling up his affairs in this venture he returned to Blue Earth City and led a retired life. He took much interest in local affairs and was at one time president of the city council of Blue Earth City, and held other offices. Captain Davy was a mason and was for five years master of Blue Earth City Lodge, No. 57, and was a member of Mt. Horeb Chapter, R. A. M. No. 21, and had attained the 32° A. A. Scottish Rite. He was afflicted for some years with a disease of the throat and lungs, and went to Denver, Col., in the autumn of 1888, but finding no relief, he concluded to return home, but died on the way, January 7th, 1889. His body was brought home, and was interred in the Blue Earth City cemetery.

Captain Davy was twice married. His first wife dying, he married Mrs. Alzina M. Fockler, a widow lady, who survives him. His religious connection was from his youth with the Protestant Episcopal church, and in politics he usually acted with the democratic party, but he never was a partisan. His name frequently appears in this history.

#### THE GREAT ANNIVERSARY.

The fourth day of July of this year happened on Sunday, and was generally celebrated throughout the country on the third and fifth, thus affording, to enthusiastic young patriots the privilege, in some localities, of having two "fourths" in one year.

In this county, however, there was but little demonstration. At Bear's Grove, in Lura, at Minnesota Lake and at Banks, in Foster, the day was commemorated.

At other places match games of base ball, a little horse racing, some dancing in the evening, and the general consumption of fire

crackers were about all the indications that the spirit of patriotism still lived in this county.

Hear what a man who likes the old time Fourth has to say:

"Folks is gettin' kinder lazy, 'n they celebrate the Fourth,  
 Jist ez if their blood wuz colder than the blizzards of the North.  
 Wimern hate to hear a cannon, 'n their narves is all upshot  
 Ef a young 'un at the woodshed with his popgun takes a shot,  
 While the men have got so skittish that a cracker makes 'em cuss,  
 'N they want the celebration made without a bit o' fuss.

\* \* \* \* \*

Gimme back the celebrations when we split the air in two—  
 Them wuz days when life wuz better with the world 'n me 'n you;  
 Fer we glorified the country 'n the boomin' of the gun  
 Wuz the sound of patriotism, 'n we had a heap more fun,  
 While the lessons of the speeches made before the day wuz old  
 Made us love our flag 'n country, 'n her glories writ in gold."—*F. W. Lee.*

#### THE ECLIPSE.

"The sun's rim dips; the stars rush out!  
 With one stride comes the dark!"—*Coleridge.*

Undoubtedly a total eclipse of the sun is the grandest, most awe-inspiring natural phenomenon mortal eyes have ever beheld. The total eclipse of the sun, which occurred on the seventh day of August, of this year, was an exceedingly important one, in a scientific point of view, and it is written that "never were more extensive preparations made by governments, and men of science, to have thorough observations of a solar eclipse, than at this time."

It is hardly necessary to say that in all ages eclipses have been regarded by the ignorant "as alarming deviations from the established laws of nature" and indicative of the near approach of some great public calamity. Even so late as this year, there was a prophet of evil in an adjoining state who announced that "the eclipse was a judgment upon the world for its abominations, and that the path of its shadow over the earth would be marked by utter blight."

Much interest was taken by the people of this section of country in this eclipse, as the obscuration would be almost total at Blue Earth City, and complete only nineteen miles south of that point.

Several scientific men from St. Paul came to Blue Earth City, and on the seventh, accompanied by several citizens of that village, proceeded into Iowa, to a point on the wide open prairies, about nineteen miles directly south of that village.

As the hour of the eclipse approached, many were ready with their smoked glasses. As the time drew nearer, and nearer, the query arose in many minds and the question was laughingly asked, will the calculations of these astronomers, made years and years ago, be verified? A few minutes will tell, let us watch. As the index on

the dial reached forty-three minutes past three o'clock, p. m., lo, and behold, on time to the minute the eclipse commenced, the moon was seen to intrude upon the disc of the sun. Slowly, certainly, the darkness moved over the sun's face, the obscuration growing more and more, and then was seen the awful approach of the moon's shadow in the air. The heavens were darkened, stars and planets appeared, the air grew sensibly cooler. And now the crickets chirped, animals became strangely agitated, the birds bewildered, fluttered about the tree tops. A strange gloom overspread all nature, the trees, houses and other objects had a weird and unnatural appearance, and human faces assumed a pallid, ghastly look in the unnatural light, and when the eclipse had approached near totality all grew silent and grave, and a feeling of profound awe, even an indefinable dread took possession of the beholder, and the fearful thought came involuntarily to the mind, what if this eclipse should remain? At four o'clock and forty-eight minutes the obscurity began to pass off, and at five o'clock, forty-five minutes, p. m. the glorious sun, more beneficent now than ever, shown forth again in his full splendor, and a feeling of great satisfaction came to all, however wise and fearless they pretended to be. Such was an interesting event but briefly and imperfectly described. And now as an interesting item we copy the following:

#### WHAT AN ECLIPSE MIGHT BE.

A correspondent of the *Boston Post* says: "Few people trouble themselves to think what the effect would be if the eclipse of Saturday were to last any length of time, and the sun were blotted from the heavens. Philosophy declares that not only would a horror of darkness cover the earth, but the moisture of the atmosphere would be precipitated in vast showers to the earth, and the temperature fall to a fearful point of cold, nothing less than 230 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. The earth would be the seat of darkness, and more than arctic desolation. Nothing could survive such freezing cold a moment, more than one could breathe in scalding water. In three days after the cooling process began, nothing created would be alive but monsters that wallow in the deep ocean, and the eyeless reptiles that make their haunts in caves which penetrate far under ground."

A late issue of the *London Telegraph*, says:

"Apropos of the recent solar eclipse, a story worthy of Hackænder has recently gone the round of the German papers. It appears that on the morning of the event alluded to, Capt von S—, of the Fusilliers, issued the following verbal order to his company, through his sergeant major, to be communicated to the men after forenoon parade: 'This afternoon a solar eclipse will take place. At 3 o'clock the whole company will parade in the barrack-yard. Fatigue jackets and caps. I shall explain the eclipse to the men. Should it rain they will assemble in the drill-shed.' The sergeant major, having set down his commanding officer's instructions in writing as he had understood them, formed the company into hollow square at the conclusion of the morning drill, and read his version of the order to them thus: 'This afternoon a solar eclipse will take place in the barrack-yard, by order of the captain, and will be

attended by the whole company, in fatigue jackets and caps. The captain will conduct the solar eclipse in person. Should it rain, the eclipse will take place in the drill-shed.”

#### ANOTHER NEW “PAPER.”

The following item appeared in the *Homestead* of September 1st. “A Prolific County—Faribault. She has four newspapers and less than four thousand inhabitants. The *Prairie Bugle* is the style of the latest, and it is democratic. It hails from Wells, but one half of it is printed in Mower county and the other half in Milwaukee. It is a clever looking, seven column sheet, and reflects credit on the proprietors, Messrs. Wood and Cook, who are at present propelling the *Austin Democrat*. Democracy has now an organ through which to make itself heard at home, and we heartily wish the proprietors abundant success.”

#### THE HARVEST.

About harvest time the country was visited by heavy rains, accompanied by high winds. The result was a long and expensive harvest and great waste of grain in the handling. The summer was wet, short, and with the exception of a very few hot days, was quite cool. The wheat suffered somewhat, also, from blight and rust in this county, yet after all these unfavorable facts, the crop was large. The crop of oats was abundant, and notwithstanding the unfavorable season, corn yielded very well.

The following quotation, relative to the crops of this year generally, is taken from the *South West* of August 28th.

“A year of plenty is the cheering intelligence that comes to us from all points of the country. The wheat crop has yielded far above the average—cotton promises to furnish more bales than have been produced since the war. In the west, except in a portion of Illinois, the corn stands well and gives assurance of a large harvest—in the middle and northern states all kinds of grain have done well and potatoes, the farmers say, are “too plenty to pay.” In this county, however, that pestilent, destructive, stinking little bug, the Colorado beetle, or potato-bug, which had greatly injured our potato crop for several years, did much damage this year again ”

#### BAROMETRICAL.

The early part of September was characterized by heavy rains, and about the middle of the month the waters became very high and the roads almost impassable. The first heavy frost of the season occurred on the night of September 26th.

#### TEACHERS’ INSTITUTE.

The second State Teachers’ Institute was held at Blue Earth City, commencing September 20th. The instructors were Hon. Mark

H. Dunnell, state superintendent, Sanford Niles, county superintendent Olmstead county, and Prof. Carson, of Mankato. The institute was an entire success, but owing to the impassable condition of the roads and streams, the attendance of teachers was not as full as it should have been. A great local interest was taken by the people of Blue Earth City in this institute, who by their hospitality and efforts to encourage all its meetings by their attendance and interest in the proceedings, and in furnishing good vocal and instrumental music, at the evening meeting, did much toward rendering the institute a success.

#### THE FAIR.

The time of holding the fair having been changed, in was held at Blue Earth City, on the 6th and 7th days of October. The exhibition of grain, vegetables and fruits was very good, but other departments were very poor, and the attendance not large.

But little interest was manifested in the matter, which was owing to the fact that the farmers, generally, were at the time very busy in doing fall work, already long deferred on account of long continued rains.

#### THE FALL CONVENTIONS AND ELECTIONS.

The patriotic portion of the community, being those who were willing to accept office for the public good, concluded much earlier in the year than usual that the time had come to get the candidates in the field. Owing to various causes the "points" issue was now dead and the question of homestead taxation had been settled. But there was a governor and several state officers, a judge of the District Court, for this judicial district, a senator and representative and a number of county officers to be elected, and several amendments of the constitution of the State to be adopted or rejected,

In pursuance of a call the Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City on the twenty-eighth day of August, when the following nominations were made:

For Treasurer—R. B. Johnson.

For Sheriff—B. W. Barber.

For County Attorney—J. H. Sprout.

For Judge of Probate—J. A. Kiester.

For Coroner—A. J. Rose.

For Court Commissioner—J. A. Kiester.

The convention was quite harmonious, and all the nominations were made by acclamation, except that of sheriff, over which there was some squabbling.

Next came the Republican District Convention, which was held at Fairmont, Martin county, on the eighteenth day of September.

Mr. Wakefield, elected senator the preceding year, having been appointed receiver at the local land office, as stated above, resigned the office of senator, which rendered the election of another person to that office necessary to fill out the unexpired term.

J. A. Latimer, of Faribault county was nominated as the republican candidate for senator, and M. E. L. Shanks, of Martin county, for representative.

The democratic party held a convention at Fairmont also, on the twenty-fifth day of September, and nominated for senator Moses King, and for representative Phillip Huber.

On the seventh day of October the Democratic County Convention was held at Blue Earth City, and made the following nominations for county officers:

For Treasurer—Thos. S. Fellows.

For Sheriff—P. B. Fezler.

For Judge of Probate—D. H. Morse.

For County Attorney—Richard Field.

For Court Commissioner—T. C. Smith.

For Coroner—Loyal Dudley.

Mr. Field, soon after the convention, withdrew, and was not a candidate.

Owing to the fact that Hon. Horace Austin, judge of the sixth judicial district, to which this county belonged, was the republican candidate for governor and had resigned the office of judge, the election of a district judge became necessary. A judicial district convention was therefore held at Mankato, October 19th, when Andrew C. Dunn, of this county, was nominated as the republican candidate for that important office.

The democracy made no nomination, and the Hon. Franklin H. Waite, of Blue Earth county, became an independent candidate for the judgeship.

Notwithstanding, there was now a straight republican and a straight democratic county ticket in the field, there was some dissatisfaction in certain quarters, and so, to remedy the mistakes of the two parties in their nominations, a "People's Mass Convention" was called to assemble at Walnut Lake, October 23d, but the place of meeting was subsequently changed to Winnebago City. A convention was held at the time specified, but was not numerously attended. The result of the proceedings was the nomination of Hon. Patrick Kelley, of this county, for senator, and A. L. Patchin, of Martin county, for representative, and P. C. Seely was nominated for the office of sheriff. The nominees on the republican ticket for the other county offices were endorsed by this convention.

As has already been said, Hon. Horace Austin, of Nicollet county, was the republican candidate for governor, and Hon. Geo. L.



Otis, of Ramsey county, was the democratic candidate for the same office. With this expose of the political field, we now proceed to announce the result of the battle.

The decisive day, Nov. 2d, arrived, and when the shades of evening closed the day, there were, in the ballot boxes, of this county, seven hundred and thirty-eight votes for Horace Austin, for governor, and for Geo. L. Otis, democratic candidate for governor, three hundred and seventy-five votes. For judge of the district court, Franklin H. Waite had seven hundred and seventy-six votes, and Andrew C. Dunn had three hundred and thirty-three.

For Senator:

J. A. Latimer had of the votes .....	776
Patrick Kelley.....	138
Moses King.....	188

For representative there were for:

M. E. L. Shanks.....	482
Phillip Huber.....	173
A. L. Patchin .....	353

For county offices the several candidates received the following number of votes:

For county treasurer:

R. B. Johnson had.....	934
T. S. Fellows .....	207

For sheriff:

B. W. Barber had.....	524
P. C. Seely.....	414
P. B. Fezler.....	189

For county attorney:

J. H. Sprout (no opposition) had.....	648
---------------------------------------	-----

For judge of probate:

J. A. Kiester had.....	885
D. H. Morse had.....	251

For coroner:

Loyal Dudley had.....	254
A. J. Rose .....	878

For court commissioner:

T. C. Smith had .....	253
J. A. Kiester.....	814

A. R. More was elected county commissioner for the first district.

Austin was elected governor, Waite, district judge, and Latimer and Shanks were elected in the legislative district.

The varieties of tickets used at this election were prodigious, and each candidate for a county or legislative office, wanted his name on each style of ticket. There was the "Regular Republican" ticket. "Regular Democratic," "Workingman," "Farmers," "People's," "Split," "Bogus," and "Bummers," and other varieties too numerous to mention.

## PRICES.

Prices during the fall ranged as follows, wheat 70c, oats 35c, corn 40c, potatoes 25c per bushel, flour \$2.50 to \$3.00 per hundred. Wheat stood at an average of 60 to 70 cents most of the summer and fall, but at one time (in December) became as low as 53 cents, at Waseca, our railroad market at the time.

And now the year's record is completed, with the following quotation, from a popular and valuable work.

"This year closes a most important era in the history of the United States, and of the world. The account with the civil war was definitely closed, and the final seal set on the policy of reconstruction by the inauguration of Gen. Grant, president, and the continuance of the republican party in power by the people together with the re-admission of most of the southern states and the possibility of the reversal of the decision in regard to slavery done away by the adoption of the amendment to the constitution, giving the elective franchise to the colored population. Much emphasis was given to all these things by the prosperity of the country and the rapid reduction of the debt, by the generally wise conduct of the southern people and the slowly increasing prosperity of that section. These results reacted in other countries to strengthen the tendency to freer and more popular governments, and seem, in some respects, to have introduced the era of republicanism."

## CHAPTER XVI.

A. D. 1870.

“Master, Master! news, old news, and such news as you never heard of.”

—*Shakespeare.*

We have now reached another year of general accounting—a year of the national census. We have now grown to the stature of an important county in the State, and we step up upon a higher plain. Behind us is a period of fifteen years, with all their improvements, increase of population and accumulations. Among other things done during this time, many school houses were built, a number of church buildings erected, various societies formed, many public roads opened, and thousands of acres of land put under cultivation. And we now begin a new decade, with considerable means to make great and valuable advances in the future.

## HERE THEY ARE AGAIN.

In commencing the history of this year, it is necessary to state that the county commissioners assembled on the fourth day of January, and proceeded to organize by electing Andrew R. More, Sr. chairman.

They held subsequent meetings commencing March 24th, June 30th and September 6th, but a careful examination of the record discloses nothing of historical value, the business done being simply of the ordinary routine character.

In writing the annals of a people, or locality, where events of public interest should be stated, in chronological order, there is the constant repetition each year of certain public official occurrences, of the same general tenor, which causes a sameness in the history of the several years, and becomes monotonous, but which cannot readily be avoided. Yet it may be remarked that while some of such events may not be of much interest to many persons, there are always some—those whose names are mentioned, or other actors in the events, who are interested in reading them. Many readers of books understand the brainless “art of skipping,” and when the reader of these annals strikes a paragraph of no interest, it would be advisable to “skip along.” It may be observed, generally, and should be remembered, that while some events chronicled in history, may be of little interest to one reader, they may be of great interest to another.

## THE GREAT AMENDERS.

The twelfth State Legislature assembled at the capitol January 4th and adjourned March 4th. In the legislature of this year, our senator was J. A. Latimer, of this county, and our representative in the lower House was M. E. L. Shanks, of Martin county. The acts passed at this session having a special relation to this county, were the following: First. "An act to establish an additional term of the district court" in this county.

Prior to this there was but one term of court held in the county annually, but the increasing business required an additional term. By this act the terms were set for the first Tuesday of January and the first Tuesday of June in each year.

Second. An act amendatory of the act of 1868, authorizing towns to vote aid to railroad companies. Third. An act confirming the action and resolutions of the common council of Mankato \* \* \* relative to the issue of bonds to the M. & N. W. R. R. Co., (now Minnesota Central) and the election held ratifying said resolution.

To note here an important item in our railroad history and to understand the relevancy of the above act to this county, it is necessary to say, that the City of Mankato, in Blue Earth county, adjoining this county on the north, had voted to issue to the railroad company above-named, \$65,000 in bonds, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of a railroad from Mankato to Wells, in this county, and from a point on said route at, or near, Good Thunder's Ford to the Iowa state line, *via* Blue Earth City. The above act, as its title imports, was passed to confirm and legalize the proceedings. In connection with this same project, Mr. Drake, president of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Company, had, in December of the preceding year, agreed to build the road from Good Thunder's Ford by way of Blue Earth City, to the Iowa state line, there to connect with a proposed road in Iowa, provided the several townships along the line of the road should vote a certain amount of aid in the shape of town bonds. One-half of the bonds voted by the City of Mankato was to apply on the Blue Earth City branch, as it was called. But the whole project, so far as this county was concerned, for some inscrutable reason failed, and being a failure, it is not necessary to pursue the subject further here.

## THE FIRST RAILROAD.

On the fifth day of January, of this year, our first railroad, the Southern Minnesota, was laid across the east line of the county, and on that day the first train of cars which ever entered upon the soil of this county steamed in with noise and smoke, and on the thirteenth day of the same month the road was completed to Wells, and

on that day the first train of cars whistled, thundered and puffed into that village, amid loud exclamations of rejoicing. And now Wells was to be, for a brief period, the railroad market and commercial metropolis of the county.

#### THE COUNTY PRESS.

In the early part of January, the *Prairie Bugle*, to which some reference was heretofore made, ended its career, and its "stirring notes" ceased to be heard resounding over the prairies. But its place was taken by a more permanent and valuable journal, the *Wells Atlas*, which appeared about the twentieth day of January. It was published at Wells, in this county, by C. A. Lounsberry, formerly of the *Martin County Atlas*, and was a seven column sheet, and very creditable in matter, typography and general appearance. The paper was republican in politics. We have not a copy of the first issue at hand to give exact dates and the introductory remarks of the editor.

There were now four newspapers published in the county, the *South West* and *Post* at Blue Earth City, the *Free Homestead* at Winnebago City and the *Atlas* at Wells, certainly enough, considering the population, to enlighten the people on all subjects of public interest.

#### A STORM—SPRING AND SEEDING.

A terrific snow storm, attended with severe cold, occurred on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of March. The whole country was covered by immense banks and drifts of snow, in every direction. During this storm a Mrs. Bates and three small children were frozen to death in the town of Brush Creek, a more full account of which is given elsewhere. Others in this county and some in Martin and Jackson counties were badly frozen, and stock suffered severely.

The spring opened and the ice in the streams began to break up and the waters to run, about the twenty-eighth day of March, and seeding commenced this year on the eighth of April.

#### CHIPS AND SPLINTERS.

(From the Homestead.)

Feb. 16th. Wheat is "firm" at Wells, at fifty-two cents for No. One. A few mornings ago the mercury indicated 30 degrees below zero, the lowest it has been this winter. Now we are enjoying almost Indian summer weather and pretty good sleighing.

March. There is no doubt whatever that the most prosperous section of our country, at this time, is in the south. Money is plenty there and keeps moving more lively than elsewhere.

16th. The mails are delayed on account of the snow, and no news of the week has yet been received.

—License or no license. This question will be voted on, in Winnebago City, at the next town meeting.

—As you pass along through life, be kind and sympathizing; bestow smiles and gentle words upon your fellow pilgrims. Thus you will bring happiness to you heart and strew your path with fadeless flowers.

—During the terrible storm of wind and snow, last Tuesday, a large eagle, measuring seven feet from tip to tip of his wings, descended, for protection against the weather, on the farm of Mr. S. Crandall.

—Religious.—A few weeks since there was but one professing Christian among the business men of the city. Now they number thirteen, and over sixty persons in all have been converted in the revival meetings here.

#### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

On the first day of June of this year, "The Faribault County Sunday School Association and Institute," was formed at Winnebago City, by the adoption, at a public meeting called for the purpose, of a constitution and the election of officers.

The object of the association is declared in the second article of the constitution to be, "For the awakening of a greater interest in the cause of Sunday schools, and a higher culture of teachers for the work."

The board of officers consists of a president, two vice presidents, a secretary and treasurer. A committee is appointed at each meeting to prepare, in good season, a program of exercises, and make all necessary arrangements for the next meeting.

The association is defined to be "a delegated body composed of five members from each school, which number shall include the pastor and superintendent of the respective schools." The minutes of this first meeting state that the convention was well attended and considerable interest was manifested throughout the session, which continued two days.

The officers elected for the year were the Rev. J. D. Todd, president; D. B. Thurston and O. A. Albee, vice-presidents, and C. J. Farley, secretary and treasurer.

It appears that, for some reason, no meeting was held in 1871. The meeting held in 1872, is named the second annual meeting in the records of the association. The meetings were regularly held thereafter, annually, and constantly grew in interest and importance.

At this first meeting, among other action taken, it was resolved to circulate in all the Sunday schools a temperance pledge and a pledge against *profanity* and the *use of tobacco*. A peculiar and most valuable feature of the exercises at the several meetings, is the children's meeting, a time for which is set apart and to which all the children of the locality are invited and take part in certain exercises arranged for the occasion.

The Minnesota State Sabbath School Association was organized in 1858, and holds an annual convention. The State, as well as the

county societies, are entirely undenominational. Each county, or district society, is an auxilliary of the State society.

Sunday schools were instituted at a very early day of the Christian era, probably about the close of the second century. And all along down the centuries these schools have been known at various times, and in different countries, until the time of the institution of modern Sunday schools. It is said there was a Sunday school in Roxbury, Mass., in 1674, which was probably the first one in America. But these schools were not such Sunday schools as we have now. They were not, as a rule, designed for religious instruction, but were intended to provide elementary instruction to the children of the poor who could not attend the day schools, or those who had no other time or opportunity of getting instruction. Modern Sunday schools were originated by the Rev. Thomas Steck, of Gloucester, England, a clergyman of the Church of England, about the year 1779 or 1780 and who, in the latter year, associated with himself, Robert Raikes, who reorganized the schools existing in his charge, and thereafter took the main care of the schools and the extension of the system, and has come to be recognized, and properly so, as the real founder of modern Sunday schools. It is not necessary here, or at this day, to give any description of the Sunday school system, or to present any arguments in its behalf, though there are those who question the methods used, and there are some who even doubt the value of the institution itself.

Its adoption by all the religious denominations throughout christendom, and its *self-evident* value as a means of moral and religious instruction and discipline, is a sufficient answer to all objections and are

“—— Confirmations Strong  
As proofs of Holy Writ,”

Of the value of these schools. The Sunday school has been justly called, “the nursery of the church,” and it is in them, at this day, that *more than one-half of our young people*, whether rich or poor, or whether the children of educated or illiterate parents, get most of their religious knowledge and training—instruction which but for the Sunday school, many of them, owing to the neglect, or incompetency of parents and others, would never get.

It is, indeed, one of the most beneficent institutions of modern times and is doing a great, a good work—one of incalculable value to the world.

It is gratifying to know, also, as might have been reasonably supposed, that the Sunday school has met the approval and received the attention and labors, in almost every country, of men and women of the highest intellectual culture, of great moral worth and high position. And right here it may be said, for the profit of a certain

class of persons, who think themselves a little above the business of a Sunday school teacher, or who, because of the shallow knowledge they possess of this institution, affect to ridicule it, that many of the greatest and best men of this nation have taken a direct and personal interest in Sunday school work. That in England, the late Lord Hatherley was a Sunday school teacher for forty years, and that two of the Lord Chancellors—Lord Cairns and Lord Selborne, were both very attentive and efficient Sunday school teachers.

#### THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

It appears, by reference to Neill's History of the State, that the first Sunday school in the State, and in fact, the first in the Northwest, was instituted at Fort Snelling, in 1823. It was, however, but a temporary organization.

The first permanent Sunday school in Minnesota was established at St. Paul, July 25th, 1847. "Seven scholars attended, and there was such a mixture of races among these that an interpreter was necessary, who could speak French, English and Sioux, before all could be made to understand the instructions given. The school increased to twenty-five scholars by the third Sunday \* \* \* and finally became the Sabbath school of the First Baptist Church—so that said society claim to have the oldest Sunday school in Minnesota."

The first permanent Sunday school in this county—one which has continued to this day—was instituted in 1858, in the town of Pilot Grove, by several members of the Presbyterian church. A Sunday school was, however, held prior to this one, in Winnebago City township, the exact date of which cannot now be found, but this school did not long continue. It may, therefore, be said that the Pilot Grove school is, at least, the oldest existing Sunday school in the county.

The number of Sunday schools in the county, their membership, the progress made by them, and the condition of the Sunday school work in the county, will be noted from time to time, in the accounts given in this work, of the meetings of the Association.

And now, in concluding this subject here, the writer desires to express the most earnest hope that the Association may be greatly prosperous, that every pastor, superintendent, or other officer, and every teacher, in our Sunday schools, may be enlightened and guided by the Holy Spirit, in their noble work—a work beneficial to the State, as well as to the advancement of religion—a work which shall tell, not only in time, but in eternity, and which is indeed, and in truth, work done for the Master, and which shall at some time, and somewhere, receive its proper reward.



## JUSTICE.

The June term of the District Court commenced its session on the seventh and continued nine days. This was the first term in this county at which one new judge, the Hon. Franklin H. Waite, presided. No causes of special public interest were tried.

What a dull item this is? Let us enliven it a little by relating a joke, not connected, indeed, with our court, but which was floating around in the newspapers of the time. A certain judge who was quite lenient and not noted for keeping very orderly courts, one day became quite impatient, owing to the noise and confusion, and suddenly exclaimed, "Mr. Sheriff!"

"What your honor," said the sheriff.

"Try and keep a little order in the court room," said the judge, "here we have already committed four prisoners without hearing a word of the evidence."

## A HEATED TERM.

The last three weeks of June were excessively warm, being the hottest term yet known in this county. During most of this time the thermometer ranged from 90° to 98° in the shade. The earth became parched, as there had been no rain for a considerable period, and the crops suffered severely.

## A NEWSPAPER CHANGE.

Exit—The *Free Homestead*, on the eighth day of June, after a career of six years of considerable prominence and influence. Mr. Ed. A. Hotchkiss, retiring editor, favors his readers with probably the briefest valedictory on record. "To-day we are Ed. To-morrow we shall be Ex."—and bows himself off the editorial stage.

Entre—A. E. Foss, June 23d, making a very graceful obeisance to the public and presenting *The Winnebago City Press*.

## THE ANNUAL GLORIFICATION.

Some reader might think the history of this year incomplete, should the statement be omitted that the fourth of July was celebrated at Blue Earth City with appropriate ceremonies and patriotic ardor. The great charter was read by Prof. E. P. Bartlett, and an eloquent oration was delivered by Rev. C. A. Stine, of Mankato. The day was very pleasant and many people were in attendance. The newspapers seemed to intimate that two or three individuals, on this occasion, permitted their patriotism to degenerate into patriotism which was disgraceful, both to themselves and the day. It does not appear that the day was celebrated in a formal manner at any other place.

## ANOTHER STORM.

A memorable storm, the most severe of the summer, really a tempest of wind, rain and hail, occurred on the nineteenth day of July, coming up from the southwest. This tornado did much damage in the county, especially in the villages. Wells and Minnesota Lake suffered the most. At the former place several houses were blown over, others badly shaken. Roofs were blown off from many houses, and barns thrown down, sign boards, fences and outhouses were, everywhere, damaged to a considerable extent.

## CUTTING THE GRAIN.

The harvest of this year, which began in the last week of July, was not abundant. Wheat was light, averaging about ten bushels per acre. Barley and oats gave us about two-thirds the usual yield. The weather during harvest was exceedingly warm and sultry. The following remarks are quoted from the report of the commissioner of statistics, relative to the crops of 1870 :

The difference between good and bad farming was never, perhaps, more signally illustrated than by the results of agriculture in Minnesota, in 1870. With an auspicious season—when from seed time until harvest the temperature is favorable, the rains timely, and the approving heavens conjure the earth of her abundance, the blunders and follies of the worst husbandry are corrected, and all alike rejoice in general abundance, but when the elements are perverse, and the struggling grain is beset with vicissitudes, the test of the *true* farmer is assured. Such was the season of 1870. Its commencement was early and auspicious, and until the drought and heat began in June, the crops were everywhere alike promising. Then a difference in the fields began to manifest itself, which became more and more palpable as the season advanced. Those which had been deeply ploughed early the previous fall, withstood the dire heat and prolonged drought, and maintained their luxuriant vigor to the end, while the shallow fields, hastily ploughed in the spring, grew rapidly worse, and seemed literally to dry up and disappear.

## THE FIRST JAIL.

During the course of this history allusion has been made several times to the action of the county authorities in reference to the building of a jail. It may now be stated that during the month of August, of this year, that useful institution was erected. It was a one-story frame building, sixteen feet by thirty feet in size. The north half of the building was fitted up for the purposes of a jail, and contained two sheet-iron cells. The south half was finished up as a residence for the turnkey.

## FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

A brief space occurring here in our manuscript, it may be filled by the statement that during this year a great war was waged between France and Prussia. It was prosecuted upon a very large

scale and with tremendous vigor, and was short and decisive. The Emperor, Napoleon III, of France, was defeated and taken prisoner by the Germans; his government was set aside by the people of France, who founded a republic.

On the seventh day of September the French Republic was recognized by the United States government.

On the twenty-eighth of January, of the next year, the city of Paris capitulated to the Germans, which ended the war, terms of peace being soon arranged, and on the first day of March following, the Germans made a triumphal entry into Paris. Many of our citizens were natives, respectively, of these two great nations, and of course took a deep interest in the progress and results of the war.

#### A CHIMERA.

During the summer an enterprise was broached and somewhat discussed, of dividing the counties of Faribault, Freeborn and Martin, in such a manner as to make the village of Wells a central location for the county seat of a new county to be formed by the divisions proposed. The project was designed so as to leave Blue Earth City the county seat of what remained of the old county. The scheme, however, was not viewed favorably by any one except a few persons in Wells, where it originated. It was "a fond thing vainly invented," and was soon dropped as entirely impracticable. There was, also, considerable talk during the year in certain localities, in reference to the removal of the county seat, which culminated in certain action which we shall notice hereafter.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A few words must here be said in relation to the Agricultural Society.

At the annual January meeting L. W. Brown, of Prescott, was elected president and A. A. Huntington, of Winnebago City, secretary. Yet it appears that notice was given of a meeting to be held at Winnebago City, June 4th, for the election of officers. Of the purport of this it is not now profitable to inquire.

The fair was held at Winnebago City on the 22d and 23d days of September. There was considerable jealousy existing at the time between the several villages relating to the society, and much general dissatisfaction as to the affairs of the society, all of which tended to interfere with its success, and as a result the fair of this fall was not encouraging.

In connection with the subject in hand, it should be recorded as a matter of history that there existed at the time of which we write, and for a number of subsequent years, a growing inclination among the farmers throughout the country generally, and to some extent in

this county, to leave the farm and crowd into the towns and cities, under the supposition that life was easier and better there than on the farm.

The extent to which this disposition has prevailed and now prevails, is much greater in some localities than in others. The old fashioned quiet contentment with farm life, seems, with many, to have passed away for some reason. There are doubtless a number of causes which are operating to bring about such a result, in various localities, but without attempting to enumerate, or speculate, as to the causes, or prescribe a remedy, we shall quote here a very appropriate article somewhat humorous as well as practical, from that curious paper, *Peck's Sun*, (Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

#### THE FARMER'S MISTAKE.

"An exchange speaks of the departure of an old settler to Dakota, where he will take up a quarter section of land and start again in life at the age of 70. The man had a nice farm near a splendid town, where he had lived and brought up a family. He got tired of farming, sold the farm for \$6,000, moved to town and went into the livery business, and in three years went through everything except a team and lumber wagon, and now he has packed and gone to Dakota, with a heart heavier than his pocket-book, and he will die out there. The number of farmers who decide to go to town to live, every year, and go into business, is appalling. Every town has them, and nine out of ten become poor. They get an idea that town business men are the happiest people on earth and have an easy time, and they get to brooding over their hard life, and they think any body can run a store, a grocery, or livery stable, and they sell out the farm and go into the grocery business because it seems so easy to weigh outsugar and tea. They can always find a grocery man who will sell the remains of his sick stock of groceries for ready cash, and when the farmer first sees his name over the door of a grocery he feels as though he was made, and he puts his thumbs in the armholes of his vest. The farmer's girls and boys realizing that they are merchant's sons and daughters, instead of farmer's, have to keep up with the procession. There have to be things bought as merchants that would never be thought of as farmers. The farmer's furniture is not good enough, the democratic wagon gives place to a carriage, the old mares gives place to high steppers, and the girls dress better and do not work. The family lives out of the grocery, the boys play base ball and the girls go to big parties. The farmer is a good fellow and trusts many other good fellows who can't pay, and in some cases he gets to drinking. Bills begin to come in, and he can't collect enough to pay rent. Friends that would help him out with money are mighty scarce, and he will have to give a chattle mortgage on the stock. The stock runs down until there is nothing but a red tin can of mustard with a bull's head on it, some canned peaches and cove oysters on the shelves, a few boxes of wooden clothes-pins, six wagonloads of barrels with a little sugar in the bottom, a couple of dozen washboards, a box of codfish of the vintage of 1860, which smells like a glue factory, a show-case full of three cent wooden pocket combs and blueing, hair pins and shaving soap, some empty cigar boxes, that the boys have smoked the cigars out of, and a few such things that do not bring enough at an auction to pay for printing the auction bills. Then the farmer breaks up and goes west, leaving a lot of bills in the hands of the lawyer for collection, who manages to collect enough to pay his commission, and

the family, once so happy on the farm, and as independent, becomes demoralized, the girls marry chambermaids in livery stables rather than go west, the boys go to driving hack or working on a threshing machine, or tending bar, and refuse to go west; and the old folks go to Dakota alone and wish they were dead, and will be quick enough. This is the history of thousands of farmers who get tired of the old farm. If they would but realize that they were better fixed than nine-tenths of the merchants in town, and they can not become successful merchants any more than merchants can become successful farmers, they would be learning something that would be valuable to them.

#### THE POTATO-BUG.

The potato has become a very important article of diet, with many nations. It is easy of production, always healthful, convenient and desirable. No other vegetable can fill its place. A well-set table seems to lack something if potatoes, in some form, are not present. The old and the young alike are fond of them. Who ever saw a boy who did not like fried potatoes and gravy. While it is an important item of food with the rich, it is almost indispensable with the poor. Its scarcity is a great calamity. All nationalities are the friends of the potato. The American is proud of it as a native production. The Frenchman must have his *Pomme de Terre*, the Irishman his 'praties,' the German his *kartoffle*. This valuable vegetable, of the finest quality, is usually produced in great abundance in this county, and at one time Minnesota was famous for its fine potatoes, large quantities of which were exported.

Some allusion has been heretofore made, in the course of this history, to the ravages of the potato-bug in this county for a number of years. Nothing, not even the rot, has ever been so destructive to the potato crop, and so much to be dreaded as the potato-bug.

The native habitat or home of this insect, more properly named the Colorado potato-beetle, has been found to be in the canyons and high table-lands of the Rocky Mountains. It began its eastward march from Colorado about 1859 or 1860, and in about fifteen years, spread over the whole potato-growing sections of the United States and Canada, being the most numerous and destructive in the northern portions of the country. They reached the Atlantic States in 1874, and the seaboard in 1875, and finally passed over to Europe, where they did great injury and created much alarm. Among the first of the European countries to be attacked, was Ireland, in which country, more than in all others, the potato is useful and esteemed. And about that time some newspaper itemizer, forgetting the seriousness of this matter, wrote that "The potato-bug has always been had enough, goodness knows, but think of his coming back to us with a brogue and a shillalah!" Many methods were used to destroy these insects and protect the potatoes, but the most effectual proved

to be the use of paris-green, either in the dry powder, sprinkled upon the vines when the dew was on, or in the form of a liquid, that is, the green mixed with water and sprinkled over the vines. But no method appeared to be entirely successful in destroying them. In this year (1870) also, these vermin were very destructive in this county, but it was the last year of their reign here. Another bug—a mightier bug than the potato-bug, in the capacity of its stomach and appetite, if that were possible—a bug that had a long bill, or nib, and that cared nothing for potatoes appeared, looking about for potato-bugs, and the pests of years disappeared silently and quickly, not standing upon the order of their going, and every lover of that healthy esculent said heartily with the Irishman, “Bad luck go wid ye, ye bastes.”

#### DELAVAN.

On the 10th and 11th days of October, a new town site was surveyed and another village founded in this county. It was located on section 36, in town 104, of range 27, on the line of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, and was named “Delavan.” This was the fifth village in the county, according to number and age. A fuller reference to this village will be found elsewhere in this work.

#### RAILROADS AGAIN.

All the former projects and efforts to secure a north and south railroad through the county having failed, a new proposition to build a road was now submitted to the people of Blue Earth City and the adjoining towns, by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota Railroad Company. The substance of this proposition was that, if the several towns interested should vote to the company \$85,000 in town bonds, running twenty years and bearing seven per cent interest, donate to the company forty acres of land adjoining the village of Blue Earth City, and secure the right of way from the Iowa state line from the point where the road should cross the line to Blue Earth City, the company would extend their road to that village, completing it to that point by the first day of December, 1872. The proposition was made in good faith, no doubt, and was so accepted. The bonds were voted, mainly in October, the amount required being so nearly secured that it was satisfactory, the vote in the several towns was formally accepted by the company, the forty acres of land was contracted for and the right of way mainly obtained.

A preliminary survey of the route was completed to Blue Earth City on the twenty-sixth day of November, and was found practic-

able and easy of construction, and now, to dispose of this project, it is sufficient to say, the road was not built into this county.

“I never had a piece of bread,  
Well butter'd, nice and wide,  
But fell upon the sanded floor,  
And on the butter'd side.”

#### A POLITICAL SATURNALIA.

The time has now arrived to give some account of the most bitter, exciting and, we may well add, the most disgraceful political contest ever known in the annals of this county.

And first it is necessary to show when and how the candidates were placed in the field.

On the tenth day of September, the democracy held a convention at Blue Earth City and made the following nominations:

For Senator—Moses King.

For Representative—Harlow Seeger.

For County Auditor—George Barnes.

For Register of Deeds—C. L. Chase.

Mr. Chase did not, however, remain a candidate.

The republicans held a convention on the eighth day of October at Blue Earth City. The convention was very fully attended and was characterized by much strife.

W. W. White was nominated for county auditor and J. R. Sisson for county surveyor.

Thirteen formal ballots were taken for register of deeds, there being three candidates for the nomination, but as neither candidate could secure a majority of the whole vote, no nomination was made. Ten delegates, over whom there was a hot contest, were chosen to represent this county in the Legislative District Convention.

These delegates were understood to be favorable to the nomination of Geo. W. Whallon, of Blue Earth City, for senator, and Geo. C. Chamberlin, of Jackson, for representative.

On the eleventh day of October, another county convention, called the “People’s Convention” assembled at Winnebago City. This convention formally nominated W. W. White for auditor, J. R. Sisson for surveyor, and Frank Lent for register of deeds. At this convention also, ten delegates were elected to represent this county in the Legislative District Convention. These latter delegates were understood to be favorable to the nomination of C. W. Thompson, of Wells, for senator, and A. L. Patchin, of Martin county, for representative. The legislative district was, at the time, composed of the counties of Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Nobles, Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone and Rock.

The district convention for the nomination of candidates for senator and representative, assembled at Fairmont, Martin county, on the twelfth day of October.

Two sets of minutes of the proceedings of this convention, each signed by a chairman and secretary, were published as official.

It appears by the one report, that H. J. Neal, one of the delegates chosen by the regular county convention of this county, called the meeting to order, and was thereupon elected chairman, and J. W. Cowing, of Jackson, secretary, and then Geo. W. Whallon was nominated as the candidate for senator, and Geo. C. Chamberlin, for representative, after which the convention adjourned.

By the other report it appears, that A. Fancher, of Martin county, was chosen chairman and A. E. Foss, of this county, secretary, whereupon C. W. Thompson was nominated as the candidate for senator, and A. L. Patchin for representative. Several resolutions were then adopted, after which the convention adjourned.

The fact was that each party was determined to nominate its candidates, at all events, and that both conducted their proceedings at the same time and place, the Thompson party continuing their proceedings for a short time after the Whallon party had adjourned.

We shall not attempt to determine the legality of either set of nominations, as the legality, or regularity of the proceedings, does not appear to have been a matter of much consequence to either set of delegates.

About this time, Geo. A. Weir was announced as an independent candidate for county surveyor, and Fred P. Brown, as an independent candidate for register of deeds.

A congressman was also to be elected this fall, and the candidates were, Mark H. Dunnell, of Steele county, republican, and C. F. Buck, of Winona county, democrat.

The campaign was exceedingly earnest, bitter and personal. The contest was upon the offices of senator and representative in the district, and the office of register of deeds in this county. The entire district was closely canvassed, many meetings were held and many a country school house rang with turgid eloquence. At some of these meetings, the champions of both sides met, when words, hot and high, were heard for hours.

The real issues of this campaign, so far as the district was concerned, were not men and politics, but were, first, the rivalry of interests of the several localities, or villages in this county; secondly, the division of the 500,000 acres of State "internal improvement lands," among the railroad companies of the State, which it was designed to attempt at the next session of the legislature, of which Mr. Thompson desired to get a portion in aid of the roads in which he was interested, while Mr. Whallon and his friends were look-



ing after like interests in behalf of their localities, and thirdly, but not least, so far as concerned Blue Earth City, the county seat question, in this county, was believed to be deeply involved in this election and, of course, awakened all the energies of Blue Earth City, and several other localities. Besides all these considerations a United States senator was to be elected at the next session of the legislature. The *Winnebago City Press* and *Wells Atlas* favored Messrs. Thompson and Patchin. The *Blue Earth City Post* sustained Messrs. Whallon and Chamberlin, and the *South-West* spoke favorable of both republican tickets, but did not take a decided stand for either.

The election was held on the eighth day of November, and the following was the result in this county, as appears from the official canvass:

## TOTALS.

For Congress—M. H. Dunnell, 1606; C. F. Buck, 607.

State Senator—G. W. Whallon, 1246; Moses King, 40; C. W. Thompson, 917.

Representative—G. C. Chamberlin, 1168; H. Seeger, 146; A. L. Patchin, 899.

Auditor—W. W. White, 1669; Geo. Barnes, 532.

Register—F. Lent, 1099; F. P. Brown, 1039.

Surveyor—G. A. Weir, 1489; H. Sisson, 717.

Henry J. Neal was elected county commissioner for District No. 2, and L. C. Seaton for District No. 3, and Mark H. Dunnell was elected representative in congress of this, the first congressional district.

But the matter of chief interest was not yet decided. The votes for senator and representative in the entire legislative district, composed of the counties above named, were yet to be canvassed. As this county was the senior county in the district, the votes of the other counties were required by law to be returned to the auditor of this county to be canvassed, by a board designated by law, and was composed as follows:

W. W. White, Auditor of Faribault county.

C. Chamberlin, Auditor of Cottonwood county.

M. A. Strong, Auditor of Jackson county.

J. A. Armstrong, Auditor of Martin county.

J. A. Kiester, Judge of Probate, Faribault county.

D. F. Goodrich, Justice of the Peace, Faribault county.

The canvassing board met on the third day of December, at Blue Earth City.

Never before, or since, for that matter, was such an intense interest manifested in the canvass of any vote in the county. Gross frauds were charged to have been practiced by both parties, and the vote was known to be very close.

There was a great attendance of citizens at the office of the county auditor. Mr. Thompson, with his attorneys, Messrs. Losey, of La Crosse, Wis., and Dunn, of this county, with many friends, were present. Mr. Whallon and his friends were also in attendance. After much discussion, the raising of many objections and the reading of considerable law applicable to the subject in hand, the board duly considered the matter, and finally certified to the following canvass.

For senator, Geo. W. Whallon had 1684 votes, and C. W. Thompson had 1609 votes, and Moses King had 87 votes. For representative, Geo. C. Chamberlin had 1640 votes, A. L. Patchin 1565, and H. Seeger had 192. Whallon's majority over Thompson was 75, Chamberlin's over Patchin was 75.

But Messrs. Thompson and Patchin were not satisfied, and very soon notices were served upon Messrs. Whallon and Chamberlin, by Thompson and Patchin, that the election of the former would be contested, and that testimony would be taken on the matter of the senatorship at Winnebago City, on the twenty-first day of December, before C. A. Lounsberry and S. J. Abbott, justices of the peace, and in the case of the representativeship, before the same officers, at the same place, on the twenty-third day of the same month.

M. J. Severance and C. K. Davis were employed as counsel by Whallon and Chamberlin, and Messrs. Losey, of La Crosse, Wis., J. M. Gilman, of St. Paul, and A. C. Dunn, of this county, were retained as counsel by Thompson and Patchin.

The following is a brief summary of the points made by Thompson and Patchin, and the counter-points.

1st. That the ballot box used at the election, on the eighth day of November, at Blue Earth City, was stuffed with illegal and fraudulent votes, to the number of two hundred, and that all of said illegal votes contained the names of G. W. Whallon for senator, and G. C. Chamberlin for representative.

2d. That a fraudulent poll list was used, containing two hundred names of persons not residing in the election district.

3d. That not more than three hundred legal voters reside in Blue Earth City precinct, and to conceal the fraudulent voting, the poll lists were fraudulently taken from the offices of the county auditor and town clerk.

It was also charged that thirty illegal votes were cast in the town of Emerald.

The substance of the counter-points was that many illegal votes were cast at Wells and in several other election districts for Messrs Thompson and Patchin, and that Mr. Thompson was not a resident of the State, and consequently ineligible to the office of senator.

Soon after meeting and organization, the court adjourned to Blue Earth City, when, after a session of eight days, during which many witnesses were examined, and their testimony reduced to writing, the court finally adjourned.

In the investigation of these matters, a very great difficulty soon presented itself. The poll lists of Blue Earth City election district could not be found. The papers pertaining to the town clerk's office were, for convenience, kept in a "candle box," and one copy of the poll list should have been found in it, but the box was searched very closely, yet the list was not found, and the clerk could give no information as to what had become of it.

The duplicate list, required by law, to be filed in the office of the county auditor, was so filed, but that list, also, mysteriously disappeared and could nowhere be found, it having been taken from the office without the auditor's knowledge.

Therefore, not knowing the names on the poll lists, it was impossible to prove directly that the persons whose names were on the list, and had voted, were not legal voters. It was, therefore, sought to be shown, by the testimony of the witnesses, the number of legal votes in the town, and that the vote cast was greatly in excess of what it should be.

But one illegal vote was proved directly, as cast for Whallon and Chamberlain, and that was confessed, the voter lacking only a few days of the four months' residence in the State, required by law. Five illegal votes were shown to have been cast at Wells, which were doubtless cast for Thompson and Patchin.

Mr. Thompson himself was placed on the witness stand, as to the question of his residence. The general tenor of his testimony was quite unfavorable as to his eligibility as a candidate.

Although but few votes cast at this election were proven to be illegal, yet it must be admitted that there were illegal votes cast at Blue Earth City and at several other places for Whallon and Chamberlain, and that the poll books of Blue Earth City election district mysteriously and criminally disappeared. It must also be as readily admitted that there were illegal votes cast at Wells and at several other places for Thompson and Patchin.

But just how many such votes were cast for either candidate, in what manner the frauds were perpetrated and upon whom the odium of such outrages upon the purity of the ballot box should be cast, will probably never be known. The final result of all this turmoil, excitement and expense, is recorded in the history of the next year. It is gratifying to state that this was the first known instance of election frauds perpetrated in this county; that but comparatively few persons had any part in them, and that when the excitement of the time passed away, the great majority of the people denounced such action severely.

In a free government like that under which we live, where the source of all power and authority is the people and the ballot box, the means by which they indicate their wishes, frauds by which the expressed wishes of the majority are nullified, or defeated, constitute a crime of great magnitude, and should meet with universal execration and certain and condign punishment.

Our election laws throughout the whole country, to this date at least, seem to have been made on the assumption that all electors were honest and patriotic, and the great majority were, and are so, but it must be admitted that there were, and now are, a great many rascals abroad in the world, especially in the cities, and it would seem, occasionally in the country districts also, who would take advantage of the simple and loosely constructed laws to practice the greatest frauds upon the people. And the vast importance to the continued existence of our free institutions, of great reforms in our election laws, began, at about this period, to be realized by the people, and they began to inquire what regulations could be framed by which fair and honest elections might be secured. Election laws must be framed upon the assumption that there are a great many ingenious scoundrels living, everywhere, who are ready to corrupt the voter, invade and vitiate the ballot-box itself, and pervert the will of the people if there is any possible chance of doing so.

While treating of the subject of elections, the writer may be excused for offering a few further suggestions on the subject of voting and its importance.

The theory of our government is that the people rule; that here exists self-government, citizen sovereignty. But every citizen cannot be invested with office and have a scepter placed in his hands. The method, therefore, by which the people rule themselves, politically, is mainly by the exercise of the elective franchise, or the right to vote. In the exercise of this right they choose representatives to frame constitutions and enact laws, and others to determine, in cases of dispute, what, in any particular case, the law is, and others to execute the laws.

By this means the people also indicate, in a great measure, what they desire the policy of the government, state or national, shall be, in various matters of public interest. Certain public policies, or political principles acted upon by the government, may result in great progress, prosperity and happiness, and the elevation of the standards of good citizenship, among the people, while certain other political views and theories, if carried into practical application, may paralyze progress and all industries, create large indebtedness, disorder the currency, cause bankruptcies among business men, reduce labor to idleness and beggary, and even seriously degrade the moral tone and the patriotic impulses of the

people of the nation. Every governmental act affects every citizen to some extent. But wrong policies, erroneous action in public affairs are dangerous, not only as regards the nation, but also, of course, to the state, the county, the township and school district; and the voter is not only interested in the principles to be pursued, or the action to be taken, but also in the men who are to fill the offices. Men must be selected who are competent and honest. There are some men in almost every community who are, because of incompetency, or lack of moral principle, unfit to be placed in any public office, and just such men are sometimes candidates for office, and this class of candidates usually rely much on the gullibility of the people. As a rule, the man who has proved himself a failure, or a rascal, in his private life, is very likely to prove such in office, whatever his promises may be. Sooner or later his real character will appear, to the public detriment. The voter must pass upon these questions also, and should inform himself as to the real character of candidates. It is undoubtedly true, that the *right to vote*, the *duty of voting* are, by many, greatly under estimated. There are many voters who do not think it of much importance to vote, and frequently neglect to do so. Voters have been heard to excuse themselves from attending an election by the remark, "Well, one vote will not make any difference," yet in the history of our government, national and state, one single vote has on a number of occasions, determined great policies, changed anticipated results, or decided who should hold office. Several instances may be named:

The lack of one more vote saved President Johnson from impeachment.

A majority of one vote in the Electoral Commission practically made Mr. Hayes President of the United States.

A majority of one vote once elected a governor of the State of Massachusetts.

A famous United States Senator was re-elected by a majority of one vote, and that one vote was given by a member of the legislature who had himself been elected by a majority of one vote.

Coming to our own State, Senator C. K. Davis was re-elected by the legislature by a majority of one vote, on joint ballot.

There are also some voters who are so ignorant, or corrupt, or both, as to sell their votes, while in some sections of the country certain classes of voters are sent to the polls to exercise this right as an employer, or a ward boss, or some one else may dictate, and in some other localities, numbers of electors are not permitted to vote at all.

It is well to think occasionally of the real character and importance of the right to vote. It is one of the highest, most dignified, most honorable and most necessary of the rights of a free citizen.

This political right, more than any other, makes the distinction between a monarchial, or despotic, and a free government.

And it is literally true that millions of men, through the ages past, have perished in the struggle for those civil liberties, of which the right to say how they should be governed was one of the greatest. There may here be added to what has already been said of the value and importance of the elective franchise, the following further considerations:

In the first place, it is well known, but not always fully recognized, that the right to vote is greatly limited as to the number who are invested with the right, or, in other words, that but few of the great mass of the people, who are interested in the affairs of the town, county, state or nation, are permitted to vote. Only about one-sixth of the population, of any voting district, practically do the voting, and often a less number, for there are always some who are entitled to vote who fail to do so. Thus, if the nation has a population of 60,000,000, about 10,000,000 of voters, practically, determine who shall be president and vice president, and the general policy of the government.

If our State has a population of 1,500,000, then only about 250,000 vote on the questions of who shall be our State officers and decide other State affairs, which may be submitted to the people. If our county has 18,000 inhabitants, then about 3,000 votes settle the question of who shall fill our county offices and decide other important interests.

Now these facts imply that every voter exercises the right to vote, not only in his own behalf, individually, but he votes, also, in behalf of five or six other persons, equally interested with himself. The right to vote thus becomes a great trust, to be exercised for, not only the voter's own good, but for the welfare of many others, who cannot vote.

But this is not all the responsibility which rests upon the voter. He decides, by his vote, the principles and policies that shall obtain, not only for the present, but, perhaps, for the future, for many years, thus making that country (state or locality) and its conditions of success, or failure, in which his children, probably, or his kindred, are to live and labor, long after he may be dead. The destinies of this great state, and the greater nation, of which we have the honor to be citizens, rests in the hands of the voters.

And the school district, the township, the county, the state and the nation have the right to demand of every one invested with this great franchise, that he exercise the right; they are entitled to his judgment in the affairs of the public, and to be intelligently and conscientiously expressed by his vote. To vote is the *duty* of every elector, as well as his right, and he who feels that he has voted ac-

ording to the noble sentiment "For God and home and native land," has done well. And the man who would permit his vote to be dictated by another, or who would sell his vote, is unfit to be a free citizen, and should be disfranchised. And the man who would seek to corrupt a voter, or to deceive him, or by fraud, attempt to annul, or pervert the expressed will of the people, deserves not only disfranchisement, but imprisonment.

## MURDER.

A murder was committed at Wells, on the 4th day of November. This was the fourth homicide in the county. The facts in the case, briefly stated, are about as follows. A number of Swedes and Norwegians under the influence of intoxicating liquors got into a street brawl when one Nels Hast stabbed or cut one Ole Olsen in the neck. Olsen died in a few minutes. Hast was immediately arrested and was finally tried at the June term, of 1871.

"The Great King of Kings  
Hath in the table of His law Commanded,  
That thou shalt do no Murder."—*Shakespeare.*

## ANOTHER NEWSPAPER.

On the ninth day of December, the first number of *The Wells Real Estate Advertiser* appeared. It was published at Wells, in this county, by Messrs. Chase and Hall. Wells could now boast of two newspapers. The *Advertiser* was a four page, seven column sheet. We copy the salutatory.

"We present you, readers, with the *Wells Advertiser*. It means business. It is a permanent institution in Faribault county, fixed to stay. At present we shall publish it monthly, more frequently when it will pay to do so. Our aim shall be to benefit the entire community, not forgetting ourselves. We shall do a good deal of blowing, and being free-born, half white, and wholly independent, expect to say a good many things that will make others blow. Our motto is "Advertise." We have got some things to sell and propose to let it be known, hence our name. In politics we are going for the best man and the county seat. If any body wants a row, let them punch us, if a farm, or village lot, come and see us."

This is pith and point, but not much pathos. It may be added, that after the publication of two or three numbers of this paper, it "blew" itself out.

## THE GENERAL RECKONING.

In this year the ninth national census was taken. The work was done in this county, during the months of June and July.

S. P. Childs, of Blue Earth City, was the assistant United States Marshall, appointed for the south half of the county, and A. A. Huntington, of Winnebago City, for the north half, to do the work of taking the census.

As this is another year of general reckoning and posting up of accounts, in the history of our county, a record is here made of all the valuable statistics of the year. The quotations from the census, the agricultural productions, the assessed value of property in the several towns, and the other items of interest given, make up a very complete exhibit. But it must be again stated, that the value of some of these statistical collections is not great. It is found that those compiled from the census differ considerably from those taken from the State reports. We cannot here attempt to explain the causes of these discrepancies. The statistics are given here as they are found recorded in the books of authority on the subject.

TABLE NO. 1—POPULATION.

Number of male inhabitants in the county.....	5,274
Number of females.....	4,672
	9,946
Total number of inhabitants.....	9,946

As to the nativity of the inhabitants, there were born in the United States, 7,453; in Norway, 821; in Germany, 680; Canada, 431; Ireland, 195; England, 150; Scotland, 74; France, 44; Denmark, 32; Sweden, 20; Wales, 17; Holland, 8; Switzerland, 3; other countries, 18. By the census of 1860, the county ranked as No. 29 in population, but by the census of this year as No. 19.

The population per square mile was, in 1870, 13.81.

TABLE NO. 2—LIVE STOCK.

Horses, 2,996; mules, 110; milch cows, 3,298; working oxen 1,401; other cattle, 3,447; sheep, 4,037; hogs, 3,311.

TABLE NO. 3—FARM PRODUCTS OF 1870.

	Acres.	Bushels.
Wheat.....	32,678	343,546
Oats.....	11,470	323,174
Corn... ..	5,497	151,333
Barley.....	1,618	29,868
Rye.....	16	106
Buckwheat.....	170	1,985
Potatoes.....	314	11,635
Beans.....	117	1,417
Tame hay.....	237	306 tons.
Wild hay.....	17,243	23,208 tons.
Sorghum.....	48	2,947 gals. syrup.
Wool.....		10,778 lbs.
Butter.....		188,490 lbs.
Cheese.....		11,320 lbs.
Honey.....		2,025 lbs.



TABLE NO. 4—VALUATIONS.

The following table exhibits the total assessed value of all the Real and Personal Estate in each township in the county for the year 1870:

	Total.
Seely & Kiester.....	\$65,059
Rome.....	21,059
Elmore.....	64,677
Pilot Grove.....	26,266
Foster.....	58,910
Brush Creek.....	35,711
Emerald.....	77,816
Blue Earth City.....	223,444
Jo. Daviess.....	69,829
Clark.....	130,564
Walnut Lake.....	46,435
Barber.....	61,979
Prescott.....	83,230
Verona.....	103,966
Dunbar.....	56,713
Minnesota Lake.....	63,910
Lura.....	62,836
Guthrie.....	83,479
Winnebago City.....	160,822
	\$1,495,705

TABLE NO. 5—MISCELLANEOUS.

The number of farms in the county, in 1870, was 1,474. The number of dwelling houses, 1,911. There were 199 births and 83 deaths during the year. As this was the first year in which returns of births and deaths were required by law to be made, and the matter was not well understood, the returns made were quite imperfect.

There were five grist mills in the county, one a steam mill, two propelled by water, and two by wind power.

There were in this year eighty-two marriages, and in five years, including 1870, six divorces, there being three in this year.

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR 1870.

The following statistics and remarks are taken from Mr. Richards' first reports, as superintendent of schools:

No. of school districts.....	90
No. of school houses.....	79
No. of scholars.....	3,529

Eighty-one per cent of these attended school during the year. The graded schools at Blue Earth City and at Winnebago City, are doing good work. The county is well represented at the State Normal School at Mankato. The deportment of pupils is generally

good. Twelve public examinations of teachers were held in the county. One hundred and five certificates were issued to teachers. There was paid to teachers during the year, \$15,123.00. Nine new school houses were built, costing \$3,590,00. These facts and figures clearly show that the people of Faribault county are wide awake in school affairs.

#### THE FALL AND WINTER.

The fall weather of this year was remarkably pleasant, and long continued, affording ample time for all fall work.

But winter approaches

“Winds are swelling  
Round our dwelling,  
All day telling  
Us their woe.  
And at vesper  
Frosts grow crisper  
As they whisper  
Of the snow.”

The first snow fell about the twenty-third of November, but plowing was done as late at the sixth day of December, and navigation remained open on the Mississippi very late, a steamboat excursion coming off at St. Paul on the twenty-seventh of December.

#### FINIS.

The following statement is clipped from a newspaper, and forms a neat conclusion to the history of this year:

“Saturday, December 31st, 1870, was the last day, of the last week, of the last month, of the last year, of the last decade, ending with 1870. When will such a coincidence again occur?”

“—— The winter winds are wearily sighing,  
Toll the church bell, sad and slow,  
And tread softly and speak low;  
For the old year lies—a dying.”—*Tennyson*.

## CHAPTER XVII.

A. D. 1871.

The morning of the first day of January, 1871, broke over this land, bright and still. Blue skies and a balmy atmosphere ushered in the new year—it was the Sabbath day.

“Amidst the earthiness of life,  
Vexation, vanity and strife;  
Sabbath! how sweet thy holy calm,  
Comes o'er the soul like healing balm.”

This year not only began, but ended on Sunday. In reference to the Sabbath, or Sunday, for whether properly, or improperly, both names are now generally given to the day known as the Christian Sunday and are so here used, there are several propositions which may here be discussed.

It is well known that the Jews and certain Christian denominations, hold that Saturday, the seventh day of the week, is the true Sabbath day and the day which all people are, by the fourth commandment of the decalogue, required to keep as the Sabbath day. But, on the other hand, the great majority of Christian people keep Sunday, or the first day of the week, as the Sabbath day, and some legislative enactments, relating to the observance of Sunday, are to be found in the laws of most civilized nations.

The propositions referred to above, are the following:

Whether under the Christian dispensation, Sunday—the first day of the week—kept in commemoration of the Christ's resurrection and the descent of the Holy Ghost, on the day of Pentacost, and kept by the apostles themselves and other followers of Christ, in the assembling themselves together and “the breaking of bread,” preaching and the reading of the scriptures—a practice continued in the church in all ages, since their day, was, by competent authority, substituted for the Jewish Sabbath, under the old dispensation, which, on the coming of the Christ, is said to have passed away. And here did the Christ, who declares that “He is Lord, also of the Sabbath,” who in the three years of his ministry and, also, during the forty days between His resurrection and ascension, spake “of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God,” instruct his apostles concerning the Sabbath, or Sunday.

Whether Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, who was a disciple of St. John, and was ordained by the Apostles then living, spoke wisely and with authority, when he instructed some of his disciples, who wished to keep both Saturday and Sunday, that they should not keep the Sabbath of the Jews (the Saturday), but lead a life conformable to the Lord's day.

Whether the observance of one day in seven, as the Sabbath, be it the first or last day, or any other day of the week, is a compliance with the spirit of the law.

Whether the sixth day—Sunday—before the Passover of the Jews (Saturday), was the day on which God rested from the work of Creation, and the original Sabbath, and whether, when the Israelites left Egypt, the day was put back one day to our Saturday, and so remained for fifteen hundred years, until the Christ arose from the dead on Sunday the original seventh day of the week, and that Sunday and the original Sabbath are now the same day.

Whether in the lapse of time, a discrepancy of one day has occurred, in consequence of which the present first day of the week—Sunday—is in fact the identical original seventh day of the week.

Whether, from the time when the command was given to keep the Sabbath day holy, the weeks, day by day, have been exactly regular in their succession, and that counting, day by day, from the beginning, our present Saturday, or Sunday, or any other day of the week, will prove exactly correct in the order of time. And here, what effect on Sunday did the Act of the Parliament of Great Britian, in 1752, have, when it was enacted that the third day of the month of September of that year should be called the (14th) fourteenth.

Whether or not the Edict of the Emperor Constantine issued A. D. 321, commanding that all work should cease in the cities "on the venerable Sunday," was the first official recognition of Sunday. Sunday was, originally, and long before the Christian era, the old pagan Roman day of the Sun—a day in the pagan worship dedicated to the sun.

Whether in this land, where "no religious test shall be required as a qualification to office," "where no law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercises thereof," where all are guaranteed the liberty of "worshipping God according to the dictates of their own consciences," and where "no control of, or interference with the rights of conscience is permitted," any state, as such, has any constitutional, or other right to enact laws, providing for the observance of any day as the Sabbath or as Sunday, and enforcing the same by penalties. Has a majority the right to determine this question?

But may not the State, considering the value of the Sunday, in its secular aspects only, enforce by law, its observance as a day of rest from toil?

The answers to these questions may be left to theologians, chronologists and statesmen.

But there are a few plain, brief remarks regarding the observance of the Sabbath day, which may not be inappropriate here.

That this day should be observed by all, in a proper manner, is clearly declared in the fourth Commandment. None of the Commandments are more positive, more full or more in detail than this. By this command, we are in six days to labor and do all we have to do, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, to be kept holy. The seventh day—the Sabbath—is not ours, it is the Lord's. We have no right to pervert it, or use it for our ordinary purposes. We can only use it for purposes designated by Him to whom the day belongs. All this seems to admit of no argument.

This day is evidently intended to be kept as a day of *rest and worship*, in which all the ordinary labors of life are suspended, and works of charity and necessity, only, are permissible. The word "Sabbath," means rest. God rested on this day from the work of creation, and he commanded the day to be kept holy. It is not a day of frivolity, dissipation, or amusement, and it is certainly to be kept quietly, restfully and reverently, and as the Jews were commanded to have a holy convocation on the seventh day—the Sabbath, and Christ, as was his custom, went into the Synagogue on the Sabbath day and "stood up for to read," and as the apostles and disciples assembled for public worship, subsequently on the Lord's day, as they did also on the seventh day, or Sabbath—the day is intended as a day of public assembling together for the worship of God.

That the day should, in all things, be kept with the strictness of the ancient Jews, or the rigidity of our Puritan forefathers, would be unreasonable and certainly not the intention. The Christ said that "the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath," that is, it was made for man's benefit and, therefore, it is lawful to do good, as doing works of necessity, mercy, charity, piety, on that day. In the Church calendar, Sunday is a festival, not a fast. On the other hand, what is known as the Continental Sabbath, or Sunday, that is, the Sunday as it is kept generally in Continental Europe—a day devoted to recreation, amusements, excursions, gaming, theatrical performances and general dissipation, is simply a perversion of the day. The public welfare and the cause of religion would be much better promoted, even by the old puritanical Sabbath, than by the Continental observance of the day. Sunday must not be secularized.

There are some things in the conditions of society, which militate greatly against the proper observance of the Sabbath. Among these, there may be named the fact that persons who labor hard in factories, workshops, mines and otherwise all the work days of the week, and many hours of the day, which prevails much in Europe, and is coming to be the fact in this country, are almost compelled to ignore the Sabbath day. When Saturday night comes they are exhausted. The laborer has had no time during the week to attend to his private or personal business affairs, or for self-improvement, instruction, amusement or rest, or enjoyment of family life, and when Sunday dawns he feels that he must devote the day to some of these requirements. But suppose that even Sunday should be abolished, as has been proposed in certain localities, what would be the life of the daily toiler. Of all men, the workingman should be the friend of the Sabbath day. An eight hour day for the laborer and a Saturday half holiday, will be among those improved conditions of labor which will some day be recognized everywhere. Human experience, in all ages, has taught much of the value of the proper observance of the Sabbath.

The keeping of one day in seven, as a day of rest from ordinary labors, is necessary to the well-being of man, and of all working animals. They can accomplish more labor and under better conditions, because of this rest.

Its hygienic effects are greatly beneficial to man, mentally and physically, not only because of the rest and recuperation but, also, because, according to the customs of all Christian lands, it is a day of personal cleaning up and change of raiment, and the mind is diverted from the ordinary tread mill round of mental and physical labors, to something new and different for the time being. In this age of nervous diseases, insanity and suicides, caused by over-work, hurry and worry, the Sunday rest is especially valuable.

The famous Dr. Farre declared that the keeping of the Sunday is necessary to the public health, and many other eminent physicians indorse this testimony, and so do statisticians and sensible observers in general.

It is morally and religiously beneficial, because the mind and attention are, or ought to be, called from sordid, temporal, worldly affairs to a higher plane, to instructions in religious duty and obligations, and to spiritual and eternal interests. Sunday is the great conservator of the morals and religion of the world.

Blackstone, the great commentator on the laws of England, says that "A corruption of morals usually follows a profanation of the Sabbath." Justice McLean, formerly of the Supreme Court of the United States, declared that "where there is no Christian Sabbath, there is no Christian morality."

The proper keeping of the Sabbath is necessary to the well being of the State. Justice McLean, above-named, also said, that without the Christian morality which is conserved by the Christian Sabbath, "free institutions cannot long be sustained." Our American liberties are largely connected with the weekly day of rest.

Adam Smith, the eminent writer on political economy, declares that "The Sabbath, as a political institution, is of inestimable value, independently of its claim to divine authority."

Macaulay, the English historian, writes that "If Sunday had not been observed as a day of rest, during the last three centuries, we should have been, at this moment, a poorer and less civilized people."

But it is not only where the Christian religion prevails, that the value of keeping one day in seven, as a day of rest and worship, is recognized, but the Jewish and great pagan religions bear testimony to the same facts.

Sunday, the first day of the week, is claimed as the proper day of rest by Christians, generally, Monday by the Greeks, Tuesday by the Persians, Wednesday by the Assyrians, Thursday by the Egyptians, Friday by the Mohammedan Turks, and Saturday, by the Jews and several Christian denominations.

Finally, to sum up the subject, considering the authoritative command of the Great Creator, in regard to the observance of the Sabbath, its value to man's mental and physical well-being, its importance in the conservation of morality and religion, its value to the State and to the progress of civilization, the disregard and desecration of the Sabbath approaches very near the turpitude of a crime. And the writer regrets to record the fact that very generally, throughout the world, the profanation and desecration of the Sabbath is one of the evils of this age which seem to be rapidly increasing and over-shadowing the nations, our own among the number. But the writer adds here, with great pleasure, that locally (in Faribault county) the people generally, with a few exceptions, have ever been a Sabbath observing, church going people. People who have the good of their race and nation at heart, can do no wiser act than to encourage, at all times, the proper observance of the Sabbath day.

#### MORBUS SABBATICUS.

A writer says, that morbus sabbaticus, or Sunday sickness, is a disease peculiar to church members. The attack comes on suddenly every Sunday—it never occurs on any other day. No symptoms are felt on Saturday night. The patient sleeps well, eats well, but just about church time, the attack comes on, and continues until services in the morning are over. Then the patient feels easy and

eats a hearty dinner. In the afternoon the patient can take a walk, talk politics and read the Sunday paper. This sickness never interferes with the sleep, or appetite—it usually attacks only the head of the family, but no physician is ever called. Yet the disease is serious and becoming so prevalent, that it is sweeping thousands every year prematurely to the devil.

#### JUDICIAL.

The first January term of the district court in this county, commenced its session January 3d. Hon. Franklin H. Waite, judge. There were eleven criminal and eighteen civil cases on the calendar. The term lasted six days, and much important business was transacted.

The June term of this court commenced its session on the sixth, and at this term there were on the calendar nine criminal and thirty-one civil cases. The first trial yet had in this county for the awful crime of murder, occurred at this term of court—that of Nels Hast, a more full account of which is given elsewhere. This term, though a short one—lasting only four days—was for a number of reasons, one of the most interesting and important ever held in the county. Hast was convicted of murder in the second degree, and was sentenced to imprisonment for life, at hard labor, in the state prison.

This was the first life sentence passed in this county, and of the four homicides which had occurred, this was the first instance in which the perpetrator was punished.

#### THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

A passing reference must now be made to the meeting of the “grave and reverend seniors,” the county commissioners. They assembled on the third day of January; Arthur Bonwell was elected chairman for the year, after which the board proceeded to the transaction of its usual business.

They met again on the fifteenth day of March, on the twenty-sixth day of June, and on the fifth day of September, but a careful inspection of the records of these several meetings, furnishes nothing of special note. Yet the business done at these several meetings, as always, was important, as being necessary to the well-being of the county.

The fact is that the great mass of the business, the real work of the world, public and private, of the town, county, state and nation, of all societies, corporations and individual pursuits, is of the ordinary routine character, having little of special interest, and nothing of the noise and glitter of what are called great actions, yet necessary, absolutely necessary, to the very existence, the stability, success and progress of all our institutions, political, religious,



social, financial and educational, and, therefore, of the gravest importance. The world's real work, intellectual, moral and physical, is done by its quiet, busy, daily toilers, and is of incalculably more importance to the well-being of society, than all those brilliant actions, so called great deeds and noisy demonstrations of which alone the world seems to take any account.

#### THE FARMERS' SOCIETY.

At the winter meeting of the Agricultural Society, held in the early part of January, S. Pfeffer, of Blue Earth City, was elected president; A. D. Hall, of Wells, secretary, and L. W. Brown, of Prescott, treasurer. A meeting of the society was held at Blue Earth City, July 14th, which adjourned to meet at Wells on the twenty-sixth day of August. The object of this meeting was the revision of the constitution and by-laws, the preparation of premium lists and to determine the place of holding the next fair.

The fair was held at Wells on the 4th, 5th and 6th days of October. The exhibition was not great, but the attendance was good, and financially the fair was a success to the society.

#### THE WEATHER.

The first snow storm of the winter commenced on the eleventh day of January, and continued two days. With this exception the winter was a very mild one. No great depth of snow fell, and we were not visited by any of those terrific "north westers," known by the euphaneous name of "blizzard," that occasionally give us some idea of the intense cold, and furious storms of the polar regions.

The old weather saw,

"As the days begin to lengthen  
The cold begins to strengthen."

did not hold very good this winter.

In January, of this year, there was considerable rejoicing throughout the country, in consequence of the fact that all the southern States were represented in congress for the first time since December, 1860. "Reconstruction" was completed.

#### THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

We now invite our readers to the halls of legislation at the State capital, to see what was there done of interest to the people of this county.

The thirteenth State Legislature assembled January 8th and adjourned March 3d.

It will be recollected that in December, of the preceding year, notices were served upon G. W. Whallon, senator elect of this (the 20th) district, and upon Geo. C. Chamberlin, representative elect,

that their election would be contested, and that testimony was taken in reference to the matter. On the assembling of the legislature, both Messrs. Whallon and Chamberlin took their seats in their respective houses.

Without going into all the details incident to these contests in the legislature, it will suffice to say that on the twenty-fifth day of January the contested election case of Whallon and Thompson came up for final action in the Senate on the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That in the contested case of Thompson against Whallon, now pending—

1st. Clark W. Thompson received a majority of the legal votes for senator in the Twentieth Senatorial District, and that, therefore, George W. Whallon is not entitled to a seat in this Senate.

2d. That Clark W. Thompson be admitted to his seat as senator from the Twentieth Senatorial District."

On motion Senators Farmer (absent) and Whallon (interested), were excused.

The question being upon the above resolution, a division of the question was called for, and upon the first clause of the resolution, the roll being called, there were thirteen yeas and seven nays. So that clause of the resolution was adopted.

The question being now upon the second proposition, the roll being called, there were ten yeas, and ten nays. So the second clause of the resolution was lost. On a motion to reconsider the vote last taken, there were ten yeas, and ten nays. So the motion to reconsider was lost.

As the matter stands thus far, Mr. Whallon is out of his seat and the seat is vacant. But on the thirty-first day of January, Mr. Farmer, who had been absent on the former vote, appeared in his place in the Senate, and requested permission to record his vote upon the motion to reconsider the vote upon the second proposition. He was allowed so to do, and cast his vote in the affirmative. The proposition to admit Mr. Thompson being then before the senate, the yeas and nays being ordered, there were fourteen yeas, and five nays, when Mr. Thompson came forward and was sworn in. On Tuesday, February 7th, the matter of the contested seat of Geo. C. Chamberlin coming up in the House for final action, and the question being on the resolution to oust Mr. Chamberlin and give the seat to Mr. Patchin, the vote stood yeas, twenty-eight, nays, twelve. So Mr. Chamberlin was ousted, and Mr. Patchin admitted to the seat as representative of this district.

On the twenty-first day of February "A bill for an act to remove the county seat of Faribault county from Blue Earth City to Wells," previously introduced by Mr. Thompson, was passed in the senate by a vote of thirteen yeas to four nays.

The passage of this act naturally created great excitement in Blue Earth City and vicinity, and it was determined by the residents of that village to defeat the passage of the bill in the House if possible. It was reported that the people of Wells had previously secured the names of five hundred and ten inhabitants of the county, to a petition to the legislature favoring the removal of the county seat. The people of Blue Earth City then proceeded to canvass the county with remonstrances against the removal and the passage of the act pending, and secured the names of fifteen hundred and forty legal voters, the lists being all sworn to by the persons who procured the signatures. These remonstrances, in the aggregate, contained the names of over two-thirds of the legal voters of the county. They were forwarded to St. Paul and laid before the House. The result was that on Monday, February 27th, the House committee on towns and counties, reported adversely on the bill for the removal of the county seat from Blue Earth City to Wells. The report of the committee was adopted by the House, by a considerable majority, and a motion to reconsider, under a suspension of the rules, was lost by a vote of twenty-five to fifteen, and the fate of the bill was sealed. And now, as was very natural, there was great rejoicing at Blue Earth City, and a corresponding depression of spirits at Wells.

The further action of the legislature of this year, of special relation to this county, was the passage of an act apportioning the State into legislative districts, in which it is enacted that "the sixth district shall be composed of the county of Faribault, and shall be entitled to elect one senator and two representatives."

Also "An act to incorporate the village of Wells." Also "An act to authorize the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota, Railway Company to extend their line of railroad into Minnesota, and which provided that said railway shall cross the State line dividing Iowa from Minnesota in Faribault county.

Wm. Windom, of Winona, was elected United States Senator, for six years, and O. P. Stearns to fill out the term of Mr. Norton, deceased.

From what has been stated above, it will be observed that this county was represented in the legislature of 1871, by G. W. Whallon, and C. W. Thompson, in the senate, and G. C. Chamberlin and A. L. Patchin, in the House, being a little more representation than this county ever had before, or since that memorable session.

As a passing remark, it may be stated that but little, if anything of value, was gained by either party to the great contest of 1870-71. The bill for the removal of the county seat did not become a law, and the internal improvement lands were not divided, as the bill was vetoed, nor was any other act passed of any special advantage to either party.

## ITEMS.

(From the *Post*.)

—March.—A Missouri paper offers this for the requiem of a departed contemporary. It has had many local illustrations.

“Leaf by leaf the roses fall;  
Dime by dime the purse runs dry,  
One by one beyond recall  
Mushroom papers droop and die.”

—Advices from Paris give details of the inauguration of another revolution. A mob has seized the city, three prominent generals have been shot, the streets barricaded, and the government and the American diplomatic corps have left the city.

—The tide of immigration to Minnesota has already set in and “prairie schooners” are already to be seen. It is the opinion of well informed persons, that immigration to Minnesota will be very heavy this year.

—St. Patrick’s day was pretty generally observed throughout the State.

—A conductor on the S. M. Railroad says that as he was collecting tickets the other day, he came to a very tall, pleasant looking gentleman, who seemed very anxious to reach his journey’s end—when the conductor reached for his ticket, the tall gentleman took him by the hand, felt his pulse and asked to see his tongue. That doctor does not live far from here.

—April 1st—The beautiful spring weather of the past week, has induced farmers to commence sowing grain.

—May 20th—We claim to beat the State on corn, having a patch of sweet corn which is ten inches high at this date.

—There are several different kinds of shirks—the religious shirk, the political shirk, the physical shirk; but of all shirks, the meanest, the most contemptible is the public shirk. By the public shirk we mean the man of property who is benefited by the pushing of every public enterprise, and yet who persistently refuses to put his shoulder to the wheel to assist.

—It may be said with truthfulness that the salvation of this State depends upon the coming harvest. Never at any previous time, since the State was settled, have the people been so generally deep in debt. They owe the merchant, the machine man and the banks. The amount of money loaned on mortgages is enormous. This money is loaned at a high rate of interest, ranging from two to three per cent a month. \* \* \*

—The duty of the hour is to *economize*, ECONOMIZE, ECONOMIZE.

—June 10th—Strawberries in market.

—The Delevan and Blue Earth City stage line is doing a good business these days.

—Pie-plant will soon disappear from the market.

—We have been informed that the crops never looked better than they now do.

—Jug hutter can be bought in its utmost perfection at reduced prices.

Some of these items are a little curious, but they represent some of the events and conditions of the times.

## THE SONG OF THE SEEDER.

Seeding commenced the latter part of March, and was mainly completed early in April. Corn planting commenced about the tenth day of May, and a much greater breadth of land was cultivated to corn this year than was usual.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

The numerous notices in the newspapers of the current year, of the very general observance of St. Patrick's Day by a large class of our citizens, suggest the propriety of a few words on the subject here.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bear  
Mercy to man, glad tidings to despair."—*C. H. Johnson.*

St. Patrick—a bishop—was the great missionary and apostle of Christianity to the Irish people, and is revered as the Patron Saint of old Ireland. He was born A. D. 372 or 373, and died March 17th, A. D. 493 or 495. There appears, however, to be some doubt as to the accuracy of these dates. He began his labors as missionary to Ireland, about A. D. 432. He was an apostle of great zeal and ability, of high character, fearless and of untiring energy, and has the credit of having converted almost the whole of Ireland to Christianity. It appears that he worthily bore the commission of the Great Master, recorded in the Scriptures.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, (the Disciples) saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

—*Matthew II, 8: 18-19-20.*

And this is the highest, the holiest commission ever issued to man. And the grandest men of all the ages are these brave, self-sacrificing and devoted missionaries who bear this Gospel of Jesus Christ to the heathen, raising up the idol-worshipper from his darkness and degradation into the blessed light of the Son of Righteousness, placing his feet in the path of civilization and progress, and pointing out to him the way to eternal salvation.

The Roman Catholic Church keeps St. Patrick's festival on March 17th, the day of his death.

The day is usually commemorated by religious services in the Roman Catholic churches, and by processions through some of the principal streets of the cities, and by other appropriate demonstrations. The day has generally been observed in this county in some manner, usually simply by religious services. St. Patrick's Day is not, however, a legal holiday in this State, and it seems to be commemorated only by the Roman Catholics, yet it might very appropriately be observed by all Christian people, and especially is it

fitting that Irishmen, throughout the world, should revere and pay honor to this great man's memory.

The proper color of decoration on this day, is green, and the prevailing custom is to display upon the person a small badge, representing the leaves of the shamrock, as a recognition of the day.

"Oh the Shamrock, the green immortal Shamrock!  
Chosen leaf,  
Of bard and chief,  
Old Erin's native Shamrock!"—*Moore.*

#### TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

April was signalized this year by the fact that the State Teachers' Institute was held at Blue Earth City, commencing April 17th. Some eighty (80) teachers were present and were much interested, as well as much benefited by the meeting. The institute was under the direction of and conducted by Prof. Wilson, State Superintendent, Supt. Niles and Dr. Aiken, all noted educators. A number of very instructive lectures were delivered by these gentlemen on educational subjects.

#### THE FOURTH OF JULY.

The Fourth of July was celebrated at Winnebago City and Delavan this year, but not at Blue Earth City. The celebration at Winnebago City was a great success. It was estimated that over two thousand people were present.

We present the following account of the celebration taken from the local newspaper, and also a number of extracts from the address of Hon. G. K. Cleveland, because of the references contained therein to many matters of interest in the earlier days of the county, and also as a tribute to the memory of one now deceased, who was once a citizen of the county, and was honored with some of its most important offices.

"After passing through the principal streets the procession halted at the bower, when the exercises were opened by music by the band; this was followed by prayer by Rev. J. D. Todd, and singing by the Glee Club. Dr. D. Noteman then read the Declaration of Independence in an impressive manner, and was lustily cheered at the close of the same. The audience was then treated to music by both the brass band and Glee Club. After which Hon. J. A. Latimer, president of the day, introduced Major G. K. Cleveland, of Mankato, who delivered an oration of which we can only give an imperfect idea by the following extracts. We regret that our space forbids giving Major Cleveland's address in full, but as we cannot, we select those portions having a local application, judging that these will be of most interest to our readers—at least those who are considered 'old settlers.' The address was as follows:

*Mr. President, Goddess of Liberty, and Maids of Honor:*

Fellow Citizens! Friends of to-day, and friends of other days! Judging from what I see before me and around me, this is 'July,' and 'Thompson has

got home.' I read in your paper that lively times were anticipated in some young city of your county 'when Thompson came home in July.'

My friends, of Winnebago City, of Blue Earth City, of Fairmont, of Shelby, of Sterling, of Mapleton, Wells, and all of Faribault county. This opportunity of celebrating with you the glorious Fourth, is to me an occasion of unalloyed pleasure. This spot was my home from 1857 to 1862. I shall never forget, and will you, who took part in celebrating the Fourth of July, 1858, ever forget the joy and rejoicing of that day. Yonder, on the site of the old school-house, stood the green booth. Beneath it groaned the loaded tables which the Winnebago ladies of that day had spread with royal, no, with Republican bounty. I use the word in a national, not a partisan sense. The ladies in question were famous for an intimate acquaintance with the mysteries of both substantial and pastry cooking. I venture they have not lost their skill. That was the first celebration of the Fourth in this city. The Fourth of July is like quails and prairie chickens—a bud of civilization. It follows the settlements. The Declaration of Independence was read; patriotic songs were sung; the day, the President, the old flag, the ladies present, and the girls we had left behind us, all were toasted. That was a memorable celebration. We who met there thus, for the first time, claimed half the State of the Union for birthplace and homes.

We came from the Maine woods; from the shadow of Plymouth Rock; from the hills and valleys of the Empire State; from wood-crowned Pennsylvania; from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. Yankees, Knickerbockers, Leatherheads, Buckeyes, Wolverines, Hawkeyes, Hoosiers, and Suckers—a hodge-podge, a hasty pudding, to be soon simmered-down into Gophers. This is no inglorious ending. Gophers are the real ancient mound-builders of the Mississippi Valley, and by a happy transmigration of souls, have returned to their ancient seats, to found a race more mighty and enduring than the first. We came with the same patriotic associations, the same revolutionary reading, the same manly pride in American greatness, the same mother love for the old flag, the same rock-bottomed confidence in American destiny, the same amazing faith in the scream of the national eagle to scare the world. Hither we came seeking homes, happiness, fortune. We found here a virgin soil—a flowery wilderness—a spot of uninhabited earth fresh from the hand of God. Its soil of marvelous fertility had never been cursed by wheel of bloody conqueror, by foot of cruel oppressor, or sweat of slave. You received it unstained from the hands of the Almighty world-builder, overlaid with the cream of a thousand centuries, and consecrated on that Independence Day to order, liberty, and law; to the equal rights of all men, of all climes, who should here set foot; to advancement, education, and to that religion whose corner-stone is the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

But are they all here who took part in that celebration? Let them answer to roll-call: Ladd, Welch, Jenness, Goodnow, Moulton, Foley, Towndrow, Wheeler, Tommy George, Dunham, Spickerman, Seely, Dunn, Sherlock, Kimball, Humes, Grove Burt, Capt. Bigelow, Madison—where are you all—and a hundred others, Hi. Young included? More than half are gone—scattered by the toss and whirl of time. Enough remain to enjoy with me a moment's retrospect. The first social party I attended in this State was in Burnett's log hotel over there—do you recollect it?—in the winter of '57-'8, when a solitary fiddle discoursed ravishing music, while the feet of forty dancers tore their soles on rough spots where the landlord's adze had smoothed down—or, rather, in a well-meant effort, had roughed up—the warped edges of the floor-boards. Young ladies, like quails and prairie chickens, follow the settlement—in time. At that time there were no young ladies in these youthful "diggins." But young

married ladies were numerous. These came from over the river, from Verona, from Bass Lake, from Shelby. They brought their babies—and a little pantry made clean for a clothes-room, was piled from bottom to top shelf with sleeping babies, from three weeks old and upward. It was a sight to behold. It always did seem to me that the soil and climate of the upper Blue Earth valley was remarkably congenial to the growth of babies—God bless their pug noses! The supper that night was sumptuous, and the social, innocent pleasure, temperately and most heartily enjoyed. The first sermon I ever heard in Minnesota was at the hospitable home of Capt. Bigelow and his most amiable and estimable lady, when Elder Jacob Conrad preached. I pronounce his name with pleasure, and am proud to be numbered among his friends. Noble, faithful, cheerful of spirit, he lived among the sometime rough and wayward settlers of the frontier the religion he commended to others. He planted the Banner of the Cross where too many only thought of planting potatoes and corn. His illustrations of truth and duty often had the spice of an odd and humorous originality which often provoked a smile, but which did not fail of their mark. Noble, Christian man! Long may he live to enjoy life and do good. The first grave I ever stood above in Minnesota, was yonder in the woodland—the untimely grave of murdered Fisher. I do not recall a single natural death during the first three years of my residence here, so gracious and so healthful was the time. By your favor I was first honored with an office—that of Probate Judge. in the political contests of those early days local ‘honors’ were ‘easy’—for Republicans—they were overwhelmingly in the majority. Twice was I honored by your suffrages with a seat in the Legislature. But it was not votes alone that elected me. [Here the speaker paid a tribute to the memory of the ‘stiff-necked, crop-eared Indian pony’ which had carried him through his electioneering expeditions. He then referred to the late civil war, paying a glowing tribute to those brave men who left the comforts of home to assist their country in her great peril; painted in vivid colors the fearful scenes of carnage in the field, and the broken-hearted wives and mothers left at home; referred to the present dissensions in the South, and considered the rule of unprincipled renegades from the North to be one of the prime causes thereof; spoke of the ‘new departure’ doctrine inaugurated by Vallandigham, and favored the throwing aside of old issues by both political parties, and on questions of national importance all work together. His closing remarks were eloquent, patriotic, and highly entertaining to the vast audience in attendance].

Mr. Cleveland was loudly cheered on taking his seat. The brass band and glee club then favored the audience with some charming music, which was followed by the benediction, delivered by Rev. Mr. Ross.”

#### OUR RURAL SUMMERS.

Again, as in every year, the glorious summer is with us.

How beautiful are the azure skies and the golden sun, which rises early and looks for many hours, and until late in the evening, upon the daily scenes, as if loth to be absent long, and leaving, long after he has gone down, the summer twilight; and who has not listened with pleasure to the late summer evening concert of the cicada and other musical insects, when all other sounds are hushed? And now the trees, the groves and the great forests are clothed in their fullest foliage of dark green, and how numerous they are occupied by the birds, of every variety of plumage, which here make their homes, and charm the world with their music. How pleasant



is the cool shade, under the great leafy branches of the mighty oaks and maples and elms and other forest trees.

"All who love the haunts of nature,  
Love the sunshine of the meadow;  
Love the shadow of the forest;  
Love the wind among the branches."

The fruit trees bear on every bough a burden of growing fruit, which gives the assurance of the coming rich reward, for all the labor expended in their care. And in this favored season, the earth is carpeted with rich grasses and blooming flowers, and we see on every hand, wide and cultivated fields, bearing their wealth of growing crops,—the rustling corn, the green, waving seas of other grains, or which are, perhaps, already growing golden, and ready for the abundant harvest. Nor can we overlook the grazing herds of cattle, the flocks of sheep and droves of horses, all well-fed and contented in the green pastures, for from these grain fields and droves and flocks and herds, come our living, and the wealth of the world. And to-day every breeze bears to us the fragrant odors of the wide spreading landscape. The softly falling dews of the night and the refreshing showers of this season, are full of blessings for man.

This, too, is the season of the school and college commencement exercises and long school vacation, the "outing" time of the city business man, the season of pic-nics and out-door festivals, of celebrations and the assembling of great literary and benevolent associations. And now is out-door life in the country full of useful labor, and all kinds of business activity. Now, too, the pleasure seekers are in the field and forest, on the land and on the waters, in quest of rest and recuperation.

Yes, the summer is life in its perfection, for every living thing.

"Then comes Thy glory in the summer months,  
With light and heat refulgent. Then Thy sun  
Shoots full perfection through the swelling year."

Heaven itself is but an eternal summer. It is the summer that gives us the goodly fruits of the earth, without which, all things having life would perish. But the promise made in the world's morning is, that "while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease."

#### THE HUM OF THE HARVESTERS.

Harvest commenced about the twenty-fourth of July. Hands were plenty at two dollars per day, and the weather was good.

Crops of all kinds were good this year, except wheat, which was generally light, many pieces not producing more than from five to eight bushels per acre. The average yield over the county did not,

probably, exceed ten bushels per acre. The corn crop was the largest ever yet raised in the county. This was Minnesota's great corn year. If an Illinois farmer had been visiting this county, during the summer and fall of this year and had seen the tall thrifty stalks, the large and perfectly ripened ears, he might well inquire why this county was not adapted to raising "Cawn." He would not only have seen corn, but might have truthfully said with the poet

"On either hand  
The yellow pumpkins lie,  
Sprinkled about the over-burdened land,  
Suggestive of delicious pie.  
Whose charms, a home-bred, hungry soul,  
Cannot withstand."

#### THE SOUTH WEST AND THE MAIL.

On the second day of September the last number of the *South West* appeared. The editor, in his good bye, after stating that he had sold out, says: "We shall now have an opportunity of a 'play spell' that is not in the least disagreeable to contemplate, after having conducted a newspaper for twenty-seven years."

On the sixteenth day of September the *Blue Earth City Mail* appeared at Blue Earth City, published by M. H. Stevens, formerly of the *Post*. It was a large, eight-column weekly, "neatly printed and ably edited," as the usual phrase goes. Mr. Stevens had bought out the *South West*, referred to above.

#### THE CONTEST FOR THE OFFICES.

With the incoming of September, another exciting political contest commenced.

It will be remembered that by the new apportionment heretofore mentioned, that this county now constituted one senatorial and representative district, being entitled to one senator and two representatives in the State legislature.

This being the year of the gubernatorial election, the candidates of the leading parties were Hon. Horace Austin, republican, and Hon. Winthrop Young, democrat.

The democracy held a County Convention at Blue Earth City on the ninth day of September, and made the following nominations:

- For Senator—Geo. B. Kingsley.
- For Representatives—John McNeil, C. G. Slagle.
- For Treasurer—Geo. Barnes.
- For County Attorney—Richard Field.
- For Sheriff—A. B. Davis.
- For Judge of Probate—A. Hanson.
- For Coroner—J. M. Drake.

On the fifteenth day of September, the republicans met in county convention, at Blue Earth City.

The following nominations were made:

For Treasurer—R. B. Johnson.

For Sheriff—J. E. Wheeler.

For County Attorney—J. H. Sprout.

For Coroner—A. J. Rose.

For Judge of Probate—J. A. Keister.

An attempt was made to nominate a candidate for senator, G. W. Whallon and E. H. Hutchins being before the convention.

A great deal of "noise and confusion" now prevailed in the convention, and in the hurry and excitement the vote was declared a tie, whereupon a motion was made and put and was supposed to have been carried to adjourn, without nominating senator and representatives, and the convention broke up in a general jumble. It was, however, claimed by Mr. Whallon and his friends, that the name of one delegate friendly to him had not been called, nor his vote counted, which if it had been done, would have given him one majority, and of course the nomination.

The result, however, was that it was generally considered that no nominations had been made by the convention for legislative offices, and the field was open to all.

A great deal of figuring, intriguing, "log-rolling" and combinations began at once among the local politicians—a great running hither and thither, a consultation of factions and individuals and interests. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the nominations of both parties, and as a result, about the close of September, certain independent candidates for legislative honors were announced. E. H. Hutchins and Geo. W. Whallon were announced as candidates for the senate. S. P. Child, Andrew Hanson, Henry M. Huntington and C. A. Lounsberry as candidates for representatives.

A "People's Mass Convention" was called to meet at Wisner's Grove on the tenth day of October, for the purpose of making nominations. This convention, as announced, was not to be a party affair—it was not to be controlled in any way by politicians—they were to be cast aside together with all kinds of "rings" and "cliques," and honest men were to be nominated.

It was alleged that some of the candidates already nominated by one party or the other, and several of the independents wanted the indorsement of this convention. Others again, who had nothing to make or lose, were glad to see a "rumpus." The convention met on the day appointed. It was not largely attended, considering the efforts to get up an excitement.

The convention nominated J. A. Latimer, for senator; J. C. Woodruff and C. A. Lounsberry for representatives, Nathaniel

McColley for treasurer, Richard Field for county attorney, J. E. Wheeler for sheriff, J. M. Drake for coroner and W. J. Robinson for probate judge.

Of these nominees, we may remark, that soon after the convention, Messrs. Latimer and Woodruff withdrew, Mr. McColley declined the nomination, and Mr. Robinson did not accept nor run as a candidate, and all the others were defeated, as appears by the official returns.

The canvass was a very spirited one, and although there were no public meetings and speeches, every elector in the county was well informed of the claims of the several candidates. The contest was mainly on persons and localities, politics being greatly ignored. The principal contest was for the offices of senator, representatives and sheriff. The candidates for the senate made prodigious efforts and left nothing undone, while a number of the candidates for representatives pursued the business of electioneering, from the rising of the sun, each morning, to the going down thereof, and extended over considerably into the sombre shades of night. But all such contests must end at last and some result be obtained.

The election was held on the seventh day of November, and the close and bitter contest resulted as follows:

Austin .....	1,565	Slagle.....	263
Young.....	428	Johnson.....	1,625
Whallon.....	669	Barnes.....	354
Hutchins .....	689	Wheeler.....	939
Kingsley .....	613	Davis.....	1,035
Child .....	967	Sprout.....	1,278
Huntington.....	754	Field.....	715
Lounsberry .....	726	Kiester .....	1,580
McNeil.....	589	Hanson.....	612
Hanson.....	324		

For county commissioners the following named gentlemen were elected: Henry Sellen, in District No. 2; W. W. Potter, in District No. 4, and David Catlin, in District No. 5.

It may be said of this election, that all the candidates for senator and representatives were more or less dissatisfied at the result—some in being beaten, others in being elected, some in the majorities being either so large, or so small, and the result of no election ever held in this county produced such intense grief and indignation in the hearts of some of the defeated, as this, yet the election was fairly held, the canvass honorably conducted in the main, and no frauds were ever alleged.

Defeat is among those unpleasant things in politics, as to which every candidate for office must take his chances. And the defeated cannot always see why they failed.

"How many men have died believing  
 The world was blind to their achieving,  
 And has ungratefully ignored  
 The gods designed to be adored!  
 Who has not heard the woeful wail  
 Of unappreciated whale,  
 Who thinks, if chance had let him blow,  
 The world would not ignore him so."—*Holley.*

## PICK UPS.

On the third day of June a heavy hail storm passed over a portion of the county, doing much damage.

The first heavy frost of the season occurred on the night of the nineteenth day of September. This item may not be of much interest to some people, yet there are those who are much benefitted in knowing just such unpretentious facts, and especially in knowing, for instance, when the first frosts have occurred during a number of years. It is from the knowledge of such apparently unimportant events that the work of farmers, in all countries, is much regulated.

The weather, during the spring and summer of this year, was generally pleasant. There were but few storms, and not much rain. The year was one of those known as a dry year, and was dry especially in the fall. Winter set in early in November, quite cold, and continued so right along, the twenty-ninth of November being the coldest day of the winter. On that day the mercury run down to 31° below zero.

## THE YEAR OF FIRE.

This year will ever be prominent in the annals of time as the year of fire. The fire fiend went forth in his robes of flame, on the wings of the winds, and great cities, thriving villages and vast districts of country were laid in ashes.

On the 9th and 10th days of October the great city of Chicago was mainly burned up. Many lives were lost. Two hundred millions of dollars worth of property was destroyed. Ninety-eight thousand people were rendered homeless and penniless. The insurance losses paid amounted to \$48,000,000, but hundreds of insurance companies, many of them among the strongest in the world, were made bankrupt. It was the most extensive, destructive and appalling fire known to history, the burning of Rome, in the reign of the monster, Nero, not excepted.

"Blackened and bleeding, panting, prone  
 On the charred fragments of her shattered throne,  
 Lies she who stood, but yesterday, alone."

—*Bret Harte.*

Soon afterwards a large part of Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and a part of Michigan, were burned over, destroying many villages, vast forests of timber, and other property, and throughout the whole country fires were more numerous and destructive than usual.

## ALEXIS.

And now we may close the record of this year by the statement that, in November, the Grand Duke Alexis, of Russia, arrived in America, and travelled through the country for several months, attracting considerable of the public attention. And here is a peg on which some pertinent remarks may be hung. While it is evidently proper that the representatives of foreign governments, the kings, the scions of royalty and others of the aristocracy of monarchical nations, should be received and treated, on visiting our shores, with proper respect, attention and hospitality, it is well to be careful not to stultify our republicanism and self-respect and sink our dignity into obsequiousness and flunkyism. The prying curiosity, the fawning and toadyism which characterized the conduct of many of our citizens, especially those known as "society" people among the upper tandom of our cities, on the visit of this young man, noted for nothing he ever did, or thought, or said, was disgusting to all thinking people, and must have surprised the Russian himself. Such sycophancy is not only inconsistent with self-respect, but also with our character as Americans, and with the spirit of American institutions. We pride ourselves as a nation, on our free government. We acknowledge no nobility but that of personal worth. A man is no better for his ancestors, or his relatives, even if they were, or are, kings, unless they were noble, because of their intelligence and virtues, and he is like them, and he is none the worse if they were ignoble, unless he shares their unworthiness.

They from abroad or at home, who are entitled to our homage and to special public honors are the Lafayettes and Kossuths, men who have said something, done something, represented something in the world's progress in civil and religious liberty—or men who are the great leaders in science, literature, invention, the kings of thought, the reformers, the educators, the men who represent the brain and the work and the industries of the world. Such are the men who are entitled to our highest regard and attention, and to whom we can afford to doff our hats.

Here is a little story with much in it: Maria Antoinette, Queen of France, wishing to send to Washington a royal gift, as a token of her appreciation of his great merits, consulted Lafayette as to the form of presentation. She recited the formularies of adulatory terms usual in addressing kings and other monarchs. Lafayette mildly objected to the employment of such terms, as unsuitable in this case, saying "They, Madame, were only kings, Washington is the great leader of a free nation." Let Americans ever maintain their self-respect as American citizens and the representatives of American ideas, even in the presence of the proudest monarch on earth.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

A. D. 1872.

## THE COUNTY CONTROLLERS.

The first notable event of the year was the meeting of the board of county commissioners, on the second day of January. A. R. More, Sr., of Pilot Grove, was elected chairman for the year. The further action of the board at this meeting, of historical interest, is recorded elsewhere. The board met again on the eighteenth of March, and, among other business, considered a project in relation to the erection, at an early day, of a county building for a court room and county offices, and on the twenty-eighth of the same month, they again met for the purpose of examining plans and specifications for such building. Finally, at a meeting held on the twenty-fifth day of June, they determined to erect a county building, to cost about \$4,000, provided that Blue Earth City township should contribute about \$2,300 to the enterprise. The township subsequently accepted the proposition. The beautiful grounds—the court house square—on which the county buildings are erected, were reserved for the purpose by the original town-site proprietors of Blue Earth City, and were donated to the county, free of any charge.

## THE FARMERS' SOCIETY.

On the third day of January, the agricultural society held its annual meeting, at which, Sabastian Pfeffer, of Blue Earth City, was chosen president, C. S. Dunbar, of Foster, treasurer, and R. W. Richards, of Blue Earth City, secretary. At this time the society was again somewhat agitated about securing a permanent location and grounds, but there were some difficulties in the way of deciding the question, as each of the villages, in the county, desired to secure it, and the members of the society being scattered all over the county, were much divided in their views.

The secretary was authorized to get two hundred copies of the constitution and by-laws printed, for the use of the society, and procure suitable books for the several officers, and also to transcribe all the records of the society into a proper record book.

On the twentieth of April a meeting was held at Blue Earth City for the purpose of considering the question of the permanent location of the society, and the procuring of grounds. At this meet-

ing a committee of six was appointed to receive propositions. Blue Earth City, Winnebago City and Wells were the competitors.

Another meeting was held, at Blue Earth City, June 26th, when the proposition of that village to locate the society and fair grounds permanently at that place, in consideration of the gift, to the society, of twenty-five acres of land, near the village, for grounds, was accepted. But the matter was not yet fully and permanently settled, owing to various causes, not necessary to mention here.

#### THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

At the January term of the district court for this year, but little business of importance was transacted, there being no cases attracting public attention. There were thirty-nine civil and but two criminal cases on the calendar. Hon. F. H. Waite, presided.

At a meeting of the bar of the county, held during this term of court, the attorneys of the county adopted a uniform fee bill. It did not prove of much service, and this was the first united action taken by the bar of this county on any matter.

Among the queer cases which sometimes occur in courts of justice, the following is told as a veritable one. It could hardly have happened in any but an "Arkansaw" court.

#### A FELLOW FEELING.

A gentleman was arranged before an Arkansas Justice on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses. He had entered a store, pretending to be a customer, but proved to be a thief.

"Your name is Jim Likmore?" said the justice.

"Yes, sir."

"And you are charged with a crime that merits a long term in the penitentiary?"

"Yes, sir."

"And you are guilty of the crime?"

"I am."

"And you ask for no mercy?"

"No, sir."

"You have had a great deal of trouble within the last two years?"

"Yes, sir, I have."

"You have often wished that you were dead?"

"I have, please your honor."

"You wanted to steal money enough to take you away from Arkansas?"

"You are right, judge."

"If a man had stepped up and shot you just as you entered the store you would have said, 'thank you sir'?"

"Yes, sir, I would. But, judge, how did you find out so much about me?"

"Some time ago," said the judge, with a solemn air, "I was divorced from my wife. Shortly afterwards you married her. The result is conclusive. I discharge you. Here, take this \$50 bill. You have suffered enough."



## THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

As a member of the legal profession—though a very humble one indeed—the writer may be excused for some remarks here on the subject, which heads this brief article. It is a subject in which every one is more or less interested.

Lawyers, as such, and the legal profession in general, are the subjects of a good deal of abuse, suspicion, invidious witticisms and sometimes of denunciation. A great deal of this is not merited, except by a few individuals.

The profession and lawyers generally, are suspicioned and maligned because of the inefficiency—say incompetency, or the bad character of a small proportion of those who belong to the profession. The truth is that the members of the profession, generally, are entitled to respect and confidence. However, it is difficult to find a class of men or profession, who care less about abuse, or are better able to stand it, than lawyers. They are not very sensitive.

The legal profession is one of the most noble in its great scope and in its intellectual requirements, and one of the most necessary to the welfare of society of any of the secular occupations.

Its importance, in all countries, whether monarchical, or republican, or whether its members have been backed by wealth, or titles, or high places, or not, has been admitted.

The legal profession, in itself, is a great republic as "The Republic of Letters," in which real talent, large attainments, practical capacity, constitute the only gauge of rank. Lawyers in all countries and all times, or those who answer to that title, have always ranked in importance with the best classes of citizens.

No civilized country can do without lawyers. Where laws exist, there must be those who know what the laws are, and who can give counsel as to what they are, and who can assist people in the maintenance of their rights under the laws. The knowledge of lawyers is also of the highest importance in the making of the laws themselves. A large per centum of the members of all constitutional conventions, of National and State legislatures, and also of the highest official government incumbencies, are lawyers, and the judicial departments of all governments is their exclusive domain.

But it is generally the fact that it is only when a man gets into serious personal difficulties, that he begins to appreciate the value of the services of an able and honorable lawyer. Lawyers hold in their hands much of the happiness and success of the community and state, for these are in a great measure dependent on the proper administration of wise laws.

And considering the nature of their profession, lawyers are necessarily intrusted with much important business, and great con-

fidences—secrets of the most important character, relating to families, people's personal, private and business affairs, by all classes of persons, and it may be affirmed that, considering the power they possess in this respect, to extort money, or take other advantages, the legal profession is a remarkably honorable and faithful one. The great majority of lawyers are true to their clients, under all circumstances. It may be added here, notwithstanding the adverse suggestions heard sometimes, that a man may be a lawyer and yet be a man of the highest honor and integrity. He may be a Christian man in the true sense of that name. There have always been, and now are many lawyers who are Christian men.

De Tocqueville says that lawyers are attached to public order beyond every other consideration, and further, that he "cannot believe a republic could subsist at the present time, if the influence of lawyers in public business did not increase in proportion to the power of the people."

The profession of the lawyer is one which, for its successful conduct and broadest usefulness and honor requires the largest ability, the best training and widest extent of learning. There is no branch of human knowledge, which may not be of use to a lawyer. This may be true largely of most professions, or vocations, but it is peculiarly and emphatically so of this.

That prince of American lawyers, David Dudley Field, says that "Above all others, this science (that of the law) so vast, so comprehensive and varied in its details, needs to be served with all the aids which institutions, professors and libraries can furnish." While a much lower grade of qualifications than is here indicated, may certainly serve to equip a lawyer for ordinary practice, yet the supposition that a year, or two years, desultory reading in a law office, or even a course of study for one or two years in a law school, and the passing of a superficial examination for admission to the bar, will make a lawyer competent to take into his hands the important business or other interests of men, and meet successfully opposing counsel, is one of the great absurdities of the age. But there are many lawyers at the bar, at this day, who have been "gotten up" in this way. The idea that it is well to admit applicants to the bar whatever their qualification, and depend upon subsequent practice and study for efficiency, now appears to be passing out.

The work of a lawyer in full practice is very laborious and exacting. Constant thought, close attention, investigation of principles and authorities, study of every phase of his cases, and the evidence connected therewith, are his daily task, and to a large extent, nightly also.

The lawyers' work is quite different in many respects from that of other professions or occupations, in the fact that any opinion he

gives, or every move he makes, is the subject of inspection and perhaps opposition. He therefore must always be well grounded and always ready. The doctor may doctor and the preacher may preach, for years, making perhaps many mistakes, and no fault may be found with them, but the lawyer must face inquiry and opposition at once and constantly in his business, and his errors or weaknesses are taken advantage of by his opponent.

A great deal more is expected of lawyers in America, than perhaps in any other country. In most countries lawyers devote their time to only one title, or branch of the law, or practice only in certain kinds of courts, as the Law Courts, the Chancery Courts, the Criminal Courts, the Admiralty Courts.

In England, for example, the profession is divided into attorneys, solicitors, common law lawyers, proctors, counsellors, and perhaps some other designations, but in America a lawyer is expected to be proficient in all the titles and departments of the law, and to practice in any or all of the courts.

When Judah P. Benjamin, after the fall of the confederacy, went to England to engage in the practice of the law, he was asked by an English lawyer, in what division, or department of the law and courts he intended to practice, and greatly surprised the inquirer, when he answered, in any of the courts where his services should be desired, and he did, and that with great success. In the larger cities of this country there are, however, lawyers who devote their time to practice in some particular courts, or branch of the law. Daniel Webster once said of eminent American lawyers, that "they work hard, live well, and die poor."

And now another phase of the subject. It must be admitted that the profession has in some localities, perhaps in many to some extent, fallen into considerable disrepute, as above intimated.

This is not because of the real character of the legal profession itself, but because of the incompetent and dishonest persons who have gotten into it, and their evil practices, as has already been suggested. But a further word needs to be said. It is charged against the profession, that what was once known as legal ethics and honor, are largely unknown at this day.

It is said that legal ethics taught that it was dishonorable for a lawyer to take contingent fees—that a lawyer who had heard a case in the capacity of a court, and rendered a decision therein, should not, on appeal to a higher court, act as the attorney of either party—that a lawyer should not hear a case, as a Judge, in which he had at any time been an attorney, even if no objection is made, or even if consent of parties is given—that an attorney engaged in a case, should not counsel or conspire with the attorney of the other side—that a Judge should not give counsel to either party, or instruct

or hear one party, or his attorney, as to the merits of a case in the absence of the party and his attorney on the other side—that an attorney who has given an opinion or is employed on one side of a case, should not hear, or be employed on the other side at any time—that no attorney should be guilty of barratry, maintenance, or champerty, whether the law permits either of them, or not.

Yet it is claimed that these things are done, quite commonly. It is also alleged, that it is a violation of legal ethics and honor for a lawyer, in the employment of a corporation, company, or individual, to permit himself to be elected to a state legislature, or congress, for the purpose of promoting, or protecting the interests of his employer, thus ignoring his oath and dishonoring his office of a legislator, and instead of representing the people—his constituents, represents a client for pay, so far, at least, as his client's interests are involved, and whatever the interests of his constituents may be. And this, it is alleged in many places, is getting to be quite common in both our state and national legislatures. And it is doubtless true, that in congress and in many state legislatures, attorneys of great corporations and moneyed interests appear as members.

It is said also, that there is a class of lawyers who dishonor the profession by living on, what may be termed, legal garbage, carrion—those who take doubtful personal injury suits, on speculation, or contingent fees—those who rummage the records of courts and titles, for the purpose of taking advantage of people's errors or oversights, to rob them of their property, or to extort money from them—those who institute suits without merit, for the purpose of getting fees, or making something by compromise—those who institute, or threaten to institute suits for the purpose of levying blackmail—those who hang about saloons and police courts and police officers, for the purpose of getting business, and finally, those who can be hired to do any kind of dirty work which no honorable man would do for himself.

Undoubtedly there are such lawyers, and they are generally known in the profession, and at large, as pettifoggers, shysters, scalpers, razorbacks and sharks, and often end their career in the perpetration of crimes. These fellows are usually practitioners of very large pretensions, and they constitute the class of lawyers who bring odium upon the profession. A community where many of them, or any of them, in fact, are to be found, is to be pitied. What produces them? Want of capacity sufficient to warrant success in honorable practice or want of moral principle, profligate or evil lives, by which they forfeit the confidence of the public, are usually the causes. The lawyer who has reached the sage conclusion that it is better for his business, as a lawyer, to have the reputation of being a shrewd knave, rather than that of being an honorable man,

has traveled a long ways on the road to failure and the devil. Many young men are placed in the professions who are not, by their natural talents or tastes fitted for them, or for the one they enter.

The question of a young man's adaptability, his natural capacity and taste for an occupation, is a serious one and should be well considered before he enters upon it. It is a bad thing to spoil a good farmer, mechanic or merchant, to make a poor lawyer, doctor or preacher. There are thousands of men in the legal profession who have no natural adaptation for it, and sooner or later fail as lawyers and drift into clerkships and small agency business, all very well in themselves, and useful, but they are not—the practice of the law, technically speaking.

The great remedy for the evils above referred to, is the exercise of more care in entering young men on the study of the law, the requirement of a much higher standard of qualifications, that is, more thorough and extended learning, better instruction as to the morals and dignity and honor of the profession, and the requirement of passing, satisfactorily, a more rigid examination before admission to the bar.

Our great law schools, the American Bar Association, and the various State Bar Associations, are doing much toward elevating the standards of the legal profession.

The relevancy of the preceding remarks on the subject of the legal profession, to our history, will become more apparent when we reach the closing year of this history, in which will be found some observations relating to the Bar of this county.

#### LEGISLATION.

The fourteenth State Legislature assembled January 2d, and adjourned March 1st.

The legislation of this year, relating to this county, was:

- 1st. An act to incorporate the village of Blue Earth City.
- 2d. An act to authorize townships, cities and incorporated villages, in Faribault county to vote a five per cent tax to aid in the construction of railroads.
- 3d. An act amending an act entitled an act to authorize the Minnesota Valley Railroad Company to construct a branch line from Mankato, or some point near thereto, to the south line of Faribault county.
- 4th. An act to authorize the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company to construct and operate a branch from some suitable point, on its main line, in Faribault county, by way of Blue Earth City, to the Iowa State line.
- 5th. An act to authorize the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company, its successors or assigns, to construct a branch road from

Waseca, in Waseca county, *via* Blue Earth City, in Faribault county, to the Iowa State line, and for other purposes.

6th. An act, approved March 1st, to change the name of the town of Guthrie, in Faribault county, to Delavan.

7th. A memorial to congress for a mail route from Blue Earth City to Banks, in Faribault county.

8th. An act dividing the State into three congressional districts, by which this county was placed in the first district.

The following acts were somewhat remotely related to this county:

9th. An act to authorize the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company to build branch lines from Minneapolis, and other points, to the south line of the State.

10th. An act to enable the cities, towns and villages in the counties of Sibley, Nicollet and Blue Earth to aid in the construction of a railroad from Carver, in Carver county, by way of Henderson, St. Peter and Mankato, to the State line of Iowa.

11th. An act to change the names of certain persons residing in Faribault county.

12th. An act appropriating sixteen hundred dollars, to reimburse Floyd Smith, of Faribault county, for expenses and damages arising from an arrest, upon the requisition of the governor of Wisconsin. A joint resolution was also adopted, asking the State of Wisconsin to indemnify the State of Minnesota for moneys appropriated for the above purpose.

The facts of this case, briefly stated, are as follows: On the fifth day of January, 1871, a requisition was issued by the governor of Wisconsin, upon the governor of Minnesota, for the arrest and extradition of Floyd Smith, of this county, upon the charge of stealing a horse from one Clemens, of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, in December, 1869. Smith was arrested and conveyed to Wisconsin for trial, and was indicted, tried and convicted of the alleged offense, by reason of false or mistaken evidence produced against him by the prosecution, and was sentenced to the Wisconsin State Prison for two years, and was taken there and confined as a common felon for several weeks, when an application was made to the governor of Wisconsin, for the pardon of said Smith, who ordered an investigation into the merits of the case. The investigation resulted in proving conclusively, and beyond all doubt, that Smith was innocent of the offense charged, or of any offense, or color of criminality in the premises, and was immediately and unconditionally pardoned.

The arrest, trial and other proceedings in the matter, resulted in a loss to Smith, of about three thousand dollars, and left him with no property, and involved in debt to the extent of several hundred dollars, and with the support of a large family to provide for.

A great state or nation, can do no nobler act, or attest its dignity and nobility, in no better manner, than in the defense of its humblest citizen from injustice, or the abuse of his rights and liberties, by the authority, mistakenly exercised, or otherwise, of any other state or nation. And this act was not only creditable to the State, but was alike honorable to the many private citizens who assisted in the work of righting the wrongs of their neighbor.

The members of the legislature for this county for this year were E. H. Hutchins in the Senate, and S. P. Child and Henry M. Huntington in the House. Thomas George, of this county, was sergeant-at-arms of the House.

The State of Wisconsin, did, subsequently re-imburse the State of Minnesota, for all its expenditures in this case.

#### THE ADVERTISER.

*The Winnebago City Advertiser* appeared February 29th, taking the place of the *Press*.

The editor, E. A. Hotchkiss, Esq., says: "We own the *Advertiser* office—do not owe one cent on it. \* \* \* If you wish to subscribe, please enclose one dollar to the editor. If you have no dollar, send us the names of four subscribers with four dollars and you will receive a free copy. If you do not like the paper and do not want it, at any rate, return a single copy to this office." \* \* \*

"It is one thing to be born great, another thing to have greatness thrust upon you, and three times as much, to be obliged to shoulder a printing office against your will."

Several months afterwards, Mr. A. A. Huntington purchased the *Advertiser* office, and the paper came out, under the former name of the *Winnebago City Press*, Mr. Huntington being editor and proprietor.

#### WIND AND WEATHER.

A great snow storm occurred on Monday night, February 12th, and continued through Tuesday and Tuesday night. The wind blew a hurricane, the air was filled with snow, and the cold was intense. Quite a number of people and some stock were frozen to death in counties west and northwest of this.

The spring was very late. Some little wheat was sown the last days of March and the first days of April. A great storm of wind and snow prevailed over the country on the 14th and 15th days of April. Then came frequent heavy rains, owing to all of which the greater part of the wheat was not sown until the last week in April and first week of May, and much of the oats was sown after the fifteenth of May, and but little corn was planted until after the seventeenth of May. Low grounds were very mirey. About the middle of May, the

roads were almost impassable and the streams were very high. As a consequence, farmers were much discouraged and fears were entertained of a wet summer.

#### PRICES—MONEY.

Prices in the spring averaged as follows: Wheat, \$1.00; oats, 25 cents; potatoes, 25 cents per bushel, and flour \$3.50 per hundred. In May wheat went up to \$1.33 at Delavan. Money, during the spring and summer, was very scarce, and although wheat brought a fair price, there was but little surplus for sale, until after harvest. Notwithstanding the hard times, however, the people did not borrow so much money, at high rates of interest, as in former years, which was certainly a good symptom. Indeed, there were already premonitions of financial troubles near at hand.

#### DRIFTWOOD.

(From *Post*, Blue Earth City.)

—February 24th. A. Holliday of this place, has commenced the erection of a (water power) grist mill on the Blue Earth river.

—The instruments have been ordered for a brass band (costing \$212.00.) (This was the first band at Blue Earth City.)

—An extensive revival of religion is in progress at Rice Lake (Foster township) in this county, almost the whole community taking part.

—March 3d. The first geese passed north on Monday and the weather-wise are, therefore, predicting an early spring.

—There is more merit in the proposition to build a railroad from Waseca to Blue Earth City, than many would suppose, without some examination.

—March 9th. Col. Thompson's cheese factory at Wells, will commence operations on April 10th. (This was the first cheese factory in the county, and one of the best in the United States.)

—March 16th. The Republicans at Wells have formed a thorough organization for the promulgation of correct political principles.

—A local clergyman, in presenting a subscription paper to an "outsider" the other day, remarked that it was a matter of economy to belong to some church, for, said he, "You outsiders are like apple trees along the road, everybody takes a 'bang' at you."

#### GOOD-FRIDAY.

"Well may the cavern depths of earth  
Be shaken, and her mountains nod;  
Well may the sheeted dead come forth  
To gaze upon a suffering God."—*Whittier*.

Good-Friday is a legal holiday in many of the states. It has always been observed by a portion of our citizens, but not so generally as it should be.

The day is a fast-day in the church calendar, and is kept in commemoration of that awful event, the crucifixion of Jesus, the Christ.



The day has been observed from the very earliest ages of the Christian Church.

Because of the great good, even our salvation which we derive from the death of Jesus, our Saviour, the day is called Good Friday.

Salvation! Oh most glorious hope! A hope, a faith indeed, which, if blotted out to-day, would fill the world with despair!

The crucifixion took place on the day before the Jewish Passover, and the Passover comes, annually, on the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday), after the full moon, which falls on, or next after, the twenty-first day of March.

It is said by historians, that the death, by crucifixion, was one of the great punishments inflicted by Roman law in that age, and was lingering and exceedingly painful, and was only inflicted upon slaves and the greatest criminals. It was ever deemed a death of great shame and dishonor.

After a trial, which was a most gross travesty upon all sense of justice and right, Mark says (Chap. XV), "Christ was mocked, scourged, smitten, spit upon and crowned with thorns." He was numbered with the transgressors. He was sentenced at six o'clock in the morning.

"I saw Him  
In the Judgment Hall, before the haughty  
Pilate; He—the God—Man—arraigned before  
The changing justice of a human bar!"—Z. C.

Here is a copy of what is alleged to be the sentence of death, against our Saviour. Something which but few people of this age have ever seen, and this is the most remarkable judicial sentence which has ever been pronounced in the world. It is word for word as follows:

"Sentence pronounced by Pontius Pilate, Intendent of the Lower Province of Galilee, that Jesus of Nazareth, shall suffer death by the Cross.

"In the Seventh year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, and on the 24th day of the month of March, in the most holy city of Jerusalem, during the Pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas.

"Pontius Pilate, Intendent of the Province of Lower Galilee, sitting in judgment on the presidential seat of the Prætors, sentences Jesus of Nazareth to death on the Cross, between two robbers.

"As the numerous and notorious testimonials of the people prove:—

"1. Jesus is a misleader.

"2. He has excited the people to sedition.

"3. He is an enemy of the law.

"4. He called himself the Son of God.

"5. He calls himself, falsely, the King of Israel.

"6. He went into the temple, followed by a multitude carrying palms in their hands.

"Jesus to be taken out of Jerusalem, through the gates of Tournes."

"The witnesses who have signed to the execution of Jesus are:

- "1. Daniel Robani, Pharisee.
- "2. John Zorababel.
- "3. Raphael Robani.
- "4. Capet. (See note below.)

He was led to Mount Calvary, where He was crucified at the third hour, (nine o'clock a. m.), and Matthew says, He died about the ninth hour, (three o'clock p. m.). He was taken down from the cross and entombed at six o'clock in the evening.

"At Calvary, I saw Him crucified;  
 The bleeding side—the wounded head—  
 The pierced hands and feet—that did atone,  
 For human sin—the Holy Lamb of God,  
 That took away the sins of the whole world!  
 Ah! then I saw in Him, the Promised Hope  
 Of Israel, of whom the prophets wrote—  
 He who should save His people from their sins!  
 Then the shut doors of my stout heart gave way,  
 And I believed and trusted as a child!"—Z. C.

Such was the cruel death of Him who "died for the ungodly" and in "His own self bear our sins in His own body on the tree;" He, who, in that hour of inconceivable agony and death, could pray in behalf of His murderers,—"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

It is written that from the sixth hour (noon), to the ninth (three o'clock, p. m.), the hour of Christ's death—there was darkness over the whole land, and that at the moment of His death the earth quaked, the rocks were rent, and the vail of the Jewish temple was rent in twain from top to bottom.

"It is finished," He exclaimed. "The work He came to do in the flesh, His humiliation and suffering; the life He came to live, manifesting the power and love of the Father; the fulfillment of all the types and prophecies concerning Him; the death He came to die, and the redemption He came to accomplish, so far as His Messianic office as the Son of Man was concerned, were finished."

No other death has ever been recorded in the annals of time of such awful incidents and profound import as this, and now even after the lapse of nearly nineteen hundred years, wherever the story of the cross is read or told, it strikes and thrills the deepest chords of the human heart and understanding.

That the anniversary of this great and solemn day should be remembered and be observed by all Christian people, everywhere, by the most solemn religious services and by refraining from business, is evidently proper, and as a matter of fact it may happily be stated that the observance of the day is becoming more and more general, with the passing years, especially in the cities.

NOTE—The sentence above quoted is engraved on a plate of brass in the Hebrew language, and on its sides are the following words: "A similar plate has been sent to each tribe." It was discovered in the year 1280, in the city of Aquilla, in the Kingdom of Naples, by a search made for Roman antiquities, and it remained there until it was found by the Commission of Arts in the French army in Italy. Up to the time of the campaign in Southern Italy it was preserved in the sacristy of the Carthusians, near Naples, where it was kept in a box of ebony. Since then the relic has been kept in the chapel of Caert. The Carthusians obtained the privilege, by their petitions, that the plate might be kept by them, which was an acknowledgment of the sacrifice they made for the French army. The French translation was made literally by the members of the Commission of Arts. Denon had a facsimile of the plate engraved, which was bought by Lord Howard, on the sale of his cabinet, for 2,890 francs. There seems to be no historical doubt as to the authenticity of this plate. The reasons of the sentence correspond exactly with those of the Gospel.

#### EASTER.

Easter being a day of particular and general observance, annually, by a large portion of the people of this county, as it is throughout Christendom, and occurring so soon after Good Friday, a legal holiday, may be referred to briefly here.

The English word Easter is probably derived from the Saxon word "Osten," which means "rising." The word Easter occurs once in the authorized version of the New Testament, Acts, 12th chapter and 4th verse, where it is used for the word Passover, but in the new version, the word Passover is used at this place.

As to the time of celebrating Easter, much dispute existed in the early church, but the matter was finally settled by the great council of Nice, held in the year 325. As then determined, it comes on the first Sunday after the full moon, which happens upon or next after March 21st, and if the full moon happened on a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday after. It cannot fall earlier than March 22d, nor later than April 25th.

Easter is a feast day in the church calendar, and is usually accounted one of the leading events of the Christian year, the greatest in fact—and it has from the earliest ages of the church been designated as "the Queen of Festivals."

"O day of days! Shall hearts set free  
No 'minstrel rapture' find for thee?  
Thou art the Sun of other days,  
They shine by giving back thy rays."—*Keble*.

This great feast is kept in remembrance of our Lord's resurrection from the dead, and has been observed in the church from the days of the Apostles down through all the Christian centuries, to our own time.

Easter is the Christian Passover, and may be considered the continuance under the new dispensation, of the ancient Jewish

feast. And its observance seems to be of universal obligation, as it is written, "Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast." 1 Cor. v: 7-8.

"In the light of the Lord's resurrection,  
His people should conquerors be;  
In the battle with evil triumphant  
From the terror of death ever free.  
We shall sleep in the dust and the darkness,  
We shall waken and sing to His name  
Who will bring us to life everlasting,  
By the path, that a victor, He came."

—*Sangster.*

Easter may now be called a universal festival, and in its continuous celebration from the days of the Apostles, bears unimpeachable testimony to the great fact of the resurrection, which is the great fact of the gospel on which all depends for, saith Paul, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." 1 Cor. xv: 14. And accordingly, we find that no fact of sacred or profane history, is better attested, few so well, as that of the resurrection from the dead, of Jesus, the Christ.

On Sunday, or Lord's day, the first day of the week, is also a perpetual and weekly commemoration of the fact of the resurrection, for it was on that day our Lord rose from the dead, and that event has given us the Lord's day, or the Christian Sunday, but Easter Sunday, the greatest Sunday of the year, is the annual and special commemoration of the resurrection.

Of the manner of observing this day, in this country, and in fact as it has generally been observed through all the past centuries in most Christian lands, it may be briefly said that the principal features are the holding of very animated and joyful religious services of specially appropriate character, in the churches, and that the churches are usually made very attractive by floral decorations and the display of numerous mottoes and legends, posted in conspicuous places about the walls and arches and elsewhere, consisting of appropriate texts, as "He is risen," "The Lord is risen indeed," "Now is Christ risen from the dead," "The Lord is King for ever and ever."

"Bring flowers to the shrine where we kneel in prayer,  
They are nature's offering, their place is there!  
They speak of hope to the fainting heart,  
With a voice of promise they come and part;  
They sleep in dust through the wintry hours,  
They break forth in glory—bring flowers, bright flowers."

In all the varied works of nature there is no more beautiful symbol of the resurrection from the dead than the flowers, as they silently spring into life after the long, cold winter, which like death had wrapped them in a snowy shroud.

It is also a special Sunday school festival, greatly enjoyed by the children. Of the many curious customs and traditions connected with the Easter festival, and of the literature of Easter, but little can be said here.

Among the old superstitions connected with the day is that which requires one to procure and wear for the first time on that day, some new article of clothing, if only a pair of gloves, and it is quite a current practice, in many localities, even now, to appear on that day in some new article of dress.

But the greatest distinctive peculiarity in the observance of the day is the distribution among the children of Easter eggs, which are beautifully colored and ornamented with many appropriate devices. The egg has from very ancient times been used as a symbol of the resurrection. For, though the egg is apparently lifeless, it contains the germ of life, and there comes forth from it, under the proper conditions, a being of life and activity, thus symbolizing the resurrection of the dead unto life. The distribution also among the children and others of beautifully designed and ornamented Easter cards has become a general practice at this day.

Finally, Christian people should not, amid the Easter joys, forget the Easter lesson:

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God."—*Col. III: 1.*

As the first Easter was the event of Christ's resurrection, so the last Easter the world shall know, will be in the morning of the general resurrection, in the last day.

"When all that are in their grave shall hear His voice, and shall come forth."

"Blessed are they who shall come forth unto the resurrection of life."

*John V: 28-29.*

#### SCRAPS.

From Blue Earth City *Mail*.

—January.—Delevan is growing very rapidly. Already there are four dry goods stores, one hardware and one furniture store there, besides two hotels, a billiard hall and lumber yard.

—February.—It may seem strange, but nevertheless true, that whisky, regularly applied to a thrifty farmer's stomach, will remove the boards from his fences, let cattle into his crops, kill his fruit trees, mortgage his farm, sow his fields with thistles, take the paint from his buildings, break the glass out of the windows and fill them with old rags, take the gloss from his clothes and the polish from his manners. It will bring sorrow and disgrace to his family, and lead him to a drunkard's grave.

—March.—An entire winter's experience in coal burning, has convinced several of our citizens that it is more economical for heating purposes, than wood.

(But little, if any, coal had been used in this county prior to this).

—May.—The public, very generally—and with much cause—complain of our late spring. But we are not alone; our exchanges from all parts of the country are complaining of the cold.

—There are two pensioners in this county of the war of 1812.

—A clergyman said the other day, that modern young ladies are not the daughters of Shem and Ham, but the daughters of Hem and Sham.

#### THE "MAIL" AND THE "BEE"

On the twenty-fifth day of May, the last number of the *Blue Earth City Mail* appeared. Its career was but a short one. The editor says, in this last number, "With this number of the *Mail* its publication is discontinued. This change has been made necessary by our business interests. The purpose for which the paper was established, has been accomplished."

The first number of *The Delavan Bee* appeared on the eighth day of June, published at Delavan, in this county, by Carr Huntington, formerly of Blue Earth City, editor and proprietor. We quote from the editor's introductory remarks: "In starting a newspaper, it is usual to devote a column to salutatory promises, as to the course it will pursue. In our case, being well-known—perhaps too well-known—to all the people of this county, having been among them engaged in this business about nine years—promises are unnecessary. In conducting newspapers heretofore, it is usually admitted that in every emergency, we have taken the side of the people and endeavored to protect their interests against the machinations of corrupt cliques and the designing of every character and quality. This course on our part has sometimes led along a rough path. In starting a paper in this thriving young village, we have been materially aided by the liberality of its citizens, and, of course, it will be our duty to labor faithfully for the advancement of its best interests, always remembering that its welfare is closely connected with the progress and prosperity of the whole county."

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL INTERESTS.

The second annual session of the Faribault County Sunday School Association, was held at Blue Earth City on the 28th and 29th days of May. "A large number of delegates were in attendance. The exercises throughout were conducted with animation, and were of great interest to all present."

Rev. J. Door, of Winnebago City, was elected president; Reverends W. Ross and H. C. Cheadle, vice presidents; F. R. Woodard, of Wells, secretary, and C. B. Miner, of Verona, treasurer.

## DOTS AND DASHES.

(From *Advertiser*, Winnebago City.)

March 28th.—Seven artesian wells are in operation in the town of Lura, and one in Verona.

April 18th.—It is a significant fact, that not a man in this vicinity wishes to rent land. They all have a farm of their own.

May 2d.—We note with pleasure that Faribault county is not represented at St. Paul in the seed wheat grab.

—Total expenses of the county for the year ending February 28th, 1872, were \$9,198.14.

—Mr. Bullis recently imported to this county a cow and a bull, at a cost of six hundred dollars. They are of the Durham breed, full blood.

May 9th.—Base ball has broken out in our community, though it is thought that it will not rage as hard as in previous seasons.

May 30th.—Said Mr. Cantwell to his clergyman, who had a great disrelish for hypocrisy, "How can I help to reform the world?" "By beginning with yourself," was the conclusive reply.

## THIS, THAT AND T'OTHER.

The June term of the District Court, while much business was done, was not characterized by any trials of special interest.

The calendar contained three criminal and thirty-nine civil suits.

Hon. F. H. Waite, presiding; H. J. Neal, clerk and A. B. Davis, sheriff.

## A NONPLUSSED ATTORNEY.

A correspondent at Fredonia, N. Y., writes: "Being in attendance at the Circuit Court in Albany in the year 1870, I happened to hear a trial of a breach of promise case. The plaintiff was a young lady of rather delicate nerves, and although, through the aid of her counsel, Hon. Lyman Tremain, her case was looking well, yet when she came to be cross-examined by the opposite attorney, Hon. Henry Smith, she quailed before his searching examination, and finally fell down in a swoon. The sympathies of everyone were aroused, and Mr. Smith saw that he must do something. The young lady's face was of a purple-red during her swoon, and so, when the next witness was called (a middle-aged lady), Mr. Smith said:

"Witness, you saw the plaintiff faint a short time ago?"

"Yes, sir," said the witness.

"Well, people *turn pale* when they faint, do they not?"

The witness hesitated a moment, then said, "No, not always."

"Did you ever hear of a case of fainting where the party did not *turn pale*?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you ever *see* such a case?"

"Yes, sir."

"When?"

"About a year ago."

"Where was it?"

"In this city."

"*Who* was it?"

"'Twas a *nigger*."

The plaintiff won the case.

The anniversary of our national independence was celebrated at Blue Earth City on the Fourth of July. The day was pleasant, and the number of people present was variously estimated at twenty-five hundred to three thousand. Hon. Ara Barton, of Rice county, delivered the oration. The Declaration was read by the Rev. Mr. Cheadle, of Blue Earth City.

A celebration was held at Wells, also, and the attendance there was estimated at two thousand people. Hon. M. H. Dunnell delivered the oration.

At each place the celebration was a success and gave general satisfaction. The spirit of '76 still survived!

On the sixth day of July, a terrific hail storm visited this county, which, by many, will long be remembered. It seems to have started near Shelbyville, in Blue Earth county, passing thence southward, through the towns of Winnebago City, Delavan, Prescott, east side of Blue Earth City, west side of Emerald and thence into a small portion of Rome and Elmore, where the hail ceased. Its track was from one to three miles wide, and in many instances the entire crops of the farmers were destroyed. Several farmers lost as much as one hundred acres of grain.

On the ninth of July a cattle fair was held at Wisner's Grove, in Barber township. It was only a partial success, but was a move in the right direction.

#### THE HARVESTERS AT WORK.

The harvest of 1872 began about the twenty-third of July and the weather was very favorable. The oats crop was very light, many fields not being cut. Barley was generally light. Corn was fair considering the late spring. Fife wheat, a variety long sown in this county, proved a failure with a very few exceptions. Some other varieties of wheat did well, and especially the Red Osaka, a new variety of Russian wheat. In fact, had it not been for this latter wheat, we could truthfully say, that the wheat crop of 1872 was a failure.

#### HEADLESS ITEMS.

On the twenty-sixth day of July the commissioners met to appoint two school land appraisers. Messrs. S. L. Rugg and A. R. More, Sr., were appointed. The board assembled again in September, which was the last meeting of the year, but did no business we care to note.

Wheat which had been quite low commenced to rise about harvest, and from the 17th to the 20th of August, reached one dollar and five cents per bushel at Delavan, owing to a great wheat "corner" organized at Chicago. The "corner" was broken about



the 20th, and wheat fell immediatly to eighty-five cents and lower. Some farmers were lucky enough to get in their new crop before the fall. It is well that the farmers, once in a while, get a benefit from the grain gamblers and monopolists who usually have all the profits.

On the twenty-second day of August, a railroad survey was completed to Blue Earth City, starting at Lake Crystal and passing through the towns of Winnebago City, Verona and Blue Earth City and running thence to the Iowa State line. Less survey and more railroad would have suited the people better. The efforts to get a railroad at Blue Earth City kept this subject in a state of agitation for many years.

During the spring and summer a vast immigration passed through this county to the counties west of this, Martin, Jackson, Nobles and Rock. The immigration to this county was very fair, but the public lands having mainly been taken long before, the great body of the immigrants passed on to newer localities.

The first heavy frost of the season occurred on the night of September 18th, but luckily did not materially injure the grass, for strange as it may seem, but little hay had been secured, owing to the wet weather and other causes, prior to the frost. Happily, it is not often the fact, that haying is done in this county in the latter half of September.

At the sale of school lands this fall, about eighteen hundred acres were sold, at prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$13.00 per acre.

#### THE FAIR.

The Agricultural Society held its fair this year at Delavan, on the 3d and 4th days of October.

This was one of the best fairs ever held in the county. The weather was very favorable and the attendance large. There was some two hundred entries of stock and other things, and \$157.00 were awarded in premiums. Yet, after all is said, the fair was not what it should have been, in so populous a county as this.

#### STATE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

A State Institute was held at Winnebago City, commencing on Monday, October 21st, which was attended by eighty-seven teachers. The institute was conducted by instructors, thoroughly prepared for the work, and furnished with such professional books and literature as was of great value to those engaged in teaching. The value of these institutes in presenting new methods of teaching, discussing and improving the existing methods, introducing new subjects of instruction, offering to the young teacher the experience of the old one, harmonizing the system of instruction throughout the county,

and the awakening of a higher zeal and ambition in the minds and hearts of teachers, and in giving them a more just view of the importance of their calling, can hardly be over-estimated.

#### THE YEARLY SCUFFLE.

This being the year of a presidential election, the hosts began to muster early for the conflict, throughout the whole country.

On the fifteenth day of June, a mass-convention was held at Blue Earth City of those who were opposed to the re-election of Gen. Grant to the presidency. This party was made up of and known as democrats and liberal republicans, and constituted the opposition to the republican party in the main.

Gen. U. S. Grant was the republican, and Horace Greeley, of New York, the opposition candidate for the presidency. Chas. O'Connor, of New York, was the presidential candidate of a part of the democratic party. The candidates for congress were Mark H. Dunnell, republican, and Morton S. Wilkinson, independent republican.

There were also several State officers to be elected, and four amendments to the State constitution to be voted upon.

On the nineteenth day of October the Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City.

S. C. Leland, Esq., of Wells, was called to the chair, and Hon. A. A. Huntington, of Winnebago City, was chosen secretary.

The attendance was full, and the convention harmonious. The following nominations were made:

For Representatives—S. P. Child and M. A. Hawks.

For Clerk of Court—H. J. Neal.

For Register of Deeds—F. P. Brown.

For Auditor—W. W. White.

For Surveyor—E. S. Levitt.

The liberal republicans and democrats held their county convention at Blue Earth City, on the twenty-second day of October. This convention was also harmonious in its action. D. H. Morse, of Verona, was chosen chairman, and D. P. Wasgatt, of Winnebago City, secretary. The convention then proceeded to make the following nominations.

J. H. Welch and T. S. Fellows, for Representatives.

S. Pfeffer, for Register of Deeds.

Geo. Schied, for Auditor.

Geo. A. Weir, for Surveyor.

No nomination for the office of Clerk of Court was made by this convention.

Aaron J. Rose and Wesley Hill were announced as independent candidates for the office of Clerk of Court.

F. Lent ran as an independent candidate for the office of Register of Deeds.

The only real local subjects of contest, in this election, were the offices of Register of Deeds and Clerk of Court, and the contest for these offices was earnest and persistent.

The election was held on the fifth day of November. Gen. Grant was re-elected President, by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Dunnell was re-elected to Congress, and the Republican candidates for State officers were elected.

The following table exhibits the votes cast for the several candidates named.

President—Grant, 1,626; Greeley, 508.

Congress—Wilkinson, 503; Dunnell, 1,596.

Representatives—Childs, 1,647; Hawks, 1,146; Welch, 769; Fellows, 662.

Auditor—White, 1,814; Sheid, 245.

Register—Brown, 920; Pfeffer, 682; Lent, 539.

Clerk of Court—Neal, 1,103; Hill, 803; Rose, 187.

Surveyor—Leavitt, 1,423; Weir, 561.

Court Commissioner—Kiestler, 18; Rose, 11.

County Commissioner—J. A. Dean, elected.

#### TWO NOTABLE EVENTS.

There were two events occurring in November of this year, of such grave importance, that a word must be said here in reference to them.

On the ninth day of the month, just one year and one month after the great Chicago calamity, a large part of the city of Boston, Mass., was destroyed by fire. The loss was \$75,000,000 in buildings and merchandise. And this great fire was not among the wooden structures of the city, but it was the brick, stone, iron and granite buildings, the finest and costliest, that went down as though they had been tinder. This fire was only surpassed on this continent, in extent, by that of Chicago, and was one of the great calamities of the age.

On the twenty-ninth of the month Horace Greeley, candidate at the recent election for the presidency, died. But Horace Greeley was so great a man that the fact of his having been a candidate, even for the presidency, was of small consequence. He was the founder, and for more than a generation, the editor of the *New York Tribune*, the greatest newspaper in its day in the world, and the political bible of hundreds of thousands of our people, and his name was a household name in tens of thousands of families from their youth to mature age. He was the king of journalism; the great representative and defender of republican institutions, as he was

one of their greatest outgrowths—he was the greatest citizen of the nation, an American of Americans, and one of the greatest and grandest men of any age or nation. In his death, friend and foe alike, forgave and forgot what many thought the great mistake of his life, his candidacy for the presidency in opposition to the great political party of which he was the father, and bowed their heads in profoundest sorrow.

#### THE EPIZOOTY.

In November and December, a peculiar horse disease prevailed in this section of the country. The sickness commenced with a labored, half-suppressed cough, which rapidly increased in violence and was accompanied by a fever, intense heat of the mouth, whether dry or moist, and a running of very offensive mucus from the nostrils, as in distemper. The horses attacked refused all food, but evidenced no disposition to lie down. In a few days the horse became very weak, and unless relief was afforded soon, and the greatest care taken of him, he died suddenly. By the best veterinary surgeons the disease was deemed an acute catarrh and influenza, and prevailed at the time as an epidemic.

The disease originated in Canada where thousands of horses perished. It spread from thence into the eastern states and thence westward. It seemed to be most fatal in the cities, where in a day all the horses would be attacked and rendered unfit for labor, causing a stoppage of business and great delay and damage. Canal boats, street cars, express wagons, omnibuses, mail carriages and the thousand and one means of transportation and conveyance in which horses are the motive power, ceased to run for a time. In some instances oxen were substituted for the invalid horses. The mail was carried by ox team to and from Delavan and Blue Earth City on one day when no well horses could be had.

Never before did people learn and so fully realize the inestimable value to man of that noblest of all the brute creation, the horse, and what a grand helper he is in the business and pleasure of the world. And if the lesson thus taught should procure for this valued servant kinder and more intelligent treatment, protection from over work, fair feed and attendance, care in sickness and comfortable stabling when his work is done, the lesson may not have cost too much. It is a sad fact that many a man exhibits greater brute instincts and conduct than the poor horse which has the misfortune to be in his charge.

The disease was contagious and was supposed to have been caused by some peculiar condition of the atmosphere, and was probably spread abroad by the atmosphere, as well as by infection. It was not so fatal in Minnesota as in the states further east, and in

this county but few horses died, though the disease lingered among some of them for a long time. As to the treatment of the disease, experience proved that the best course was to give but little medicine. Perfect rest and keeping the horse warm and dry, and otherwise carefully nursing him, feeding no hay, oats, corn or barley, but only warm bran mash, with a little oat or rye straw, was the best treatment. Small doses of bromide of potassium, given two or three times a day in a bran mash for the first two or three days while the inflammation lasted, and putting tar on the trough or manger, and on the horses nose, proved the best medicine when any was deemed necessary.

As to the name of this epidemic, it was first called the Canadian Horse disease, and various names descriptive of the disease were framed in Latin or Greek, among which were "Hippoparenarhoea" and "Hipporhenophlegmatoblennocalastalagmatus," which is credited to the *N. Y. World*, but not proving convenient in every-day conversation did not become popular. Then came Epizootic and Epizooty and Epizoot, and finally finished up with simple "Zoot."

When the disease first appeared, it was supposed to be a new disease, as it was not mentioned in the books, but an old book-worm discovered that it had prevailed in Greece, about four hundred years before the Christian era, and this extended account of the disease and its treatment, is given here, so that if it again appears, say four hundred years after us, they who may see this account may know that we have had it.

#### A COLD WINTER.

The first storm heralding the approach of winter, occurred on November 13th, and closed up the plowing for the year.

The week preceding Christmas was intensely cold and quite stormy. In exposed positions on the prairies it was reported that the thermometer ran down to 37° below zero, at other places less exposed to 25° and 30° below. A great scarcity of fuel existed at the time of this cold spell, especially in the villages, and some persons on the prairies were compelled to use corn for fuel. In many places on the prairies of the west, corn has been substituted for wood and coal as fuel, with much success.

The winter of 1872-3 was very severe, especially in the month of December, as above intimated, not only in Minnesota, but throughout the country. In fact, when very cold weather prevails in Minnesota, generally, it is usually pretty cold in many other localities, as will appear from the following reports from widely separated parts of the country.

## THE COLD EVERYWHERE.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 24.—To-day was the coldest ever known here in 25 years, the mercury ranging from 5 to 10 above zero during the day. Navigation is entirely suspended.

Pittsburg, Dec. 24.—The weather continues cold; the mercury going below zero at 4 o'clock.

Cincinnati, Dec. 24.—The temperature is sinking rapidly since dark, the thermometer going 2 below at 8 o'clock.

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—Last night was the coldest of the season, the mercury falling to 8 degrees below zero by the signal service thermometer, and to 12 and 15 by ordinary instruments, according to location. To-night, however, the temperature is much milder.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The weather has moderated again. Thermometers which were 20 below this morning are up to zero to-night. Accounts from all parts state that the weather for the past 24 hours was as cold as ever known.

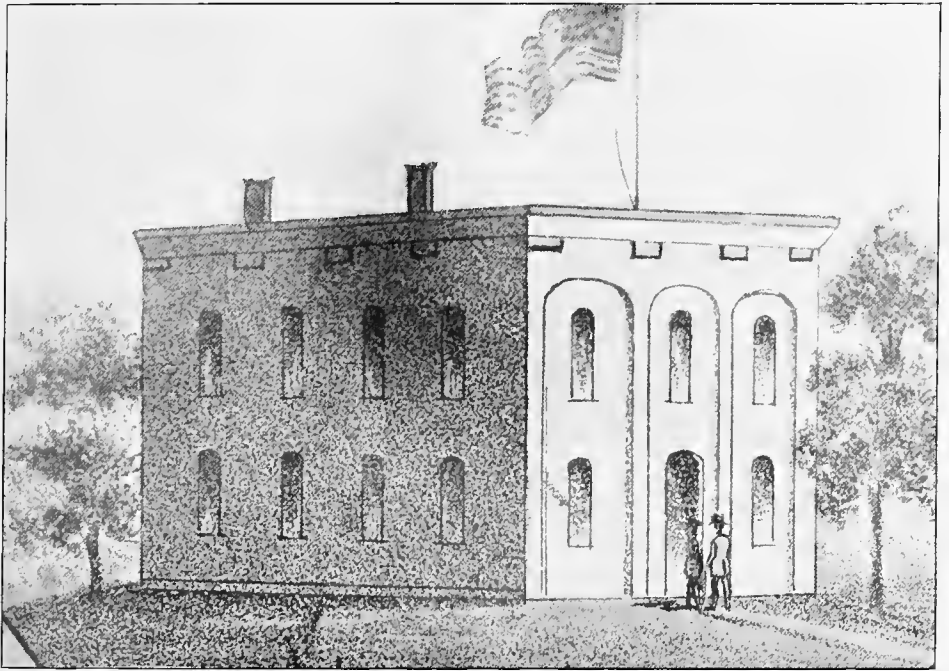
Fort Scott, Kan., Dec. 24.—Last night was the coldest known in this section. Mercury 18 degrees below zero at 7 a. m.

Bath, Me., Dec. 24.—The weather for the past few days has been bitter cold.

## THE FIRST COURT HOUSE.

The project of building a court house, for the use of the county officers and for court purposes, heretofore referred to, after much planning and discussion, resulted in the erection, on Court House Square, in Blue Earth City, of a brick building, thirty-seven by forty-five feet in size and two stories high. The first story is divided into five rooms, for county offices, the second story is fitted up for a court room. A commodious fire-proof vault is attached on the rear of the building, and the whole structure is well built and well finished. The cost was about five thousand dollars, the larger part of which expense was paid by the county, and the remainder by the township of Blue Earth City. No public debt was incurred in the enterprise. The building was completed late in the fall, and several county officers moved into their respective rooms, in the holiday season, between Christmas and New Year's day.

This structure is not large, nor imposing, but is substantial, a credit to the county, and will serve the purposes of the county for many years. Few counties have been so well, and at the same time, so economically provided for, in this respect, as ours.



THE FIRST COURT HOUSE.





## CHAPTER XIX.

A. D. 1873.

“——All pitying heaven.  
 Severe in mercy, chastening in its love,  
 Oft-times in dark and awful visitation,  
 Doth interpose, and leads the wanderer back  
 To the straight path.”—*Baillie.*

The first day of January was very mild and pleasant. The new year was ushered in under very favorable weather auspices, but if this fact was taken as predictive of a pleasant winter, a favorable spring or a prosperous year, the horoscope was not well read.

The seventh day of January, 1873, was an eventful one in this county.

“Your plea is good, but still I say, Beware;  
 Laws are explained by men; so have a care.”—*Pope.*

And first, on this day the district court commenced its winter term, Hon. F. H. Waite, judge. There were forty civil and four criminal cases on the calendar. There was a very large attendance of attorneys and of the people of the county, at this term. It was the first term of court held in the new court house. It was also the only term of this court, held in the county, during the year. The June term, owing to the sickness of the judge, was not held. A special session was called for July 15th, but this term, also, at the request of the board of county commissioners, was dispensed with.

The second event of the day was the assembling of the county commissioners. W. W. Potter, of Verona, was chosen chairman for the year. Of the business transacted by the board at this and subsequent meetings, it is not necessary to note anything here. Their subsequent meetings were held on the fourth day of March, June 10th and September 6th.

Another event of the seventh was the meeting of the Agricultural Society, at Blue Earth City. J. A. Latimer was elected president, Charles Stockman, treasurer, and A. H. Bullis, secretary. It is necessary to say that there was no other business transacted at this meeting, worthy of record here, but while we are penning these lines, we observe in a newspaper lying before us, the following golden words:

“In the wide world there are no more important things than farmers’ boys. They are not so important for what they are, as for what they will be. At

present they are, too often, of little consequence. But farmers' boys always will be the material out of which the noblest men are made. They have health and strength; they have bone and muscle; they have heart and will; they have nerve and patience; they have ambition and endurance; and these are the materials that make men. Not buckrams and broadcloth, and patent leather and heaver fur, and kid gloves and watch seals, are the materials of which men are made. It takes better stuff to make a man. It is not fat and flesh, and swagger and self-conceit; nor yet smartness, nor flippancy, nor foppery, nor fastness. These make fools, not men; not men such as the world wants, nor such as it will honor and bless. Not artistically curled hair, nor a cane, nor a pipe, nor a cigar, nor a quid of tobacco, nor an oath, nor a glass of beer or brandy, nor a dog or gun, nor a pack of cards, nor a novel, nor a vulgar book of love and murder, nor a tale of adventures, that makes a man, or has anything to do with making a man. Farmers' boys ought to keep clear of all these idle, foolish things. They should be employed with nobler objects. They have yet to be men of the clear grit—honest, intelligent, industrious men."—*Herald of Health*.

#### A GREAT STORM.

On the same day, the seventh, there happened one of the most destructive storms ever known in the northwest. We quote the following well written and truthful account of this storm, taken from the *Blue Earth City Post*.

It is not often that we are called upon to record a more severe storm than that which occurred during the past week, commencing on Tuesday afternoon. The day opened warm and bright, presenting a marked contrast with the severe cold weather which had preceded it. All the forenoon it grew warmer, and people congratulated themselves that the severe cold spell had come to an end for the present. The town was full of people, and everybody was astir. In the afternoon about two o'clock, entirely without warning, the wind veered around into the northwest and in a moment raged furiously, filling the air with fine snow, and rendering objects invisible at a few rods distance. All the afternoon it continued to increase in severity, and night closed in with a "nor-wester" in full force. During the night the war of the elements continued. The wind rose and fell in fitful gusts, seeming to gather strength with each subsidence, and threatening great damage. The fine snow was driven through every nook and cranny, and settled upon resting places in fantastic shapes. Many passed a sleepless night, expecting every moment that their houses would be overturned, take fire, or that some other calamity would occur. It was a weird scene, well calculated to strike terror to stout hearts.

Morning came, but brought no cessation of the storm, and daylight broke upon a scene of desolation and discomfort. People who were in town the day before were compelled to remain all night, and together with those attendant upon the court and the meeting of the board of county commissioners, filled the hotels to overflowing, and drew upon the hospitalities of our citizens. Business was suspended, no session of the court was held, and all congregated around the fires speculating upon the probable loss of life, and comparing the storm with preceding ones. All day long old Boreas revelled and howled in his strength, piling snow drifts to great heights, only to remove them the next moment to some other locality. The feelings of hilarity and good cheer, usually manifested upon such occasions were entirely wanting, and instead thereof was a sense of anxiety for those who might be exposed to the mercy of the storm. Those separated from their families were anxious for the safety of the dear

ones at home, while no doubt those at home were equally anxious for those who were away from home.

The storm still raged when Wednesday night came, continuing through the night and on Thursday, though with less severity. On that day a few ventured to their homes. The court resumed business, and a feeling of relief began to manifest itself. By Friday morning the storm had almost ceased, and during the day it stopped entirely; Saturday opened beautifully, and was a pleasant day.

So far we have heard of no loss of life or serious damages, although there were some narrow escapes. Two little girls of Mr. Everson, living in Pilot Grove township who were absent at a neighbor's when the storm commenced, started for home, and nearly perished on the way. A school in the town of Elmore was compelled to remain in the school house for two days and a night, and doubtless other schools had the same experience.

Many families were upon short allowances for fuel and perhaps for food, but as the weather was not remarkably cold, they managed to weather it through.

Taken all in all, this storm will pass into history as one of the severest storms that has ever occurred in this region.

—Since the above was written we learn that a German woman living near Wisner's Grove, in this county, was frozen to death. It is, also, rumored that a school teacher was frozen to death in Martin county.

Several weeks elapsed before any definite information could be obtained of the loss of life, and the extent of the damage done by the storm, and many startling rumors were afloat. Great exaggerations are usual on such occasions. Estimates heard on the streets, and found in newspapers, based upon reports, were made, by which it was claimed, that as many as one thousand people had lost their lives, but this was finally reduced to five hundred and less. The matter, when subsequently investigated, proved not so bad after all, though still a sad reckoning, as appears by the following statement.

LOSS OF LIFE BY THE STORM.

“Gov. Austin made an official report to the legislature in regard to the effects of the great storm of January last, resulting in the death of seventy persons, and the injury of thirty-one more. The tabular statement by counties is as follows:

County.	Lost their lives.	Seriously injured.
Blue Earth.....	1	1
Brown.....	3	1
Chippewa.....	3	
Clay.....	2	
Cottonwood.....	1	
Dakota.....	1	
Dodge.....		1
Douglas.....	1	1
Faribault.....	1	
Freeborn.....	2	
Grant.....	3	
Kandiyohi.....	9	4
Lac Qui Parle.....		1
Lyon.....	4	3
Martin.....	2	
Meeker.....	2	1

County.	Lost their lives.	Seriously injured.
Mower.....		1
Murray.....	2	
Nicollet.....	2	
Nobles.....	3	1
Otter Tail.....	8	3
Pope.....	1	2
Renville.....	1	
Rock.....		1
Sibley.....	4	1
Steele.....	1	
Stevens.....	3	1
Swift.....		2
Waseca.....	1	1
Watonwan.....	8	3
Yellow Medicine.....	1	2
Total.....	70	31

The loss of live stock from exposure appears to be about as follows:

Head of horned cattle.....	250
Horses.....	25
Mules.....	3
Sheep and hogs.....	10

It is probable, however, that the entire loss of stock, could it be known, would exceed these figures."

#### THE STATUTE MAKERS.

Our legislature assembled January 7th and adjourned March 7th.

Our members were E. H. Hutchins, in the Senate, and S. P. Child and M. A. Hawks, in the House of Representatives. Bailey Madison, of this county, was sergeant-at-arms of the House.

But little of the legislation of 1873, had any direct reference to this county. There were only the following acts: "An Act to amend an act entitled an act to incorporate the village of Blue Earth City." "An Act to incorporate the village of Winnebago City." "An Act to authorize the county commissioners of Faribault county to change the boundaries of independent school district of Blue Earth City."

#### THE SPRING AND SEEDING.

The spring of this year opened about the first of March and the snow, of which there was considerable, went off pretty rapidly and without much rain. Some little wheat was sown as early as the twelfth day of March, but, owing to occasional rains, the fall of slight snows and freezing, the ground was kept in bad condition, and as late as the twenty-second day of April, not one-third of the wheat was sown, and some that had been sown quite early, rotted. Low grounds could not be seeded to much extent and where seeded, produced nothing. It was remarked that probably one-fourth of the wheat was sown after the first of May, and nearly all the oats.

## MAY DAY.

And here is another red-letter day, established by custom, May-day. The first day of May, has, through many centuries and in almost all countries, been distinguished by some sort of civil, social, or religious observances, festive and floral. It has become, in modern times, in most countries, a children's and youth's gala day, and it is for them, that this brief notice of the day is written.

May day parties, or festivals, the May pole, entwined with its garlands and wreaths of leaves and flowers, around which the young folks form a revolving circle, singing and dancing, and the flower-crowned May Queen, the garnishing of the churches, dwellings and gateways with flowers and boughs, on the first day of May, are usages which have been known from a remote age.

"So you must wake and call me early, call me early, mother dear;  
Tomorrow 'll be the happiest time of all the glad new year;  
Tomorrow 'll be of all the year, the maddest, merriest day,  
For I'm to be the Queen O' the May, mother, I'm to be the Queen O' the  
May."—*Tennyson*.

The lighting of fires on the hill tops on this day, was a custom of the ancient Druids and the Scandinavian people. In that far gone time, it was not only a children's day, but the aged, the most venerable, the kingly and priestly, were leading actors in the day's festivities. While many of the old usages incident to this day, have long since become obsolete, there are still some existing—as May day parties, the floral decoration of the dwellings and some others, of a social character, which may well be continued. The amusing custom which obtains among the children and youths, of hanging May baskets, is one worthy of commendation. This custom was introduced, in certain portions of this country, at an early day, and is quite an old one in many places.

Some baskets of various shapes are made of paper, of divers colors, tastefully ornamented, and filled with flowers, and containing some little written message of love or friendship, and the name of the recipient, are hung, secretly, just after dark, in the evening of May day, by the donor, on the door latch, or other convenient place, at the residence of the recipient, who is warned of the presentation by a sudden knocking on the door. But it is an essential part of the proceeding, that the basket be hung secretly and the giver be not caught at it. A great deal of fun is enjoyed in the seeking to avoid detection by the donor, and in the watchful effort of the receiver, to see who hangs the basket, and many little artifices are used on both sides, making great sport for the young folks. And this, with some other May day usages, are observed to some extent in this county every year.

There are many of these pleasant social customs, very dear to the hearts of children and young people, which should be encouraged by parents and others, as they add greatly to the enjoyment and the pleasant memories of childhood's years—memories often the purest and best we can ever know in this mortal life.

#### A SCRAP HEAP.

Immigration commenced early in May, and the roads running westward were lined with the white covered wagons of the hundreds seeking new homes on the fertile prairies of south western Minnesota. But little of the immigration stopped here, though lands in this county were very cheap.

Heavy rains set in about the seventeenth of May, and the waters became very high. A great deal of "mighty east wind" prevailed during May.

But little corn was planted in 1873, and much of that planted was not gotten into the ground until after the twenty-sixth of May.

Owing to some unaccountable cause, possibly the hard winter of 1872-3, or the peculiar character of the spring, a blight came over the fruit and some other much hardier trees, during the summer. Many fruit trees leaved out and bloomed in the spring as usual, but soon the blossoms fell off, the trees lost their thrift, then the leaves fell and finally the tree died. Some trees which had been set for years and had grown to good size, died. The blight seemed to extend to some indigenous trees as well. However, this blight fortunately prevailed only in certain localities, while in others it was not observed.

Although the spring of the year was unpleasant, the summer made amends for it. There were no hail storms of importance—no great storms of wind or rain, but little sultry, or very hot weather, and general good health prevailed throughout the county. In fact the summer was more evenly tempered than usual, and taken altogether, was one of the most agreeable within the recollection of the writer.

#### THE F. C. S. S. A.

The third annual meeting of the Sunday School Association was held at Wells, on the twenty-ninth and thirtieth days of May. The attendance was good and the interest manifested commendable. A committee reported thirty-one Sabbath schools in the county. The following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the salvation of the soul and the development of the Christian character, are of the first importance, and as the popular habits of intemperance and profanity, and the use of tobacco, are hinderances thereto, we earnestly warn and carefully guard the youth against them."

C. B. Miner, of Verona, was elected president; O. A. Albee, of Winnebago City and Chas. H. Dearborn, of Blue Earth City, vice presidents; Chas. H. Patten, of Winnebago City, secretary, and Thomas Blair, of Delavan, treasurer, for the ensuing year.

#### MORE RAILROAD TALK.

If any curious person should ever take it into his head to look up the history of the struggle of the people of this county to secure the building of railroads, how long and persistently they labored, and what sacrifices they made, to secure the building of the great lines of road, the benefits of which now all enjoy, here is an item which he should want to see. In the early part of the year, the project was again revived of building a road from Mankato to Wells, heretofore spoken of, and in connection therewith, E. F. Drake, president of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Company, again proposed to construct a branch line from that point, at or near Good Thunder Ford, on the line of the above mentioned road, *via* Winnebago City and Blue Earth City, to the Iowa State line. The condition was the voting of aid in town bonds by the several townships along the line of road, to the aggregate amount of \$150,000; \$50,000 of which was to be provided by towns in Blue Earth county, and \$100,000 by the towns in Faribault county. The bonds were voted during the spring and summer. The company was to have until December 1st, 1874, to complete the roads, and this, for the time being, was the great topic of interest. Meetings were held in most of the towns along the Blue Earth line, at which Mr. Drake appeared personally, and stated his views and intentions. Circulars setting forth the project and the advantages of the road, were printed in the English and Norwegian languages, and widely distributed. About the first of the following September, both companies had made their arrangements to build, and work had actually commenced on the Mankato and Wells line, but all was soon abandoned, and the building of the roads fell through for this year, owing to financial difficulties.

"Hope is a curtail dog in some affairs."—*Shakespeare*.

#### THE GRASSHOPPER INVASION.

One of the greatest calamities which ever befell this region of country, was the grasshopper plague, which commenced in this year and extended through a period of four, and in some localities, five years. A few introductory remarks only, will be made relative to the subject in the history of this year, but it will be more fully treated hereafter.

During the month of June, vast swarms of these insects appeared suddenly in northwestern Iowa, and in a few days after, in south-

western Minnesota. Their ravages were very serious. The people were taken by surprise, they could not comprehend this terrible destruction of their crops, they knew not what to do and were utterly powerless. The pests eat up the gardens and stripped the grain fields in many localities, entirely destroying the crops. In some instances, within the area attacked, the injury done was but partial to the grain fields, but their capacity to do irreparable and widespread damage was plainly evident. It was on the last day of June that they made their appearance at Blue Earth City, and along the line of the Blue Earth river. They had, however, been in the southwestern towns of the county for some days previous. They came in innumerable hosts, as it is written of the locusts of Egypt.

On looking toward the sun, they could be seen, though flying quite high, passing northward in countless myriads. Those that lit down along the Blue Earth river, appeared to be but small parties or detachments, dropped out of the main army. After remaining in some localities a few days, in others some weeks, eating up the vegetation and depositing their eggs, they would suddenly disappear. Their ravages were much more serious this year, in the counties lying west of this, than here, resulting in much loss and destruction.

If it is permissible in so grave a matter as this, should we be asked what became of much of our grain crops for a number of years, we may reply, as did the Kansas school boy, in the following brief catechism:

Kansas teacher—"Where does all of our grain products go to?" Boy—"It goes into the hopper." "Hopper? What hopper?" "Grasshopper!" Triumphantly shouted the lad.

#### PATRIOTIC PYROTECHNICS.

The birthday of the nation was celebrated at a number of places in the county. At Blue Earth City, Rev. J. W. Powell delivered the oration and J. A. Kiester read the Declaration. At Winnebago City Gen. Kellogg, of La Crosse, addressed the people, and Andrew C. Dunn was the reader of the Declaration.

On these days of rejoicing in our civil and religious liberties, it is well to remember the innumerable and intolerable evils, which, through many centuries, resulted from the union of church and state and the exercise of ecclesiastical power over the civil authority. The record is among the blackest and bloodiest of the human race. In our favored land, these two great powers are separate. One cannot exercise authority over, or interfere with the other. And here is what a great religious body, great in numbers and influence, both in Europe and America, wisely embraces among its fundamental teachings on this subject:

"Some have improperly mingled together, civil and ecclesiastical power. From this heterogeneous commixture, extensive wars, rebellions and insurrections



have been produced." \* \* \* "Inasmuch \* as the power of the church \* \* \* confers eternal gifts \* \* \* it cannot by any means interfere with civil polity and government. For the latter relates to matters entirely different from the gospel, and protects with its power, not the souls of men, but their bodies and possessions against external violence by the sword and bodily penalties. Therefore, the two governments, the civil and ecclesiastical ought not to be mingled and confounded. For the ecclesiastical power has its command to preach the gospel and to administer the sacraments, and it ought not to interfere with a foreign office, it ought not to dethrone or make Kings, it ought not to abolish or disturb civil laws and obedience to government. It ought not to make and appoint laws for the civil power concerning political matters."

#### THE HARVEST AND CROPS.

The harvest of the earlier varieties of wheat, commenced in the last week in July. The harvest weather of the year, was all it could be desired. No heavy rains, or winds, interfered with the work. Owing to the fact that most of our farmers had several varieties of wheat, some of which were earlier than others, the work was more distributed than usual, and much less hired help was required. In fact the grain of this year was gotten up much more cheaply than in former years. The wheat crop of the year was not a good one. In the east half of the county, the crop was fair, but in the west half not more than half a crop, many farmers not getting over five or six bushels per acre. The grasshoppers did much injury in certain localities, and even on fields where it was thought they had done but little, if any harm, the damage proved to be a considerable percentage, when the grain came from the spout of the threshing machine. The Red Osaka, in some localities, was struck with rust. Oats averaged from thirty to forty bushels per acre, there being more fields of the former than of the latter amount.

The corn crop was only nominal, but little having been planted, yet there were some good fields which yielded well, one especially of ninety acres in the northwestern part of the county. It brought from fifty to seventy five cents per bushel in the fall. Barley in the southwestern portion of the county was eaten up by the grasshoppers and in other parts of the county was not a great crop. During the succeeding winter barley brought over one dollar per bushel. Potatoes did not yield well, generally, and there was a consequent scarcity and high prices, ranging from sixty to seventy-five cents per bushel in November, and running as high as from eighty cents to one dollar in the winter.

This was not a prosperous year for our farmers, and while the aggregate productions of the year show well, as reported by the commissioner of statistics, the results may be accredited, partially, to increased acreage of lands tilled, and partially to imperfect and over-estimated returns, and partially to the fact that these statistics are not very reliable in any event.

## THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

The most important public movement of this year, was the organization in this county, of many subordinate granges of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry—a secret order, instituted to further and protect the interests of farmers, as a class. The institution spread over all the states and territories of the Union, and in less than three years could boast of some twenty-three thousand granges and a million and a half of members. No great popular movement of the people, at any time in history, equalled this.

After some four or five years, the order, owing to various causes, which it is not necessary to specify here, began to decline, and at the end of eight or ten years ceased to exist in many sections of the country; but in various localities in many of the states it is still flourishing. and as it was not the fact that the order fell into decay because some such organization was not greatly needed—for it was required and will always be needed, and it was one of the noblest, most beneficent of institutions, the prediction may be ventured, that the day will come when it will be revived and re-organized over the whole land, but perhaps, in some slightly different form.

## MEMORABILIA.

Here are some important events which occurred during this year, on the world's great stage of action, outside of our county, and which formed topics of interest and discussion everywhere.

January 9th. The Emperor Napoleon III, died.

March 3d. The "Salary Grab" act passed by Congress.

March 19th. San Salvador, Central America, destroyed by an earthquake—property lost, \$20,000,000. Lives lost, 500.

April 1st. Steamer Atlantic wrecked, 535 lives lost.

July 4th. Great storm, destructive to crops, in Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Missouri.

August 24th. Terrible storm on the coast of British America and coast of Mexico. 100 vessels destroyed in and near the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and 176 sailing vessels and 12 steamers lost in the Gulf of Mexico.

December 14th. Louis Agassiz died.

## EASTON.

About the middle of September the town-site of "Easton" was surveyed and building commenced. This new village—the sixth in the county according to age, was located upon section thirty-six (36), in the town of Lura, on the line of the Southern Minnesota railroad. The early history of this village, will be given further along in this work.

## JACK FROST.

The first severe frost of the autumn happened on the nights of the 17th and 18th of September, and the nights thereafter became quite cold. A comforter or two had to be added to the bed clothing.

These frosts killed the grass and other vegetation; silenced, finally, for this year the song of the mosquito, and hinted to us, that the harvest was passed, the summer ended and winter approaching.

“Summer is over and the leaves are falling,  
Gold, fire-enameled in the glowing sun;

\* \* \* \* \*

The fresh, green sod, in dead, dry leaves is hidden;

They rustle very sadly in the breeze;

Some breathing from the past comes, all unbidden,

And in my heart stir withered memories.”—*Anon.*

## THE WELLS ATLAS.

This paper, which had suspended in January of this year, was again re-issued, appearing September 17th. It was a six column sheet and neatly printed, and in the curious phraseology of the times, was described as made up of “homespun outsides” and “patent internals.” R. Calvert appeared as editor and manager.

## OCTOBER—AN EVENTFUL MONTH.

## THE FAIR.

The fifteenth annual fair of the Agricultural Society was held at Winnebago City, on the second and third days of October. The first day the weather was so bad that nothing was done. The second day was not much better. The exhibition was rather poor and the attendance not great. The officers of the society had made a very commendable effort to have a good fair, but the unfavorable weather was something no effort or prudence of theirs could overcome.

## PRAIRIE FIRES.

About the sixth day of the month, great prairie fires started up in the southern towns of the county and raged fearfully for some days. Great quantities of grain and hay in the stack were burned up. Several farmers lost all their grain and hay. A large number of stables, and several dwellings were burned. Many fruit trees were injured, or totally killed, and a number of fine groves of forest trees were destroyed. The fires broke out in a number of localities and ran over wide areas. The principal damage was done in the towns of Pilot Grove, Elmore, Rome, Seely, Foster, Delavan and Verona, and many of the residents of those towns will sadly remember the event.

It can hardly be doubted that many of our prairies would long since have been covered with a growth of timber, had it not been

for the annual prairie fires, which have heretofore swept over them from time immemorial. Timber seeds seem to be in the ground everywhere, and many spots of ground, free from fires for a few years, are soon covered by groves of young popples, oaks, and other wood growths. Doubtless the protection against fire, furnished by our streams, has given us our timber, and the very tortuous and winding course of our creeks and rivers, adding length to the streams, and furnishing innumerable protected promontories, nooks and corners, has greatly added to the quantity of the timber.

These prairie fires are usually the result of accident, or carelessness, but sometimes of design. Much of the damage which has resulted from them is, also, the result of negligence and carelessness in not taking timely precautions against them. The laws for many years have provided severe penalties against the negligent, or malicious setting fire to the prairies, by which damage is done, and these laws have been frequently enforced in this county. The firing of the prairies in former times was often the work of the Indians, who had some, to us, unknown purpose in it.

There are few grander sights than that of a prairie fire at night, on the boundless prairies of the west, and, as seen above, they are often fearfully destructive, as well as grand, but it is a sight which, owing to the rapid settlement of the county, will soon be a thing of the past, and one with which we can well dispense.

#### A POLITICAL IMBROGLIO.

Let us now turn to a brief account of the political contest of this year. On several of the offices the fight was an exciting one. A governor of the State and several other state officers were to be elected, and several proposed amendments to the constitution of the State were submitted to the people, for approval or rejection, all of which added to the interest of the election.

On the fourth day of October, a county council of the Patrons of Husbandry was held at Blue Earth City, at which the following nominations were made for legislative and county offices:

For Representatives—Allen Shultis and T. G. Pond.

For County Treasurer—James Crays.

For County Attorney—S. J. Abbott.

For Sheriff—Charles Stockman.

For Probate Judge—John Wilmert.

No nomination for the office of state senator was made, but a committee consisting of one from each Grange in the county was chosen, who were to assemble at Blue Earth City on the eleventh of October, the time of meeting of the Republican County Convention, and ratify the nomination for senator, if satisfactory, if not, to make a nomination.

The Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City October 11th. Every town in the county was fully represented and great interest was felt in the result. For months preceding the convention, two candidates for the office of state senator and their respective friends, had labored with might and main to secure the convention, and consequently the nomination. There were several candidates already in the field for the several offices of treasurer, county attorney and sheriff. But the greatest interest centered in the offices of senator and treasurer.

The convention organized by choosing Allen Shultis, of Elmore, chairman, and A. A. Williams, of Verona, secretary. The usual committees were then appointed. The committee on credentials reported two delegations from the town of Emerald, one in favor of G. W. Whallon for senator, and the other for S. P. Child, when on the question being submitted to the convention on receiving one-half of each delegation, it was, after much heated discussion, so determined. Mr. Child, who was a member of the convention, and all his friends in the convention at once withdrew. The remainder of the convention, composed of several more than one-half of those elected, then proceeded, hurriedly and amid much confusion, to make the nominations, which were as follows:

G. W. Whallon, for Senator.

L. C. Harrington and J. P. West, for Representatives.

J. A. Kiester, for Judge of Probate.

E. A. Hotchkiss, for Treasurer.

J. P. Burk, for Sheriff.

S. J. Abbott, for County Attorney.

A. J. Rose, for Coroner.

After the convention adjourned, the committee of the county council, above mentioned, assembled, and after admitting several more members to the committee, proceeded to vote on the nomination for senator; J. A. Latimer and G. W. Whallon being the candidates. The vote was a tie and no nomination was made. Allen Shultis withdrew as a candidate for representative, and C. S. Dunbar, of Foster, was substituted.

Next came the Democratic and Liberal Republican convention, which was held at Blue Earth City on the seventeenth day of October.

D. P. Wasgatt, of Winnebago City, was elected chairman, and Geo. Scheid, of Barber, secretary. The following were the nominations made:

For Senator—H. P. Constans.

For Representatives—T. G. Pond, (indorsed) and Thomas Blair.

For Judge of Probate—J. A. Kiester, (indorsed).

For Treasurer—James Crays, (indorsed).

For Sheriff—A. B. Davis.

For County Attorney—F. E. Watson.

For Coroner—A. J. Rose, (indorsed).

Much dissatisfaction was expressed with the political situation on all sides, and with the action of the conventions.

In a few days after the conventions, R. B. Johnson was announced as an independent candidate for treasurer; J. H. Sprout, for county attorney, and S. P. Child, for senator. Electioneering “ran high” and a number of the candidates put forth their best efforts. Mr. Wilmert withdrew as a candidate for judge of probate, not wanting the office.

The election was held on the fourth day of November, and the day was clear and mild. For a week or more before election, the canvassing and electioneering was done on runners, and the roads were, by some of the candidates, pretty well worn. After all was said and done, the polls closed, the vote counted, and the following was the result. The people had spoken.

For Governor:

Davis.....	1,291
Barton.....	587

For Senator:

Child.....	815
Whallon.....	751
Constans.....	323

For Representatives:

West.....	895
Harrington.....	599
Pond.....	917
Blair.....	822
Dunbar.....	510

For Treasurer:

Johnson.....	1,226
Crays.....	355
Hotchkiss.....	299

For Sheriff:

Stockman.....	701
Davis.....	803
Burk.....	389

For Probate Judge:

Kiester.....	1,860
--------------	-------

For County Attorney:

Sprout.....	1,012
Abbott.....	779

For Coroner:

Rose.....	1,856
-----------	-------

Robert Andrews, County Commissioner.

## "THE SNOW, THE BEAUTIFUL SNOW!"

The first snow of the season fell on the night of the twenty-fourth and the forenoon of the twenty-fifth of October. There was probably a depth of four inches. This snow storm had a very discouraging effect upon the people. The spring had been late, the grasshoppers had done much damage in certain localities, the crops were light, and the prices low, people were much in debt, and but little plowing had yet been done, and now, the question was asked by many anxious people, "can it be true that winter has already come upon us?" However, it did not prove so bad as was apprehended, and considerable plowing and other fall work was done after this snow.

The record of this unhappy year may be closed with a few general remarks, illustrative of the condition of the times.

There have been but few years in the history of the county, or of the nation, that were "harder," as the expression is, or more discouraging generally, during the summer and autumn.

Locally, we suffered from short crops and low prices of wheat, the staple and money crop of the county. All through September, October and November, the price of wheat was very low. Money was extremely scarce and rates of interest very high. Everybody was more or less in debt, and everyone to whom money was due, was urgent, persistent for his pay, and the county newspapers were filled with notices of mortgage foreclosures and sales of land under execution. During this and several subsequent years, many homes and farms passed away forever from the owners, for a very small proportion of their real value. And in this sad summary of local afflictions we must not forget what has been said as to the damages done by grasshoppers and prairie fires in certain portions of the county.

In the fall there came upon the nation a great money panic—a financial crash. The great failure of the banking house of Jay Cook & Company, of Philadelphia, Pa., led off in this dance of financial dishonor and death. Many banks suspended; thousands of individuals of supposed great wealth, great moneyed corporations of all kinds, went down in bankruptcy. Manufactories and mines ceased to be operated. Great public enterprises were brought to a sudden close. The building of railroads ceased. The number of defaulters in public office, was legion. The army of the unemployed swelled from hundreds to thousands, and hundreds of thousands, and great distress prevailed throughout the country, while suspicion and distrust existed everywhere.

This year saw the beginning of one of the greatest financial revolutions in the history of the nation, and one which continued its

work of ruin and distress for a number of years, as will be seen hereafter. This was the era when the usurer, the land shark, the scalping attorney and the collecting officers flourished in all the land.

And what were the general causes which led to all these tremendous evil results? History says that the success of the first Pacific railroad led to the building of a second—the Northern Pacific—and also to the building of thousands of miles of other railroads, in the west, which were really not needed, and that multitudes of people, the rich and the poor, put their capital and savings into these projects for speculative purposes. They proved delusive. Other financial schemes had also started up which absorbed millions of dollars, which failed to make any return. Other causes were extravagant living and building, everywhere, the accumulation of great individual and corporate indebtedness, and wild speculation in all kinds of property that proved worthless. It is claimed, also, by a class of writers on finance and the currency that there was still another and leading cause of the public calamities of this and many subsequent years.

In February, of this year, through, it was said, the corrupting influences exercised by English capitalists, an act was passed by congress, in relation to the mint and coinage, which prohibited the coinage of the former kind of silver dollars, and which, in effect, it was alleged, degraded and demonetized silver. By this act silver ceased to be a legal tender except in sums not exceeding five dollars in any single transaction.

A great outcry arose at the time, which was repeated at times, for many years afterwards, that by this act the debtor class had been greatly wronged, and the creditor greatly benefited.

“Money, the life blood of the nation,  
Corrupts and stagnates in the veins,  
Unless a proper circulation  
Its motion and its heat maintains.”—*Swift*.

From all this it may be correctly inferred, that there is but little in improvement and general progress in this county, in 1873, of which to boast.

It was everywhere throughout the whole country very apparent that reform and retrenchment, better systems of farming, stricter business principles, economy, and a general settling up and starting anew, were imperatively demanded.



## CHAPTER XX.

A. D. 1874.

Never perhaps in the history of the northwest, was the new year ushered in by a more beautiful day, than the first day of January, 1874. It much exceeded, in this respect, the first day of January, 1873. The skies were cloudless, the sun shown all day long with peculiar radiance, the winds were hushed, and the atmosphere was soft, balmy and spring like. Fires died out, doors were thrown wide open, and the old and the young came forth to enjoy the open air and genial skies.

Let us now see what occurred in this county, worthy of note, during this year.

The winter of 1873-4 was quite a mild one, there being no severe storms and no great depth of snow. On the nights of the twenty-first and twenty-second of February, however, a quantity of snow fell, which on Monday, was blown into drifts, causing a suspension of business for the day, and also on the sixth and seventh of March, the snow fall was considerable.

## THE COUNTY FATHERS.

The commissioners assembled January 6th. W. W. Potter, of Verona, was elected chairman for the year. Another session of the board was held, commencing March 4th. At this latter session a contract was entered into with E. Raymond & Son, residing near Blue Earth City, to keep the county poor.

The county not having yet erected the necessary buildings on the poor farm, the poor who were supported by the county were lodged at various places. This system was expensive and led to the practice of more or less fraud on the public. According to the agreement entered into at this time, Messrs. Raymond & Son contracted to board and lodge and take the general care of the poor for two dollars each, per week, the county to furnish clothing and medical attendance. At this time some sixteen persons were being supported by the county.

When the arrangements had all been made, notice was given to these persons to repair to Mr. Raymond's, where comfortable quarters had been prepared for them. But lo! only three obeyed the order! The others refused, on the ground that they were not going

to the poor house! not they, they could do better than that—they had not become so poor as that yet! Not quite! So long as many of them could live comfortably among friends and relatives, and the county pay their expenses, it was all right, but this thing of going to the poor house, they could not stand. And we are compelled to honor the spirit they manifested in keeping out of the poor house, so long as possible, still they seemed to make a great distinction where there was not much difference. The county, at all events, was by this action relieved of their support.

The board held three other sessions during the year, namely, on June 23rd, September 15th and October 8th, but no business was transacted at either session worthy of special mention.

#### “THE HIGH COURT.”

The district court held its regular general term, commencing on the sixth day of January. Hon. F. H. Waite, presiding. There were twelve criminal and fifty-one civil cases stated on the calendar, one of the largest ever had in the county.

The following instance is not the only one in which jurors have been greatly puzzled.

“Gen. R. W. Judson tells a good story. It was of a case in the United States district court at Albany many years ago. A patent right suit was on before Judge Nelson. William H. Seward was counsel on one side. In summing up he occupied a whole day. Peter Cagger came in while he was talking, and after listening an hour turned to a learned lawyer and inquired: ‘What the deuce is Seward talking about?’ The counsel on the other side made a long speech, and the judge charged. After the jury had been out about two hours they came into the court, and the foreman said: ‘Your honor, the jury would like to ask a question?’ Judge: ‘You can proceed.’ Foreman; ‘Well, your honor, we would like to know what this suit is about?’ ”

#### THE FARMERS’ SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Agricultural Society, for the election of officers, was held at Blue Earth City on the sixth day of January. F. A. Squires, was chosen president; F. W. Temple, secretary; Chas. Stockman, treasurer.

This was one of the most spirited contests for the offices yet known in the history of the society. It was made a question of localities, between Winnebago City and Blue Earth City.

Another meeting was held May 16th at Blue Earth City, at which the question of locating the fair grounds and headquarters of the society again came up, but the meeting was adjourned, without definite action on the question, to the second day of June. At the latter meeting, the following proposition on behalf of the citizens of Blue Earth City was submitted:

“That in consideration of, and on condition that the Faribault County Agricultural Society shall hold the annual fair of said society at Blue Earth City,

the citizens of Blue Earth City hereby agree to furnish suitable fair grounds, buildings, track, stalls and pens, free of charge, to the society for the purpose of holding such fairs for the period of ten years from date hereof.

"Provided, that for the period of ten years from this date, all moneys or property now, or hereafter, belonging to said society, after paying the necessary expenses thereof, shall be applied to making improvements and repairs on said fair grounds and buildings."

This was the only proposition presented, and was accepted by the society, by the unanimous vote of those present.

A tract of twenty-five acres of ground, situated a half mile north of Blue Earth City, was hired for ten years, an excellent race track was prepared, a capacious building erected on the grounds, and other conveniences provided, mainly through the contributions of the people of Blue Earth City, and subsequently the grounds were mainly enclosed with a high fence.

The annual fair was held on the first, second and third days of October. The weather was fine, the attendance large, there being fully twelve hundred people present on the second day, and the display of stock, farm products and articles of domestic manufacture, the best that had been seen for a number of years. But the location of the fair grounds did not give satisfaction in several localities, and considerable fault was found for some years, with this action of the society.

#### THE SOLONS.

The legislation of this year, relating in any special manner to this county, was:

1st. A memorial to Congress to establish a post route from Banks, in Faribault county, Minn., by way of Coon Grove and Benson's Grove, to Forest City, in the State of Iowa.

2d. To incorporate the village of Winnebago City.

3d. To authorize the village council of Wells, to issue bonds for certain purposes.

4th. To authorize the supervisors of the town of Clark, to issue bonds.

5th. To appropriate money to build a bridge across Brush Creek.

6th. To incorporate the village of Easton.

7th. To authorize the Judge of Probate, of Faribault county, to commit William Rose (*non compis mentis*), to the hospital for insane.

Our representatives in the legislature for the year, were S. P. Child, in the Senate, and T. G. Pond and J. P. West, in the House.

Bailey Madison, of this county, was again sergeant-at-arms in the House, Charles A. Rose, fireman for the Senate, and Master E. J. Vial, senate messenger.

## THE "PRESS."

On the sixteenth day of February, the *Winnebago City Press* changed proprietors. Mr. J. L. Christie became the proprietor and editor. The retiring owner, Mr. Huntington, says: "We have sold the *Press* office to Mr. J. L. Christie, for the reason that we are not a printer and there is no particular profit in the investment. We will confess that we rather like the business."

Mr. Christie introduces himself in the following words: "After an absence of seven years, we again find ourselves seated in the editorial chair and making our best bow to our many old friends and patrons of Faribault county, through the columns of the *Press*."

## A FINE SPRING.

The spring opened about the thirteenth of March. The wind changed on that day into the south, and on the next day we had the first rain of the season. It was remarked that the crows arrived about this date in great, in fact, in unusual numbers, and the wild geese and ducks, doubtless, were anxiously expected.

As seeding time approached, serious apprehensions were entertained by many in the west half of the county, that the grasshopper eggs, innumerable quantities of which had been deposited in the ground the preceding year, would hatch, and produce that pest in such vast numbers as to again eat up the crops. The eggs were mainly deposited in the west tier of towns, and the west half of the next tier east, in this county. The subject was one of serious consideration, indeed very perplexing, and many a head turned restlessly upon its pillow at night, with evil forebodings. No one could give any reliable information, or advice, as to what was best to be done. Opinions were various and the reasons for them curious. No one had had any experience, and printed information was not at hand. The majority of the people, therefore, concluded to risk their seed, and did so.

There was but little wheat sown prior to the first day of April. The weather during March was pleasant. Nearly all the snow went off and the roads became quite dry, but the frost came out of the ground so slowly as to delay the seeding. Indeed the spring was remarkable in the fact that in the earlier part of it, there was no rain, and the days were clear and bright, but the nights were quite cold. The wells, generally, "dried up," and many of them had to be sunk deeper. The crops were never, probably, put in more successfully than in this year, though sometimes earlier.

## MELANGE.

In March the first religious newspaper published in this county appeared. It was named the *Church Messenger*, and its motto was "Evangelic truth and apostolic order." The prospectus says "this paper will be published monthly, at Wells, Minnesota, under the auspices of the church of the Nativity (Episcopal). The terms of subscription are twenty-five cents per annum, payable in advance." This paper was a two column eight page quarto, neatly printed and full of original and well selected matter relating to religious subjects. It was a sort of little gem, in the newspaper line. Rev. S. S. Burleson was the editor and proprietor. The paper did not long survive, however.

On the twentieth day of March, the Blue Earth Valley "Blooded Stock" Association was organized at Winnebago City, of which H. W. Holley was elected president, H. M. Huntington, secretary, F. W. Temple, treasurer, and F. F. Harlow, corresponding secretary. The object of this association was to introduce into Southwestern Minnesota the best blooded cattle which could anywhere be obtained. A number of the members residing in this county, secured quite a number of very fine animals of the best breeds.

The object of the association was certainly very commendable, and one of the first importance to the people of the county.

The incident is mentioned here, as indicating the progress of certain material interests of the county.

On the twenty-fourth day of March, a great Teachers' Training School commenced at Wells, and continued in session until April 17th. This was the most important school of the kind yet held in this section of country. There were ninety-one persons in attendance from this county, four from Blue Earth county, and forty-six from Freeborn county.

The instructors were, State Superintendent Wilson, Prof. H. J. Buckham, principal of the Normal school at Buffalo, N. Y., J. P. Bird, James N. Lee, Sam'l Rutledge, and County Superintendent Richards, of this county. The school was claimed to be a great success, and it was certainly an important event in the history of the educational interests of the county.

## THE POST.

On the second day of May, with the issue of that date, Mr. W. W. Williams retired from the editorial chair of the *Blue Earth City Post*, with these brief words: "With this issue of the *Post* its control passes into the hands of C. H. Slocum, Esq., late of the *St. Charles Herald*, who becomes its proprietor by purchase. The undersigned would be ungrateful indeed, were he to allow this opportunity to pass without returning to the people of Blue Earth City his

warmest thanks, for their unvarying kindness to him, and their generous support of the *Post*, from the date of its first issue (May, 1869) down to the present time, and that they may prosper in all good things, will always be one of his fondest hopes.—W. W. Williams.”

On assuming the management of the *Post*, Mr. Slocum says in the issue of May 9th: “The present manager of the *Post* is sufficiently well known in this county, and throughout the State, to render unnecessary a formal introduction. \* \* \* It (the *Post*) will continue to be republican in principle, reserving the right to criticise fully all acts that are essentially wrong, and will not tie itself to the fortunes of any local faction, or clique. Further than this, let each issue speak for itself.”

#### NORWEGIAN NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY, MAY 17TH.

One of the great holidays of Norway, observed by the Norwegian people, not only in their native land, but also in this, the adopted country of many thousands of them, is the seventeenth day of May. This is Norway's independence day as the Fourth of July is ours. This great holiday is, therefore, one of interest to a large portion of our people, and it has been celebrated in this county a number of times. What does it mean, and how is the anniversary observed?

By the peace of Kiel, January 14th, 1814, made by certain of the great powers of Europe, Norway, in the general parcelling out, was given to Sweden, whose reigning monarch was then Charles XIII, a very able ruler. But this arrangement was wholly arbitrary. The Norwegian people had not been consulted about it, nor given their consent to it.

The act was highly offensive to them, as it would be to any people, that possessed any national spirit, or self-respect. It touched their national and patriotic feelings, which are exceedingly strong, very deeply, and they indignantly repudiated it. Action was at once taken by the great leaders of the people.

Christian, Crown Prince of Denmark, who had been governor of Norway, called together a national council, which met in May at Eidsvold, and he accepted the crown of Norway, with a written constitution, made on the spot, and which was adopted May 17th, 1814. This constitution declared Norway independent, and established a limited monarchy, in which the powers of government and the ancient rights of the people were well guarded. Christian, however, could not maintain himself, as the Swedish king was sustained by all the powers of Europe.

Finally, terms were made for a better regulated union of the two countries, and the constitution above referred to, with slight

changes, was accepted by the Swedish king, November 4th, 1814. This constitution declares, and it was required to be acknowledged that Norway is "free, independent, indivisible and inalienable." Norway preserves her own flag, her currency, her accounts, her bank and her official language.

And while the king of Sweden is king of Norway, yet Norway has its own governing body called the Storting, which is the legislature, or parliament of the nation, and the king of Sweden cannot be king of Norway, until he has been crowned at the ancient city of Trondhjem, in Norway, as King of Norway.

No one, at least, no American, can but admire the indomitable resolution and courage with which the Norwegian people maintained their nationality and the rights of the people, in the face of the untoward conditions and vast combinations against them.

There is much in this history and their declaration of national rights and their maintenance, which reminds us of the era of our own independence and our establishment as a nation, and which awakens the old "Spirit of '76," in our own hearts and prompts us to take part in these celebrations, with our drums and flags and thundering cannon and general rejoicing, and when they raise their voices in singing enthusiastically the inspiring national song of old Norway "Ja vi elsker dette Landet," the echoes answer back "Hail Columbia! happy land."

And there is more propriety in this, than may at first sight appear. It is altogether probable, if not certain, that we originally derived our notions of personal liberty of action, of opinion and of speech, and our principles of civil and religious liberty, from the old nations of Norseland, rather than from what may be termed the deductions of political philosophy, or the examples and constitutions of the ancient civilized nations of the south of Europe. Besides the day is not far distant when Norway itself will be an independent republic like our own. At all events, the American is constitutionally inclined, and exercises the right to hurrah for any people who have made a stand for liberty and nationality.

Such, briefly stated, is the great event in the history of Norway, usually celebrated by our Norwegian citizens, and certainly with great propriety.

As to the manner of the observance of the day, it is sufficient to say, that it is very much in the same style in which we celebrate the Fourth of July. The programme of exercises usually embraces, in their order, music, a speech of welcome by the president of the day, national songs and a formal oration, the subject matter of which relates to the event celebrated. In these proceedings, this, the country of adoption, is never forgotten. The flags of both countries are displayed. Our Declaration of Independence, as well

as that of Norway, is usually read, and an address relating to the United States is generally included in the programme.

So far as the writer has been able to learn, on diligent investigation, the first observance of the day in this county, occurred in 1873.

While it may be said that, no well founded objection can be made to the custom of our Norwegian citizens in celebrating Norwegian Independence Day, for it is, after all, but a recognition and honoring of what are, essentially, American political principles, yet there has been considerable said and written, of late years, questioning the wisdom, from an American standpoint, of our foreign born citizens, of any nationality, keeping up their political views, customs and usages of their native countries, thus perpetuating, here, where all should be one and American, the spirit, the national characteristics and methods of separate and distinct nationalities, and thus weakening their loyalty to American ways and institutions, and causing divisions and contentions and rivalries in social life, educational methods and political ideas and ambitions.

And it must be admitted that in many localities, the matter of nationality and religion have been carried to extremes, in relation to education and politics, especially.

But that they will have any very long continued ill effects, considering the fact that the children of our naturalized citizens, born under American skies, and whatever else may be done, largely educated in their advance to maturity, under American institutions, and amidst American associations and influences, may well be doubted. It is no discredit to any man that he was born under foreign skies, for he could not control the matter, and all Americans, or their ancestors, (except Indians), but a few generations back, were born in foreign climes.

But it is believed to be a correct proposition, that our people born in alien lands, whatever kindly memories they may choose to cherish of the old home, life and friendly associations of their native land, should, when they become American citizens, make all reasonable efforts and haste to become fully assimilated with our people and Americanized. Our political institutions, language, sciences, literature, our religious toleration, customs, ambitions, aspirations, genius and spirit, must be theirs also now.

The old governments and conditions which they left, and which were failures, in all that governments should be instituted to secure—the welfare of their people—or at least failures in so far, at least, as they were concerned who left them—are no more the home and country of the naturalized citizen here.

On becoming citizens here, they, on oath, renounce all allegiance to the old government, and swore allegiance to this govern-



ment, under which they and their children are to live henceforth. So far as nationality is concerned, the old citizenship and nationality have, in fact, ceased, and all of whatever nativity, are here to be one—all Americans now, in fact, in spirit, in life and labor, having one country, one hope, one destiny, not only for themselves, but, perhaps for their children forever.

Oh! you men who have left the old rotting, dying, hopeless despotisms of the old world, where you were, at best, but political serfs, and have come to free, progressive, enlightened America, with its grand privileges and possibilities for you and your descendants, you know that this is a land in which you are free men, where you have been freely granted political rights and privileges, unknown in the old world, and where you can have hope in the future, a future which you can help to make—a land which you can love, support, and defend, as the patriot defends, supports, and loves his country. And this your adopted country is entitled to, demands and expects of you and your children, and of all citizens, whether foreign, or native born. And the splendid pages of our national history, which record the loyalty, the heroic devotion to the Union, the patriotic services and self-sacrifice of tens of thousands of our foreign-born citizens, during the late war, makes the assurances for the future doubly sure.

But there are a few words that should be added here. There is a class of foreign immigrants which America has no room for. We want none of the criminals and paupers of any of the nations of the old world. Nor are the ignorant, turbulent, lower class of Bohemians, Huns, Russians, Poles, Italians, Roumanians, Greeks, Turks, desirable. They are too difficult of assimilation with American ideas, and political principles. But the better classes of these people—the law abiding, the industrious, will always find a welcome in America.

#### S. S. ASSOCIATION.

The fourth annual meeting of the County Sunday School Association was held at Winnebago City on the 28th and 29th of May. The meeting was well attended, and of more than ordinary interest. It was resolved at this meeting that the association recommend the use of the international series of lesson leaves, in the schools. Among the resolutions adopted, it was resolved that the church ought to be held to a strict accountability for the growth and maintenance of the Sunday school, and it should exercise a fostering care and general supervision of the school both in its temporalities and spirituality.

Owing to negligence on the part of Sunday school officers, but eighteen schools in the county were reported.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: C. H. Dearborn, president; E. S. Levitt, vice-president; C. H. Patten, secretary; Thos. Blair, treasurer.

#### THE JUDICIARY.

The June general term of the district court commenced its session on the first Tuesday in June.

Hon. F. H. Waite, judge; H. J. Neal, clerk; J. H. Sprout, county attorney; A. B. Davis, sheriff.

There were six criminal and twenty-three civil cases on the calendar. Here is a little joke which occurred in the Court of King's Bench, which should not be lost. If there is any place in which dignity, decorum and good manners should prevail it is in our courts of justice, and lawyers should set the example.

Sir Fletcher Norton, whose want of courtesy was notorious, happened, while pleading before Lord Mansfield on some question of manorial right to say: "My lord, I can illustrate the point in an instant in my own person. I, myself, have two little manors." "We all know it, Sir Fletcher," the judge interposed, with one of his blandest smiles.

This was Judge Waite's last regular term in this county, he having resigned his office.

#### A GLOOMY PICTURE.

As giving a truthful account of the condition of the country, the last days of June, we quote the following brief statement from some memoranda of an old resident of the county.

The value of history lies in giving a correct representation of the times and events, and their legitimate results and instructive deductions. The gloomy and discouraging times and events, with their causes and effects must be detailed, as well as those of a brighter character. Thus, is seen, through what discouraging times individuals and communities are occasionally called to pass, and the important lesson is learned that however gloomy a period may be, the clouds do not remain forever, but sooner or later pass away, and the sun of prosperity again shines forth. It is well to remember always, that however thick and dark the clouds above us may be, above and beyond them the sun is shining in its full radiance and ever ready to break through.

June 29, 1874, Monday—Things look pretty gloomy financially, in the western half of Faribault county, at this time. First, the people, generally, are much in debt, many farms and much other property mortgaged, a great stringency in the money market all over the country, owing to general causes, but operating more severely in this particular section, because of short crops last year.

Many farmers, by the utmost efforts, were only able to secure seed enough to seed their grounds by giving chattel mortgages, looking forward to and hoping for a good crop, but yet timid and uncertain, because not knowing what damage might be done by the grasshoppers.

Second, The grasshoppers have now proved their destructive powers. Hundreds, nay, thousands of acres of small grain in the west half of the county have been destroyed by their ravages. Probably two-thirds of the crops in Verona, considerable in Winnebago City township, much in Jo Daviess, Pilot Grove, Elmore and Blue Earth City townships, have been ruined. These pests have, for a week past, been migrating northward on a strong S. S.-W. wind. On Saturday evening last the wind changed, and during Sunday and to-day, blows from W. N.-W., and these plagues are now traveling eastward. The crops not already destroyed, never looked so well and gave such promise of a bountiful harvest at this time, but the myriads of these pests, now spreading over them, may destroy all, and at all events, will greatly injure them.

Third, The hope of securing a north and south railroad from Mankato, by way of Winnebago City and Blue Earth City, thence to the coal fields of Iowa, for which we have long labored, and which is almost a necessity to this county, has vanished. It was confidently expected and promised that the road should be built this season, thus affording employment to many, and causing a revival of business, and above all things, secure the future. This fact has a serious effect on the value of lands, and on every financial and business interest. The price of lands here has certainly touched bottom. There is no sale for lands or anything else, because of the scarcity of money, the stagnation of business, and the discouraging look of the future. I have lived in this county for seventeen years, but in all that time have not seen a worse outlook than at present. Heretofore there has always been some hope for the future, at least."

The great Addison somewhere writes:

"If you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend and hope your guardian genius."

But Addison never had his crops eaten up by grasshoppers.

#### OUR NATAL DAY.

Notwithstanding the hard times, the scarcity of money—the destruction of crops by grasshoppers, as the Fourth of July approached the patriotic spirit of our citizens began to awaken, and they proceeded to prepare for that event. To some people, this event may seem very tame, trite and unimportant, but it should be remembered that to many hundreds of others, it was a day of pleasure, and perhaps of considerable profit and instruction. The day proved to be clear and warm.

Formal celebrations were held at three places in the county. At Easton, Hon. J. P. West delivered the oration, and Mr. Whitney read the Declaration. This was the first Fourth of July celebration held at Easton and was a dedication of this young city, forever, to the great principles of civil and religious liberty—to American freedom.

At Winnebago City, the day was celebrated under the auspices of the Grangers. Hon. A. J. Edgerton delivered the oration.

At Blue Earth City, the Good Templars took charge of the festivities. Hon. James E. Child, of Waseca county, this State, was the orator, and Geo. B. Kingsley, of this county, was the reader of the Declaration. A large company was in attendance, and the day was well enjoyed by all.

It is well known that no holiday of the year is so enthusiastically celebrated by the young people, as the Fourth of July, and the noisier it is, the better they seem to like it. It is, indeed, "Young America's" day, but it is not usually celebrated with the vim, indicated in the following incident, told in reference to a boy who appeared at the Sunday school after the Fourth of July. "I believe you are all here," said the teacher to the class. "Yes'm," said the boy, speaking for himself, "all 'ceptin' three fingers an' a piece of an ear and the hurrahin'."

#### WHAT OF THE HARVEST?

Harvest commenced the third week in July, and the weather was generally favorable.

The red osaka variety of wheat, of which so much had been said, and which was thought to be the hope of the country, proved, this year, to have suffered greatly from rust. In many places it was almost worthless, and some large fields were not even cut. It was generally considered that this wheat had had its day. The varieties that proved best this year were currently named as follows: the Halstead, White Michigan, Rio Grande, White Hamburg or Amber, China Tea, Fife and Golden Drop. Oats, where not injured by locusts, were a fair crop. Corn was a good crop. Potatoes suffered for want of rain, and were not generally a large crop. But little barley was sown, and the crop was light. East of the lands in this county, affected by the locusts, the crops, with the exception of barley, were very fair, but prices ran down in the fall, and wheat became as low as fifty-eight cents, at Delavan, and went up as high as seventy-two cents, but—at the close of the year stood at sixty-five cents—oats thirty-five to fifty cents; corn forty-five to fifty cents; potatoes fifty cents; pork six and a half and seven cents per pound for dressed hogs; flour two dollars per hundred.

#### THE LOCUSTS.

A brief article in reference to the grasshoppers, or more properly speaking, locusts, as they appeared to us during the years of their visitation here, may be of interest and value to the readers of the future. Most of the observations in relation to this insect, here recorded, as to their habits, were made at Blue Earth City, in this county, during the years 1873 and 1874.

When this plague came so suddenly upon the county, but few knew anything of them and their destructive power, or of the methods of dealing with them. The numerous references to the grasshopper and the locust, in the scriptures, were, indeed, dimly remembered by a few, but they little thought, or realized, that the following magnificent description by the prophet, Joel, of their ap-

pearance and the destruction they work, was ever to find an illustration here.

"A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth; the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; Yea, and nothing shall escape them.

"The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horseman, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

"Before their face the people shall be much pained; all faces shall gather blackness.

"They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march, every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks."

This pest is not the grasshopper with which most western people were acquainted in the eastern and middle states. It is much larger and possesses much greater powers of flight. It has been variously named, the grasshopper, the red legged locust, *caloptenus spretus*, the Rocky mountain locust, and is, undoubtedly, a species of locust, though much smaller than the full grown locusts, seen in the east, at long intervals.

As to their natural habitat, the better opinion appears to be that it is in "the higher valleys and dry sandy plateaus, within the limits of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and a strip of the same width, extending northward into British America, the northern limit being unknown," and that they are carried by strong and steady winds abroad over certain sections of country.

The following extract, from an article on the subject, written by Mr. J. W. Taylor, gives the best account we have seen of their various visitations.

"In the records of the Jesuit missions of California, we find early mention of the scourge; but with much evidence of its periodicity. The year 1722 was disastrous; the next visitation was in 1746, continuing three years; next in 1753 and 1754, and afterwards in 1765, 1766 and 1767. During this century the periods of great destruction in California have been 1828, 1838, 1846 and 1855. In the latter years these insects covered the entire territories of Washington and Oregon; every valley of the state of California ranging from the Pacific Ocean to the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada, the entire territories of Utah and New Mexico, the immense grassy prairies lying on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, the dry mountain valleys of the Republic of Mexico, and the countries of Lower California and Central America, and also those portions of the state of Texas which resembles, in physical characteristics, Utah and California. The locusts extended themselves in one year over a surface comprised within 38 degrees of latitude, and in the broadest part 18 degrees of longitude.

"In 1856 there was much injury in Texas, Kansas and Minnesota; and ten years afterwards, Kansas and the western districts of Missouri and Iowa suffered greatly, creating a necessity for public contributions from the eastern states to relieve the destitute.

"Since the settlement of Minnesota there have been five grasshopper years, 1856, 1857, 1865, 1873, and now, 1874—in each case with a loss of one-tenth of the entire crop of the state.

"The history of the Red River Settlement presents a similar proportion of years of suffering and exemption. Since the settlement under Lord Selkirk in 1812, the locusts have appeared in 1818 and 1819, and then a long interval to 1857-8, next in 1864-5, doing slight injury; in 1867-8, the famine year; in 1869-70; in 1872-3; and now in 1874, with the probability that the ova deposited will threaten the crops of 1875. The last seven years have been peculiarly unfortunate—there being but one full crop, while the average loss cannot have been less than one-half. With the extension of settlements in Manitoba, the loss will probably be reduced to ten per cent—the rate observed in locust years in the states west of the Mississippi river, equally exposed to the pest, although the calamity is still greatly heightened by the circumstance that special districts are the scenes of devastation.

"The great treeless pampas of South America have been repeatedly covered in various districts by locust swarms."

About the middle of the last century, they appeared in northern New England, and proved a great public calamity.

By reference to the history of the preceding year, it will be seen when the locusts made their first visit to this county, since its settlement. At that time they remained here long enough to do much damage, and to deposit their eggs in the ground.

They bored innumerable holes in the ground, even in the dry, hard beaten road, about a quarter of an inch in diameter and an inch deep, and deposited their eggs at the bottom. The ground, in many places, had a very strange appearance indeed.

Many persons in the spring of this year, (1874), prophesied that we should not again be troubled with the grasshopper, they believing that the frosts of winter had destroyed the eggs deposited the previous year, and that this country was not natural to them, was not adapted to their wants. How vain were all these hopes! About the 7th to the 9th of May, the weather being quite warm and dry, they began to hatch and come out of the ground. They immediately—though as small as fleas—commenced the work of destruction, and grew rapidly. About the 15th to the 20th of June, they began to get wings. Up to this time they had already done an immense amount of damage to the wheat and oats, especially in the towns of Elmore, Jo Daviess, Pilot Grove, Verona, Winnebago City and the west half of Blue Earth City township.

It should be stated here, that it is a vain supposition, sometimes entertained, that streams or lakes, or tracts of woodland, will impede their migration, or that frosts, wet weather, floods, storms or tempests can seriously affect them.

The question may be asked here, what all do they eat? The answer is simply—everything that is eatable, and some things that are not. They have a preference for garden vegetables, except peas—cultivated crops of all kinds, wheat, oats, corn, barley, flax, potatoes and tame grasses, and in default of these, then wild grass and the leaves and bark of shrubbery and young trees.

In looking over the fields which they have desolated, one realizes what is meant by the words "the grasshopper shall be a burden," and the words above quoted—"The land was as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; nothing did escape them."

After having destroyed the crops in the several towns, above mentioned, the pests left us on the seventh of July. The event is remembered as the great exodus.

The day had been oppressively warm, the thermometer standing from one o'clock to five o'clock p. m., at 102° in the shade, and there was but little air astir. About 4:30 p. m., it was discovered that the sky was full of flying locusts. But these words do not give an adequate idea of their numbers—they were in swarms of millions, flying high and passing rapidly to the southwest. For an hour or more, they kept passing thus, while other millions, all about, were raising from the ground and joining the hosts on the wing, and on that day, over a vast extent of country, they arose and left. It was a great exodus indeed, and it was thought, by many, that they were taking their final leave of this country, which in the main proved to be true, so far as this county was concerned. Yet there were places where they remained in the State, and deposited their eggs, but (with the exception of Brush Creek and several adjoining towns, where they did no damage) not in this county, nor in the counties west of this. Their subsequent appearance was that of those that could fly. The greatest injury is done where they hatch, for they must subsist upon the country until able to migrate.

The territory desolated by the locusts during this year, was northwestern Iowa, the western portion of Minnesota, that is, west of a line running north and south, coinciding with the Blue Earth river and continued to the north boundary of the State—large districts of Dakota, a great part of Nebraska, southern and western Kansas, and a part of Missouri, and in all this vast territory, great destitution and suffering was caused by their ravages, requiring regular organized systems of assistance and contribution, from more favored localities, and thousands of dollars of State aid, to prevent starvation or depopulation.

A serious question presents itself; is there not some method by which the locusts may be destroyed and their depredations prevented. When they first appeared in this county, the people were, as above stated, unacquainted with them and practically perfectly helpless. The remark was often made, "were these plagues only wild animals, say even an army of elephants, or an organized army of human enemies, we could fight them and at least hurt them some," but against these pests there seemed to be no human device. And such was almost, literally the truth. Yet there were certain things

done and others that might be done to greatly lessen their numbers and consequently their damages.

Most of the methods employed in certain portions of Europe and Asia, where the people have been troubled with locusts annually, for centuries, and now care little for them, are not practicable here because of our sparse population. The principal methods of destroying them here, were first to destroy the eggs on plowed land, which may be done to a considerable extent by early fall plowing, which breaks up the nests and throws the eggs to the surface, the exposure killing them. But this is of no avail when the eggs are deposited on wild lands. Small fields were sometimes protected temporarily by two persons taking a long rope and passing it over the grain, when the hoppers were quite young and thus drive them out of the fields. Still another method used somewhat, in small fields, before the pests could fly, was that of laying winrows of hay at intervals through the field, and then drive the locusts upon the hay and immediately setting fire to the hay.

But the most effective instrument ever invented for the destruction of the grasshoppers in this country on cultivated lands, was the famous death dealer, known as the hopper-dozer. This invention, like many another much needed invention, came at a late day—1877. It consisted simply of a common piece of sheet iron, six or eight feet long, with a small strip of board along the two larger sides, to give it stiffness, and a string, or wire, by which to draw it, extending from the two front corners, and the whole sheet covered with coal-tar. By drawing this instrument over the fields and gardens, at the period between the hatching and the winging of the insects, the young hoppers jump upon it, and are held by the tar and soon die. It is simply wonderful what quantities of the insects can thus be gathered and destroyed. They were used very extensively throughout the infested towns of the county after their introduction. Large quantities of tar were purchased at the public expense, and distributed to the several towns for this purpose in 1877.

But in any general invasion of the country, all these local methods of destroying the insects are of but uncertain advantage, for if destroyed in one locality to-day, to-morrow others might light down again, as thick as ever, and, therefore, any real remedy must be one of a general character, such as will destroy them over large districts of country, at the same time.

Some one of a practical turn of mind may now be ready to ask, can not these locusts be put to some practical use? Certainly they can, as will appear from the following article quoted from a good authority. And any one who chooses, may make use of them, when



they appear again. Such large quantities of them, should not be permitted to go wholly to waste.

"In Turkey, Persia, Arabia, and all that region of country, locusts—genuine *bona fide* locusts—have been eaten from remote antiquity, and to this day, they form an important item of the food used by the common people. The Bedouins collect them in immense quantities, and, after a partial drying, pack them in sacks. Then at their convenience, when the season for collecting is over, they steam the insects in closed vessels over a hot fire, winnow them in broad baskets to remove the legs and wings, and then pulverize them between flat stones. When wanted for food, they are only moistened with a little water, just as the Arabs do in preparing their date-flour, and then the repast is all ready."

In relation to the damages done by the locusts during this year in our own State, we present the following estimates, made by the *St. Paul Press*, which were doubtless very correct. In our own county, undoubtedly one-third of the entire crop of the county was destroyed by them this year.

#### GRASSHOPPER RAVAGES.

The *St. Paul Press* draws the following conclusions with respect to the grasshopper invasion in Minnesota:

"It is safe to estimate the tilled area in the ravaged district at 275,000 acres, and of the area of wheat in that district at 200,000 acres. Of this area, probably not less than 150,000 acres have been destroyed. This represents not less than 2,500,000 bushels of wheat devoured in the germ by the grasshoppers, or about one-twelfth of the wheat crop of the State. Add to this area 40,000 acres of oats, at 33 bushels per acre, or 1,320,000 bushels in all, or one-twelfth of the oat crop of the State; 20,000 acres of corn, at 32 bushels per acre, or 340,000 bushels, or one-twelfth of the corn crop of the State, and perhaps 20,000 acres more in rye, buckwheat, barley, potatoes and other crops—and the full extent of the grasshopper havoc can be easily estimated."

#### THE NEWSPAPERS AGAIN.

The *Wells Atlas* "changed hands" in September. W. Keller becoming the editor and proprietor, Mr. Calvert retiring. Another change was made in the early part of December, and on the sixteenth of that month the paper came out under the new name of the "*Faribault County Leader*," H. L. LaDue, editor. The paper continued to be a seven column sheet, neatly printed and mainly devoted to local affairs. The inside was printed abroad, outside at home.

#### VOX POPULI.

An important election was now near at hand. Among other public officers to be chosen, were two judges of the supreme court, a judge of the sixth judicial district, and a member of congress.

Mark H. Dunnell was the republican congressional candidate, and Franklin H. Waite, for some years our district judge, was congressional candidate of the opposition.

On the first day of October, a County Council of the Patrons of Husbandry was held at Delavan, at which, among other business transacted, the following nominations were made:

For Representatives—Thomas George and Geo. A. Barnes.

For County Auditor—J. A. Arnold.

For Register of Deeds—Henry R. Walker.

For Surveyor—Geo. Weir.

For County Commissioners—1st District, W. T. Ives; 2d District, F. W. Temple; 4th District, J. A. Latimer; 5th District, J. Anderson.

The Republican County Convention met at Blue Earth City, on the eighth day of October. A. A. Huntington was chosen chairman, and G. W. Buswell, secretary. The convention proceeded to make the following nominations:

For Representatives—F. M. Pierce and Geo. A. Barnes.

For Auditor—W. W. White.

For Register of Deeds—F. P. Brown.

For Surveyor—George Weir.

For County Commissioners—1st District, C. W. Jones; 2d District, F. W. Temple; 4th District, E. H. Hutchins; 5th District, D. Catlin.

Soon after the last mentioned convention, J. P. West, of Wells, was announced as an independent candidate for representative.

The Democratic and Liberal Republican Convention was held October 10th. D. P. Wasgatt was chosen chairman, and G. W. Polleys, secretary. This convention nominated Robert Andrews and Thomas George for representatives, and the following named persons for county commissioners: 1st District, Allen Shultis; 2d District, Geo. B. Kingsley; 4th District, J. A. Latimer; 5th District, D. Catlin.

No nominations were made for the offices of auditor and register of deeds.

In consequence of the resignation of Franklin H. Waite, judge of the 6th judicial district, to which this county belongs, a republican judicial district convention was held at Madelia, Watonwan county, October 13th. Daniel A. Dickinson, of Mankato, was nominated as the candidate for judge.

Daniel Buck, of Mankato, was the candidate of the opposition to the republican nominee.

Here were two Daniels seeking to come to the judgment seat.

A few days before the day of election, Geo. A. Barnes, a candidate for representative, withdrew, and on Friday preceding the election, Geo. W. Whallon, of Blue Earth City, came out as a candidate for representative, in the place of Mr. Barnes. The campaign was not a very lively one, except for about three days immediately prior to election day.

The election was held on the third day of November.

For Member of Congress the vote stood: For M. H. Dunnell, 903; for F. H. Waite, 756. Mr. Dunnell carried the district.

For Judge of District Court, Daniel A. Dickinson had 866 votes, and Daniel Buck had 817. Mr. Dickinson carried the district.

The following table taken from the official canvass of votes for representatives and county officers, other than commissioners, presents the final results:

For Representatives, Whallon, 602; Pierce, 813; West, 792; George, 574; Andrews, 401.

For Auditor, White, 1,526; Arnold, 154.

For Register, Brown, 1,437; Weaver, 249.

For Surveyor, Weir had 1,680.

Amos Preston was elected county commissioner for District No. 1; F. W. Temple for District No. 2; E. H. Hutchins for District No. 4, and D. Catlin for District No. 5.

#### THE BEE.

About the first of December "*The Delavan Bee*," published at Delavan, by C. Huntington, was removed to Blue Earth City, and the name was changed to *The Bee*.

With the remark that 1874 was the last year of the second decade in the history of the county—twenty annual milestones past—we close the record of the year.

## CHAPTER XXI.

A. D. 1875.

The winter of 1874-5 was what is described by the phrase "a hard winter."

In this county we had, on the eighth of January, a very severe snow storm—a blizzard—and on the 2d and 3d days of February, we were visited by another of those fierce storms, and again on the 10th and 23d days of the same month, the storms were severe. At the latter date, a very heavy northeast snow storm prevailed over the whole country. The cold, at times, during the winter was intense.

We append a general description of the winter taken from the *St. Paul Press*, of March 12th.

"The unparalleled severity of the winter is a subject of frequent dolorous comment by the eastern journals. All the eastern states have suffered from it. But Canada has been covered with such mountains of snow as to make travel impossible. Large districts have been isolated for months from the commercial centers, and large stores of grain, cattle, farm produce and manufactured goods are locked up behind the barriers of ice. The result is that all through Canada trade is almost at a standstill, and a severe panic and tight money market is the consequence. The same experience in a less aggravated form has afflicted all the northern belt of states. The severe cold has struck a chill into the marrow of trade, which has been benumbed and paralyzed. It is predicted that the opening of spring will witness a revival of business, and they already begin to feel it in Chicago."

## THE COURTS.

The district court commenced its winter term January 5th. Hon. A. C. Woolfolk, of Mankato, having been appointed by the governor of the state to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. F. H. Waite, presided at this term, the judge elect, Hon. D. A. Dickinson, not having yet qualified. The calendar contained seven criminal and thirty-six civil cases.

The progress of business was interrupted somewhat by the illness of the judge during the session. At the June term, Hon. D. A. Dickinson presided, being his first term in this county. There were four criminal and thirty-eight civil cases on the calendar.

Among the "levities of the law," we find the following incident, which is entirely too good to go into the waste basket. It is well

known that there is a class of lawyers who take great delight in trying to confuse and browbeat witnesses, and make them testify to what they do not wish, or contradict their own statements. Here is a witness, however, who "turned the tables."

"Do you know the prisoner well?" asked the attorney.

"Never knew him sick," replied the witness.

"No levity," said the lawyer sternly.

"Now, sir, did you ever see the prisoner at the bar?"

"Took many a drink with him at the bar."

"Answer my question, sir," yelled the lawyer. "How long have you known the prisoner?"

"From two feet up to five feet ten inches."

"Will the court make the —"

"I have, Jedge," said the witness, anticipating the lawyer. "I have answered the question. I knowed the prisoner when he was a boy two feet long to a man five feet ten."

"Your Honor —"

"It's fact, Jedge; I'm under oath," persisted the witness.

The lawyer arose, placed both hands on the table in front of him, spread his legs apart, leaned his body over the table, and said:

"Will you tell the court what you know about this case?"

"That ain't his name," replied the witness.

"What ain't his name?"

"Case."

"Who said it was?"

"You did. You wanted to know what I knew about this Case. His name's Smith."

"Your Honor," howled the attorney, plucking his beard out by the roots, "Will you make this man answer?"

"Witness," said the Judge, "you must answer the questions put to you."

"Lynd o' Goshen, Jedge, hain't I been doin' it? Let the blamed cuss fire away, I'm all ready."

"Then," said the lawyer, "don't beat about the bush any more. You and the prisoner have been friends?"

"Never," promptly responded the witness.

"What! Wasn't you summoned here as a friend?"

"No, sir; I was summoned here as a Presbyterian. Nary one of us was ever Friends. He's an old-line Baptist, without a drop of Quaker in him."

"Stand down," yelled the lawyer in disgust.

"Hay?"

"Can't do it. I'll sit down or stand up—"

"Sheriff, remove that man from the box."

Witness retires, muttering: "Well, if he ain't the thick-headedest cuss I ever laid eyes on."—*Utica Observer*.

#### AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

The Agricultural Society, at its annual meeting, January 5th, elected M. B. Pratt, president, F. W. Temple, secretary, and D. Freer, treasurer. The treasurer reported as the receipts of the year, \$249.38; disbursements \$221.15, and that the society was out of debt and had \$28.23 in the treasury.

About the first of September, another Agricultural Society was formed in the county, at Winnebago City, designed, not only for this county, but for the Blue Earth Valley. A. H. Bullis was chosen president, F. Gale, treasurer and B. F. Goodwin, secretary. Notice was given that the fair of the society would be held at Winnebago City, on the 16th and 17th days of September, and regulations and a premium list were published. The fair, however, was not held. This organization proved a failure.

The fair of the established society was held at Blue Earth City on the 23d and 24th days of September. The premiums offered amounted to \$500. Besides the usual attractions, the following alluring announcements were made on large and conspicuous posters:

‘Running, Trotting, English Hurdle and Foot races. Buckskin Joe, for 17 years a captive among the Indians, with forty Indian warriors, will give a sham Indian fight, on the fair grounds.’

The fair was a success, but Joe did not appear, nor did the fight occur.

#### THE PARLIAMENT.

The seventeenth State Legislature assembled on the fifth day of January, and adjourned March 5th. At this session, the county was represented by S. P. Child, of Blue Earth City, in the Senate, and J. P. West, of Wells, and F. M. Pierce, of Winnebago City, in the House. Geo. W. Buswell, of this county, was First Assistant Clerk of the House, and Charles A. Rose, of this county, Fireman for the Senate.

The following are the titles of the several acts of the legislature of this year, relating to this county:

An act to authorize the board of county commissioners of certain counties, (including Faribault), to remit and refund a portion of the tax levied for the year 1874.

An act to extend the time for the payment of personal property taxes for 1874, in certain towns in this county.

An act to amend the charter of Winnebago City.

An act to appropriate money (\$20,000) for the immediate relief of the suffering settlers on the frontier.

An act to appropriate money (\$75,000) to aid the destitute settlers of counties devastated by grasshoppers.

An act to authorize the electors of the independent school district No. 7, in Winnebago City, to fix salaries of officers.

An act to authorize certain counties (including Faribault) or any of the towns therein, to issue bonds to aid in the construction of railroads.

An act to amend an act to authorize the supervisors of Clark township to issue bonds.

An act to appropriate five hundred dollars to aid in constructing a bridge across the Blue Earth river, at Howe's Ford.

An act to appropriate three hundred dollars to aid in constructing a bridge across the east branch of the Blue Earth river, north of Blue Earth City.

An act to appropriate six hundred dollars to erect a bridge across the east branch of the Blue Earth river, in Blue Earth City township.

Hon. S. J. R. McMillan was, at this session, elected United States Senator. The relief acts above specified were rendered necessary because of the grasshopper devastations, and by the three acts last mentioned, the county secured, out of the internal improvement fund, much needed appropriations to aid in the construction of important bridges, amounting in all to \$1,400.00.

Under the \$20,000 relief act, the sum of \$400.00 was allotted to this county, which sum was distributed among the destitute, by A. Preston, F. W. Temple, and E. H. Hutchins, commissioners. This distribution was made about the first of March, and was made in merchandise, to such as proved themselves deserving.

Under the provisions of the \$75,000 act, above specified, 1,900 bushels of sealed wheat were distributed in this county, to grasshopper sufferers, during the month of April. There were about 125 applicants. Over 1,500 bushels were distributed at Blue Earth City, the same having been purchased of the farmers in the vicinity, who had not been injured by the grasshoppers, at an average cost of seventy five cents a bushel. The balance was distributed at Winnebago City, and was purchased in the immediate neighborhood, at an average cost of ninety cents per bushel. F. W. Temple, at Blue Earth City, and E. H. Hutchins, at Winnebago City, commissioners, superintended the purchase and distribution of the grain, at these several places.

#### THE ARBITERS OF THE COUNTY.

Meetings were held during the year by the commissioners, January 5th, March 10th, July 26th, September 7th and October 5th. Amos Preston, of Elmore, was chairman for the year. The only notable fact in the business done, was that an unusual amount of money was appropriated during the year for the building of bridges, a much needed improvement, and many valuable bridges were erected.

#### PITHILY PUT IN PARAGRAPHS.

Here are some local gleanings grouped together, which should not be omitted:

On the nineteenth day of January, the first number of the "*Vedette*," a small, neatly printed newspaper, was issued at Blue Earth City, by the Burleson Brothers, two boys, the eldest of whom was not eighteen years old. It was a religio-literary sheet, and it was much admired and well patronized.

During the latter part of January and through the month of February, considerable excitement existed in certain portions of the

county, caused by the circulation of a petition to the legislature, praying the passage of an act granting the privilege of voting upon the removal of the county seat from Blue Earth City to some point on the Southern Minnesota Railroad. The canvass in behalf of the petition was quite active, and resulted in obtaining many names.

A committee was soon appointed by the board of trade, of Blue Earth City, to prepare and circulate a remonstrance. To this latter paper a majority of the legal voters of the county subscribed their names, and the remonstrance was sent to the legislature. But the petition was not presented to that body, and no act was passed in relation to the matter, and the whole affair fell to the ground for the time being. The question of the removal of the county seat was again brought up in the fall, when the friends of the measure sought to make it a political issue.

The *Faribault County Leader* published at Wells, on the fourteenth of April, passed into the hands of Col. C. A. Lounsberry, former owner.

#### FISH! FISH!

The State Fish Commissioner's report for this year, states, that there are in this county, about 7,680 acres of land covered by water. Probable 7,000 acres of which are suitable to the cultivation of fish. It is said that ten acres cultivated to fish, (to use the language of the report), are worth more than ten acres of any ordinary product.

This was deemed a matter of great importance to the people of the county. Fish furnish a cheap, wholesome and palatable food. It was the opinion of many, that it would require but a short time to stock our numerous lakes and streams with the best kinds of fish, such as white fish, salmon, shoadic, bass, trout and others, that may prove adapted to our waters. This was the first year in which the matter was brought to the attention, fully, of our people. One thousand Pacific salmon were put into Minnesota lake in the early part of the year.

The hopes entertained at the time were not realized.

The F. C. S. S. Association held its fifth annual meeting at Blue Earth City, on the 26th and 27th days of May. A. R. More, Sr., was elected president; Rev. S. L. Rugg, vice-president; C. H. Patten, secretary, and C. B. Miner, treasurer. Among the interesting questions discussed at this meeting were the following: "The Pioneer Sunday school and its relations to the Church." "Modes of teaching infant classes." "Sunday school singing,"

#### DEBRIS.

Here is a handful of events occurring in the outside world during the year, which attracted much attention.

January 1st. The Spanish monarchy restored.



January 11th. The trial of the great Beecher case began, which lasted nearly six months. Probably no cause ever brought before the courts of justice, in any age, elicited such a profound interest with so many millions of people as this.

February 25th. The French Republic definitely recognized.

March 20th. A tornado in Georgia, caused great loss of life and property.

May 18th. A terrible earthquake occurred in New Granada, S. A. The city of Cucute was destroyed. 3,000 lives lost and \$8,000,000 of property destroyed.

July 31st. Ex-President Andrew Johnson, died.

September 16th. A frightful cyclone appeared in the Gulf of Mexico—Galveston, Texas, threatened to be submerged.

November 22d. Henry Wilson, Vice President of the U. S., died.

#### HARD TIMES.

A word now in relation to the character of the times, financially and otherwise, is appropriate here. In consequence of the financial panic of 1873, and other causes, some of which were local, here, the whole condition may be described by the phrase "hard times." A fuller statement of the condition of things throughout the country, is found in the following extract from an address delivered by the writer in February, of this year:

And to lay aside our usual boasting and to deal in stern facts, *our* situation as a people, at this time, is in many respects far from satisfactory.

Here are the first lines of the President's annual message, delivered to Congress but a few months ago: "Since the convening of Congress, one year ago, the nation has undergone a season of prostration in business and industries such as has not been witnessed with us for many years."

I add. A million of workmen are out of employment—many manufactories are idle—commercial transactions deranged—mines have ceased to be operated, and bankruptcy stares the mercantile world in the face. But let us look further, are there not greater evils extant in the land? It is a sad truth, that the age in which we live is one of extraordinary moral degeneracy. A reckless disregard of the obligations of the moral and civil laws, alike, seems to prevade all classes of society, to an alarming extent. It is an age which excuses an act of shrewd selfish villainy, but for an error, or an honest mistake, there is little forgiveness. It is the age of Credit Mobilers, Salary grabs, of gigantic monopolies, Congressional subsidies, rings and jobbery, an age of shoddy tinsel and pretense, or innumerable shams and cheats—an age characterized by a wild hunt after office, by extravagance and display, and an insane haste to get rich. This latter evil seems to be the root of the others, to get rich quick, by any means at hand, fair or foul, ignoring the old ways of steady, but slow, and honest accumulations.

But this is not all. Every newspaper is filled with the details of the most revolting crimes, but high over all, are the deeds of official and social corruption and financial rottenness. When was there an age so characterized by bribery, defalcations and breeches of trust, Demagogues everywhere buying their way into office by the grossest bribery, and men violate the most sacred trusts

with shocking audacity. Corporations, public and private, are constantly being robbed by their own officers, of enormous sums, and fraud stalks through the land at noon-day, and the depravity of villainy, seems to be reaching its climax when it seeks, as in many late instances, to excuse it's deeds, and make them respectable, by charging, with devilish ingenuity, like crimes upon those of high character, purity of life and honesty of purpose.

But the fact that these things are so, is not the worst feature of the case. As a citizen, and not as a moralist, I assert, that the depraved moral sentiment which excuses and winks at these things, so current over the land, is infinitely more to be deplored than the existence of the *facts themselves*.

It does seem as though we were cutting loose and drifting away from the ancient moorings.

The fact was that the stringency of the times was steadily increasing. For some reason the tide of immigration was turned to other regions further north and west, and two years of partial destruction of the crops in this county, by grasshoppers, high rates of interest, the calling in of moneys loaned, the urgent collection of debts, all uniting with the general causes above stated, tended to bring about a very discouraging state of affairs here.

The currency, the contraction of the currency, silver, green-back money, strikes, wages of working men, the rights of the labor organizations, were the great political and industrial questions which occupied the public attention, from 1873 to 1879.

During these troublous times, thousands of patriotic hearts breathed the prayers expressed in the following lines:

“God give us men! a time like this demands  
 Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and honest hands!  
 Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
 Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;  
 Men who posses opinion and a will;  
 Men who have honor, and who will not lie;  
 Men who can stand before a demagogue,  
 And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking.  
 Tall men, sun crowned, who live above the fog  
 In public duty, and in private thinking,  
 For while the rabble with their thumb-worn creeds,  
 Their large professions and their little deeds  
 Mingled in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,  
 Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps.”

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30TH.

The day of the dead.

The recurrence this year and every year, of the observance of this day at many places in the county, excuses some reference to it here.

This day is usually called Decoration Day from the principal ceremony incident to it, but by the decree of the society of the Grand Army of the Republic, is known as Memorial Day. It is now a legal holiday observed in all the states and territories of the Union where the dead of the Union armies rest.

This holiday grew out of the usages instituted as early as 1862, in a few localities, of decorating the graves of deceased soldiers and sailors.

The custom spread over the country by the force of its very appropriateness, until, finally, the society of the G. A. R. and state legislatures took order in relation to it, and it has met with almost universal approval and observance since.

This is a new red letter day in the American calendar. It bears some similarity, however, to the ancient Roman festival of the Floralia, but simply because of the profuse use of flowers, its annual occurrence and celebration in the spring of the year.

In France a custom has existed for some centuries, of decorating the graves of deceased friends, with flowers and evergreens, on a stated day of the spring, and in Germany and England, the custom has existed to some extent in localities.

With us it is a beautiful, but indeed, a solemn celebration, held in commemoration of the brave men who gave their services to the nation in the war for the Union, and fell in the struggle, or have since died.

It is not a holiday devoted to sports, or revelry, or rejoicing, but it is the day when loving remembrance writes upon the graves of its heroic dead in flowers and garlands and evergreens, the words, "In Memoriam."

"A nation mourns her dead to-day;  
The dead who died our land to save;  
And brings the freshest bloom of May  
To lay upon each honored grave."

And we have no national anniversary more worthy of perpetuation and universal observance, none in which our people manifest a greater or juster pride, none more touching in sentiment, or more true and precious than this, and while the nation lives, and patriotism and heroic self sacrifice are honored in this land, it will continue to be celebrated from year to year.

What is the grand story of this day? It is the now old, old story of the war, but it is so great a story it may be often told. Do we even now fully realize and appreciate its vast import and awful grandeur? Let us try to realize its true significance, that as the years go by we forget it not.

That we may do so, it is necessary that we remember that great fact of history, that there arose in this western hemisphere, under the Providence of God, from out of the American Revolution—the great republic. Nothing like it, in the character of its government, or in material, moral or educational progress, or in general beneficence to its people, had ever been seen before in the annals of time. This great nation was founded upon the principles

of equality, of right, of civil and religious liberty, and self-government. The governed were declared to be under God, the source of all political power, and that civil government can justly be instituted only by the people and for the people.

Yet the strange anomaly appeared of the existence in the nation from its very foundation, of human chattel slavery in a large portion of its area. From this evil grew our bitter contentions and alienations between the two great sections of the Union known as the North and the South. Finally, after almost a century of national progress and prosperity—even in spite of this great evil of slavery—such as no other nation of ancient or modern times had ever known, these contentions, fostered by ambitious and designing men, ripened into open and armed rebellion, on the part of the South, against the authority of the general government.

They insolently defied the authority of the nation, and designed to destroy it by a dissolution of the Union of the States, and the establishment of an adjacent, inimical, and rival nation, based upon the slavery of a large part of its people. No warrant in law, natural, civil, or revealed; nothing in the constitution, or in the nature of the union of the states, in reason or justice, or even in expediency, could be found or alleged as a justification of this act, and its success meant the destruction of the life of the nation.

It was the arm of hell, reached out of perdition, to throttle and strangle the last hope of man—for indeed, the great republic had become the last and only hope of man's political redemption—the refuge of the oppressed of all nations, and when the great shadow fell upon it, millions of hearts in all lands stood still with fear of the result; for they knew, all the world knew, that bound up with that result was the fate of civil and religious liberty, and popular government. Ah! how much there was at stake! And how those millions waited, and watched, and prayed! They asked, "can this inconceivably great calamity be prevented?" Who will go forth and enter into the conflict to maintain the Union, the Constitution, the supremacy of the law, and preserve the nation's life—a cause as just and holy as any which ever summoned men to arms since the world began? And the nation's defenders came! From the north, and the west, and the east! From the mountain and the valley, loyal citizens, native and foreign born, protestant and catholic, republican and democrat, crowding to the front! It was in the fated year of 1861, the terrific tempest of blood broke upon the nation, and for four years a war raged such as had rarely ever been seen among the nations of the earth. This great conflict cost billions of treasure, and what was of infinitely more importance, nearly half a million of our people, directly and indirectly, gave their lives that our nation might live.

But for the Union soldiers and sailors, there would now be no national union, no republic, no liberty to enlighten the world. They not only stood for our national life, but they fought the battle of liberty for unborn millions who shall live long after their bones are dust. And in that terrible day of blood, when the heavens were black with the smoke of battle, and the earth trembled with the shock and strife of mighty armies, and deep anxiety was impressed on every heart, it was these brave men who stood between our northern homes, our great cities, our fertile fields, and vast industries, and an insolent, powerful and desperate enemy, who would have laid all waste by fire and sword.

How little we realize these tremendous facts now? But they were realized then with fear and trembling. And in the great struggle, victory came at last for the union cause. Our nation's life was saved! Its enemies destroyed! The curse of slavery abolished, four millions of people set free, and peace—oh, blessed peace!—was once more restored to this fair and united land.

But from Sumpter to Appomattox, what a bloody highway! From Ellsworth to Lincoln, what a sacrifice!

From all this it may be inferred, indeed, that this great and bloody contest was not a war of conquest, nor of subjugation, upon the part of the North—it was not a war for plunder, but a war for principles, for rights most sacred, and interests of incalculable value.

And it is a worthy and true remark to make, notwithstanding the sneer of the shallow and disaffected, that it was not the hope of plunder, or promotion, or sordid gain; but it was the deep sense of loyalty to duty and the country that led the soldiers of the republic, from the highest to the lowest, with but indeed few exceptions, to give their lives for this cause. It was this, that, in spite of many mistakes and defeats, gained our victories, and brought the final triumph.

And let us not forget, that, while we would not take one jot or tittle from the honors due the commanding officers during the war, it was, after all, mainly to the private soldiers, many of whom sleep in unknown graves, many of whom fell before they ever knew the victories they had won, that we are indebted for the grandest triumphs of the war. And it is indeed appropriate that in every cemetery decorated this day, there is placed a flower and evergreen tribute to "the unknown dead of the war."

Nor are those to be forgotten who returned to us from the ensanguined field to enjoy in peace the blessings of a restored Union.

They, too, left all for the same cause for that, for which, by the fortunes of war, their comrades fell. They returned not as a rabble, demoralized and vicious, as some prophesied they would, but as

peaceful citizens, glad to lay down, after the victory was won, the implements and insignia of war, and enjoy the quiet and rest of home, and the arts of peace.

A grateful country will not forget—has not forgotten them.

And it is now, annually, on this day, by beautiful ceremonies, we seek to honor the memory of the heroic men who went down to death in this holy cause.

Yet it is but little that they can be honored by any act of ours. They honored themselves. They won their own chaplets of immortal renown. We can but prove our remembrance, and attest our gratitude, for—

“On fame’s eternal camping ground,  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards with solemn round  
The bivouac of the dead.”

It has been appropriately said that like all good deeds, sincerely done, the observance of this day comes to us like a beneficence, for it tends to the elevation of private and national life, and gives us better, clearer ideas of the duties of patriotism. It indeed appeals to our sense of the beautiful, nay, of the grand and sublime, awakening those sentiments and aspirations that are best in us all. It testifies our appreciation of the great lessons of heroic death and sacrifice, and the worth of the great boon won for us and the world. It proves, too, withal, our sympathy with the bereaved kindred whose dear ones in the hour of peril offered their lives a sacrifice upon the altar of their country.

It is written, that it is appointed once for all men to die. The soldiers of the Revolution have long since returned to dust. The men who fought the battles of the war of “12” have gone to their final rest. The heroes, who won the victories under the burning suns of Mexico, now living, are but few in number, and the time will come (may it long be delayed) when all the soldiers and sailors of the last war shall rest in

“The low, green tents  
Whose curtains never outward swing.”

Many, weary with the lapse of years, burdened with age and infirmities, now march in the processions on this day to the cemeteries, with feeble, halting and irregular step; day by day, the numbers of their comrades here, grow less, and the armies on the other shore grow larger. Many of the great leaders, and thousands of the rank and file are already there. And, in the course of nature, it cannot be long, until, on the great muster roll in the hands of the Angel of Death, the names of those now living will be called, and the prompt response, “here,” will be uttered for the last time on earth.

But there will always, hereafter, be those who shall assemble on this day and strew upon their last resting places beautiful flowers and evergreens—symbols of affection and remembrance—symbols of the resurrection and of that hope of everlasting life which may await us all.

Yes, we shall come annually in the glorious spring-time, with our tribute of flowers to the memory of the dead, and we shall teach our children of the great work these men did for the Nation and the world, so that when this generation, who lived in the time of the war, shall have passed away, there shall be others to continue so worthy a commemoration.

Heroes "who sleep beneath the sod,  
And wait the trumpet call of God,  
Accept the gift we bring to-day."

#### THE LOCUSTS.

The grasshoppers did no material damage in this county during this year, nor did they lay any eggs. The damage done by them, however, in other parts of the State was very great.

In Blue Earth county, adjoining this on the north, much of the crop was destroyed. To prevent as much as possible their ravages, the county offered a bounty for their destruction. Other counties also offered liberal bounties. According to the official report of the auditor of Blue Earth county, 15,766 bushels were caught and destroyed, costing the county \$31,255.66.

The following statement exhibits the deposit of eggs for this year:

#### THE GRASSHOPPER SITUATION.

*The Mankato Review.*

"The grasshoppers have laid their eggs in portions of Brown, Redwood, Lyon, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Murray, Martin and Nobles counties, covering a larger area of country than they did last season.

Then their course was steadily northward, and while, in July their northerly line was in this county, before the season was over they had passed through Nicollet, Le Sueur, Sibley and into Scott and McLeod counties. This year their course is as positively in a southwesterly direction, and from Watonwan and Cottonwood they have advanced upon the northern towns of Martin, Jackson, and Nobles, and no doubt will work their way into Iowa. Measures might be instituted to largely destroy these eggs this fall, and thus the dangers of next year averted. It is not only possible to accomplish that result, but at very much less expense than if they are permitted to hatch."

#### BREVITES.

Independence Day was duly celebrated under the auspices of the grange at Blue Earth City, on the third day of July, the fourth being Sunday. E. Ayers delivered the address and S. W. Graham was the reader of the Declaration. On the fifth, the day was commemorated at Delavan.

The day was very generally observed throughout the State.

A hail storm passed over the county on the twenty-fourth day of July, which did considerable damage, especially in Rome township, where the entire crops of several farmers were destroyed.

The harvest of this year began about the first week in August, being nearly a week later than usual. There was much rain. The small grain was heavy and much of it badly lodged. Some had to be cut with the cradle or the scythe, the ground being so soft. The weather was not favorable, and about the twenty-fourth of August, just when the grain was mostly in the shock, very heavy, continuous rains set in, and for quite a while prevented stacking, and did much damage. All kinds of crops were abundant and good prices were obtained. The people were much encouraged until the rains set in. Prices about harvest were as follows: Wheat, 95 @ \$1.10, with upward tendency; oats, 40 @ 45; corn, 45 @ 50; potatoes, 40; eggs, 8; butter, 14 @ 15; flour, \$2.50 @ \$3.00; pork, 12½. Corn was a little backward, but the stand was good, and much more had been planted this year than for many years previous.

On the seventeenth of August articles of incorporation of the "Driving Park Association of Winnebago City," were adopted, and a certificate published.

A slight frost occurred in this county on the night of August 21st, which did but little injury except that it went down into the bottom lands, looking after the watermelons, which it nipped severely. In the eastern and northern portions of the State, this frost was very severe, and much injury was done in certain localities. A frost so early is quite unusual. It was nearly a month ahead of the ordinary time of frosts.

#### THE POLITICAL SYMPOSIUM.

The election of this fall was quite an important one, as the following State officers were to be elected: A Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, Attorney General and Railroad Commissioner. John S. Pillsbury, for Governor, and James B. Wakefield, a citizen of this county, for Lieutenant Governor, were the republican candidates for those offices, and D. S. Buel, for Governor, and E. M. Durant, for Lieutenant Governor, were the democratic candidates. Four amendments to the State constitution were to be voted upon.

The Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City on the fifteenth day of September, Fifty-eight delegates were authorized by the call. C. H. Slocum, of Blue Earth City, was chosen



chairman, and C. W. Apley, of Minnesota Lake, secretary. The following nominations were made:

J. P. West, of Wells, for Senator.

A. R. More, Sr., of Pilot Grove, and C. S. Dunbar, of Foster, for Representatives.

J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, for Judge of Probate and Court Commissioner.

A. Anderson, of Delavan, for Treasurer.

F. F. Harlow, of Winnebago City, for Sheriff.

H. P. Young, of Blue Earth City, for Coroner.

M. W. Green, of Wells, for County Attorney.

Soon after the convention the following independent candidates were announced:

E. H. Hutchins, of Winnebago City, for Senator.

D. F. Goodrich, of Blue Earth City, for Representative.

R. B. Johnson, for Treasurer.

Charles Stockman, for Sheriff.

J. H. Sprout and B. G. Reynolds, for the office of County Attorney.

The democratic and liberal republican convention was held at Blue Earth City on the twenty-third day of September. Allen Shultis, of Elmore, was elected chairman, and Geo. A. Weir, of Winnebago City, secretary. The convention nominated Robert Andrews, of Wells, for Senator, and S. J. Abbott, of Winnebago City, and Allen Shultis, of Elmore, for Representatives.

For Treasurer—Geo Barnes, of Minnesota Lake.

For Sheriff—A. B. Davis, of Winnebago City.

For County Attorney—Geo. B. Kingsley, of Blue Earth City.

For Coroner—H. P. Constans, of Blue Earth City.

No nominations were made for the offices of Judge of Probate and Court Commissioner.

Certain persons residing in the northern portion of the county, who favored the removal of the county seat, determined to make the matter a political issue, and to arouse public interest, a preliminary mass meeting was called at Wells for the fourteenth of October, and one at Winnebago City for the fifteenth, and a general people's convention at Delavan on the sixteenth. The meeting at Wells was not large nor enthusiastic, and no meeting was held at Winnebago City. At Delavan the meeting was not largely attended, there being only some thirty votes cast on the several motions offered. The following nominations, which seem to have been made without much reference to the opinions of the nominees on the removal question, were made:

E. H. Hutchins, for Senator.

S. J. Abbott and D. F. Goodrich, for Representatives.

R. B. Johnson, for Treasurer.

In *The Politicians* we read.

“There names were legion, not a spot  
In those days by-gone knew them not;  
They swarmed and flitted everywhere,  
As locusts in the desert air,  
In numbers, countless as the sands,  
With famished hearts and acheing hands,  
And thirsty lips, that seemed to sigh  
For public udders to suck dry!”

—*Holley.*

The election was held November 2d. The following table exhibits the official canvass:

OFFICIAL VOTE OF FARIBAULT COUNTY—COUNTY TICKET.

1875.	Treasurer.		Sheriff.			Attorney.			Pro- bate.	Ct. Com'r	Coroner.		Senator.			Representatives.				
	R. B. Johnson.	A. Anderson.	Geo. Barnes.	F. F. Harlow.	A. B. Davis.	Chas. Stockman.	M. W. Greene.	G. B. Kingsley.	J. H. Sprout.	J. A. Kiester.	J. A. Kiester.	H. P. Young.	H. P. Constans.	J. P. West.	E. H. Hutchins.	Robt. Andrews.	A. R. More.	C. S. Dunbar.	D. F. Goodrich.	S. J. Abbott.
Kiester.....	16	2	.....	7	5	6	13	4	1	17	14	4	17	.....	5	10	12	10	.....	1
Seely.....	51	12	.....	34	6	24	39	2	12	64	62	1	62	.....	2	40	44	38	.....	2
Rome.....	9	31	.....	6	2	32	4	2	15	40	37	3	19	.....	2	30	18	27	.....	3
Elmore.....	57	20	.....	3	3	68	21	25	14	74	56	15	44	.....	10	36	31	27	.....	10
Pilot Grove...	11	23	.....	16	11	21	10	31	8	50	31	19	17	.....	18	44	14	15	.....	18
Foster.....	50	9	.....	43	4	4	39	3	16	59	41	16	50	.....	8	33	46	19	.....	3
Brush Creek...	36	5	.....	.....	28	13	16	1	5	41	38	3	35	.....	5	24	28	11	.....	18
Emerald.....	4	62	.....	.....	9	49	34	2	2	68	66	2	52	.....	14	65	61	.....	.....	2
Blue Earth City	55	174	.....	10	22	153	56	95	84	233	178	57	150	.....	18	159	79	152	.....	24
Jo Daviess.....	24	26	.....	1	7	28	11	26	5	52	19	32	25	.....	13	27	26	7	.....	23
Clark.....	72	50	.....	9	28	77	25	9	34	130	55	75	95	.....	17	72	113	38	.....	14
Walnut Lake...	43	9	.....	.....	24	6	32	8	9	53	37	15	43	.....	8	37	43	8	.....	8
Barber.....	32	14	.....	3	34	13	6	5	8	30	18	32	10	.....	2	8	34	27	.....	9
Prescott.....	30	21	.....	4	7	19	19	14	14	57	31	26	9	.....	8	18	24	37	.....	8
Verona.....	60	30	.....	3	46	35	35	26	6	95	74	20	33	.....	8	70	38	16	.....	15
Dunbar.....	26	.....	.....	.....	21	4	12	3	.....	26	13	13	18	.....	8	9	15	4	.....	13
Minnesota Lake	52	14	.....	24	8	1	30	12	40	90	30	59	47	.....	4	33	33	43	.....	49
Lura.....	57	44	.....	.....	59	4	35	.....	19	102	76	26	36	.....	8	54	56	39	.....	38
Delavan.....	63	78	.....	27	103	14	38	1	44	141	115	26	8	.....	9	28	57	121	.....	21
Winnebago City	145	109	.....	86	153	20	51	17	8	258	162	97	45	.....	.....	118	57	46	.....	98
Total.....	893	733	82	422	757	527	586	294	347	1,703	1,153	541	815	742	145	915	757	692	637	349

The republican candidates for State officers were elected. The vote in this county for governor was as follows:

Pillsbury—Republican.....	1,188
Buel—Democrat.....	465

THE STATE CENSUS.

In June, of this year, a State census was taken, the township assessors doing the work. The following is a condensed statement of certain items of the returns:

TOWNS	Real Estate.	Personal Property.	Population 1875.	No. Horses and Mules.	Cattle, all kinds.	No. of Sheep.	No. of Hogs.	No. Wagons & Carriages.
Kiester.....	\$ 97,202	\$ 5,636	89	55	136	60	1	18
Seely.....	86,448	21,315	369	189	549	79	73	44
Rome.....	98,986	19,082	457	170	641	218	128	60
Elmore.....	133,201	21,884	405	238	576	415	202	73
Pilot Grove.....	105,814	12,923	329	146	481	35	126	48
Foster.....	138,052	17,582	336	156	541	229	108	56
Brush Creek.....	93,226	19,683	542	155	607	138	110	67
Emerald.....	156,866	39,758	748	419	1,308	453	327	132
Blue Earth City.	311,809	90,203	1,178	458	894	967	216	178
Jo Daviess.....	127,472	12,608	316	171	371	36	93	55
Wells Village.....	.....	25,393	502	76	82	.....	1	44
Clark.....	229,168	5,034	121	52	128	125	24	15
Walnut Lake...	115,780	15,192	377	213	345	81	131	54
Barber.....	137,700	29,170	633	323	669	471	226	109
Prescott.....	168,418	21,958	543	268	575	918	169	75
Verona.....	191,054	24,255	547	284	683	989	200	81
Dunbar.....	93,394	11,135	250	160	316	131	79	48
Minnesota Lake.	134,200	27,457	630	313	605	82	162	96
Lura.....	153,466	33,557	676	366	691	1,009	175	107
Delavan.....	177,798	33,401	800	327	621	391	168	97
Winnebago City.	337,796	48,429	1,158	407	788	180	193	137
Total.....		\$532,655	11,096	4,946	11,607	7,007	2,912	1,594

PRODUCTIONS 1875.

Wheat.....	455,528 bushels.	Oats.....	344,985 bushels.
Corn.....	228,480 "	Barley.....	18,316 "
Potatoes.....	54,088 "	Beans.....	1,115 "
Syrup.....	2,491 gallons.	Tame Hay.....	1,000 tons.
Flax Seed.....	22,649 bushels.	Wool.....	18,654 pounds.
Butter.....	212,768 pounds.	Cheese.....	53,860 "
Honey.....	2,921 "		

The total assessed value of all taxable property was \$3,523,715.

The following statistics, relative to our schools, are taken from the report for the year, of the county superintendent, R. W. Richards:

No. of Districts 109. There are eighty-two frame, two brick and ten log school houses, valued at \$53,625.00. Paid for teachers wages, \$14,120.00.

I have held eight teachers' institutes and training schools in the county, two of two weeks each, and six of one week each. The number of persons who attended the spring institutes was 160, while 83 attended those held in the fall. The whole number of persons examined for teachers was 282, of whom 63 received a second, and 136 received a third grade certificate. The other 83 were refused.

The poorest teachers we have, as a class, are those, who come from some of the eastern States to spend a summer in visiting friends, and are, through the influence of these friends, hired several months in advance in their friends' districts. They usually come well recommended as noted teachers, and they sustain their reputation as a general rule, as being noted for their failures.

They usually manage to come "*just a little too late to attend the Institute,*" so they go into their schools without any apparent plans or ideas, other than utilizing the visit with friends.

I know not whether any other counties are victimized by these health-seekers. We have suffered now for six years, but this is the first time I have publicly protested against it.

There are some good teachers among this class, but the contrary is the rule and not the exception.

#### A NEW PAPER.

On the seventh day of October, the *Wells Gazette* appeared and arose from the ashes of the *Wells Atlas*. The career of the *Atlas*, always among the leading papers of the county, after many fluctuations of fortune came to an end. Geo. W. Plumley, an active newspaper man, was the editor and publisher of the *Gazette*. It was a seven column sheet, neatly printed—"patent internals and home-spun externals."

#### THE AUTUMN.

" 'Tis past! no more the summer blooms;  
Ascending in the rear,  
Behold! congenial autumn comes,  
The Sabbath of the year."—*Logan*.

The autumn weather of this year was very fine for plowing, husking and threshing, until the middle of November, when winter set in. Indeed, the autumns are, usually, in this northern latitude, the most agreeable season of the year. Other lands may boast of the spring, or the summer, but nowhere on the globe, can be found a period of the year, more pleasant than the usual autumns of Minnesota.

The autumn! the season of the ripening and gathering of the fruits of the tree and shrub and vine, the season of Indian summer, later of "the sere and yellow leaf."

The harvest is over, the grain has long been in the stack, the busy plow is at work in the fields, and we hear the humming of the thresher, throughout the land. A thousand streams of ripened grain are pouring their wealth into the granaries of the husbandman. The day of the ingathering and storage, and of wise forethought for the winter, is with us.

In the village and the city, business is growing active. The summer vacation is over and the summer idlers return again refreshed and rejuvenated, to the usual labors of life. The long school vacation has also ended, the school bell is heard again, and a new year's work begins.

This too is the season of the State and county agricultural fairs and of conventions and political meetings and the great battle day of the ballots. And the Indian summer, the fifth season of the year and embraced in the autumn period, is not more beautiful and enjoyable anywhere, than in this favored land.

The sun, now shorn of his fiercest heats, rises, pursues his apparent journey and sets, like a ruddy globe of fire, a hazy atmosphere filling the sky, and a warm, soft, dreamy, mellow air has displaced the extremes of the former season.

"The haze that hangs upon the hills,  
Enshrouds the blazing sun;  
A tender luster spreads and fills  
The air, grown gray and dun."

A peculiar, pleasant stillness, silence, reigns for weeks over the land. Hardly a leaf stirs to the soft touch of the light breezes. Objects cannot, because of the dry, foggy atmosphere, be seen, or but dimly, except near by, while distant sounds are easily heard, and what gorgeous sunsets close these pleasant days. The nights and mornings are cool, and fogs envelope the low lands, until dissipated by the rising sun. How agreeable are now the night's healthful rest and slumber, and the early morning rising.

And see on every hand:

"The fading many-colored woods,  
Shade deepening over shade, the country, round,  
Imbrowned; a crowded umbrage dusk and dun  
Of every hue, from wan declining green  
To sooty dark."

Slight frosts, growing more frequent, crisp and braceing, appear, and the time has come in this blessed season to ramble through the woods and gather the wild fruits. And now the roadsides and hedges and by-ways are splendid with blooming golden rod and crimson sumach, and many nameless flowers and shrubs, while the foliage of the trees is rich in gold and green and brown and yellow and red. But soon comes the falling leaf, the dying vegetation, "sober autumn fading into age," suggestive and saddening scenes of the closing, dying year, and the day breezes and night winds have a mournful cadence—the period of quiet contemplation, when thoughts come to us of the brevity of human life and of the great lesson, that all things earthly, must, sooner or later, fade and die.

## THE END OF '75.

The year was characterized by the great abundance of wild fruits. Wild grapes and plums were, particularly, plentiful, and there was an abundance of all kinds of berries and nuts. And on a clear, bright day in September, after the first frosts, we hitched up the old family horse in the light spring wagon, and we put in a large basket of provisions for ourselves, and a big feed of oats for the horse, and some bags and baskets, and the whole family, old and young, got in, and we started off in happy spirits for the woodlands, along the streams and about the lakes, to spend a day in gathering grapes and plums and hazelnuts and butternuts and walnuts, to store up for the winter's use. And when the snows are deep, and the winter winds howl around the house, we shall gather around the cheerful hearthstone, in the long winter evenings, and crack nuts and tell stories and read and sing our songs and envy not the rich their pleasures. And we had a grand day as we wandered through the autumn woods and along the streams and by-way. A day free from anxieties and business and domestic cares, for it was so full of health and variety and freedom and pure air and exercise, that dull cares were forgotten. And we felt the beauty of the scenery, and the invigoration fall on us like a blessing.

How kind and merciful is the Father above us and over all, who made all things for us and tinted and colored the skies and the fields and the plumage of the birds and the wings of the insects which sported their short lives in the sunbeams, and the foliage of the trees and the blooming flowers and made the forests vocal with the songs of the airy choristers not yet departed for warmer climes, blending their wild cadences with the music of rippling streams and waterfalls and gentle, whispering breezes. Be still and listen! Reader, go forth often to enjoy and commune with nature. You will be healthier and happier.

And now old Boreas has come down from his home in the far north, and the birds have flown, the trees are stripped of their leaves, and the grass and the flowers of the fields are dead, and the white mantle of the snow king is spread over the earth, and the year is near its end—Ay, ended.

“Where goes the candle when it dies?  
 The leaf, the music, summer sighs?  
 A finished thought, a world, a death?  
 Where is the home of parted breath?  
 Where goes a year, an age, nay, thine?  
 Where is the end, the great sublime?  
 All, all but centre, round that Being,  
 The Great, Omnipotent, All-seeing!  
 Unending, and unchanged forever;  
 In vain the end from Him we sever—  
 All ends are hid in God!”

## CHAPTER XXII.

A. D. 1876.

Hail! All Hail! the Centennial Year  
Of the Republic—The Year of Jubilee!

At the beginning of every year we are called upon to note the action of certain public bodies, as the same may relate to our county. And, as first in dignity and number of members and the general importance of their action, we may refer to the legislature of the State, which assembled January 4th and adjourned March 3d. The acts passed by this body having any special reference to this county, were the following:

To amend the act of incorporation of Winnebago City. To amend the act in relation to the voting of bonds in aid of railroads. To provide for the election of county superintendent. To authorize the auditor to extend certain taxes on the books. To incorporate the village of Minnesota Lake. To change the boundaries of certain school districts.

The county was represented at this session by J. P. West, of Wells, in the Senate, and in the House by A. R. More, Sr., of Pilot Grove, and Chas. S. Dunbar, of Foster. James B. Wakefield, lieutenant governor, president of the Senate, Geo. W. Buswell, chief clerk of the House, and Chas. A. Rose, assistant-sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, were also residents of this county. Faribault county much appreciated the honor of these high positions conferred upon its citizens.

Our attention may next be called to the annual January term of the district court, which commenced its session on the fourth day of the month. Hon. D. A. Dickinson, judge, presiding. There were four criminal and thirty-seven civil cases on the calendar, many of which were disposed of. The term lasted fifteen days, being the longest term of court which had yet been held in the county. It was the desire of the judge to clear up the calendar as far as possible. It may also be stated that the grand jury sat longer at this term than ever before. At the June term of this court there were four criminal and twenty-five civil cases on the calendar, and the term lasted ten days. As a good many jokes are told by the lawyers, and sometimes even by the judges, during term time, we here append one



related several times of two spectators of a trial, one of whom was not much acquainted with court proceedings.

“Mercy ! how angry those men are !

How they do shake their fists in each other's faces !

They call each other by all sorts of opprobrious epithets.

Will they kill one another?

Hardly.

But one of them will surely strike; and the other; see ! he will strike back.

Not a bit of it.

Why, arn't they deadly enemies, and arn't they terribly angry with each other?

Oh, dear, no ! If you follow them when they go out you will probably find them drinking out of the same bottle.

Then, who and what are they, pray?

Only a couple of lawyers. That's all.

Oh ! ”

The next important local event was the assembling of the Board of County Commissioners, which occurred also on the fourth day of January. Frank W. Temple was elected chairman for the year. They held a session of six days, being as long a sitting as had ever occurred in this county. Much public business was transacted. A part of the duties to be attended to at this meeting of the board, was the appointment of a superintendent of schools, but, after many ballotings, which reached no result, they adjourned the matter over to the March session.

This board met again in March, but no business was done of interest at this time. As to the superintendency, the matter was disposed of by act of legislature, above referred to, which made the office elective at the next general election, and continued the present incumbents in office until that time. Other meetings of the board were held during the year, the action at which is noted elsewhere.

The summary of events of this part of the year may now be completed by the statement that the annual meeting of the Faribault County Agricultural Society was held at Blue Earth City, on Tuesday, the 4th inst., and was called to order by the president, M. B. Pratt. The report of the officers was read and adopted. The following is the treasurer's report of the receipts and disbursements for the year ending December 31st, 1875.

RECEIPTS.

Gate money July 4th.....	\$102.70
Fees for entering horses.....	13.00
Membership tickets, fair 1875.....	119.00
Gate money.....	82.30
State apportionment.....	58.82
From former treasurer.....	9.25

---

\$385.07

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Purses paid, July 4th.....	\$54.00
Incidental expenses.....	13.40
For work and lumber.....	90.50
Premiums paid.....	226.00

---

\$383.90

Balance in treasury, January 4, 1876..... 1.17

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year as follows:

President—S. Pfeffer, Blue Earth City.

Secretary—J. C. Woodruff, Prescott.

Treasurer—A. Shultis, Elmore.

## WEATHER.

The winter of 1875-'76, at least after January 1st, was a remarkably fine one. The weather during January and up to the last day of February, was very pleasant, there being no snow and no storms.

On the twenty-ninth of February a snow storm occurred of several days. During March the ground was covered with snow, which went off at the close of the month with high waters, and March proved to be the real winter month of the whole winter.

It may appear to be an infringement upon the time of the reader to quote the following item, in relation to weather remarks, but it hits an almost universal and very useless custom:

“To go into statistics, it is estimated that during the year the average man has said: ‘How are yer?’ 3,743 times; ‘is this hot enough for you?’ and ‘is this cold enough for you?’ each 471 times; ‘pleasant day,’ 10,748 times; ‘looks like rain,’ 12,325½ times; other meteorological remarks, not classified, 786,421-107,365,792,001 times.”

## STATE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

The Banner County.

During the winter the State Forestry Association was organized at St. Paul, to encourage the planting of forest trees on the prairies of the State—a most valuable project. The Association appointed the first Tuesday of May as Arbor-day and recommended that on that day, trees and cuttings should be set out, throughout the whole State. Handsome premiums were offered by the Society to such as should, on that day, set out the most trees or cuttings, or both, and it was determined that the county which could show the greatest number set out, should be known as the banner county.

It is pleasant to record the fact that this county proved and was declared to be the banner county of the State, and that George D. Moore, of Pilot Grove, received the largest premiums awarded to any person in the county. He set 11,210 trees and cuttings. The

number of trees and cuttings planted in this county on Arbor-day, was one hundred, ninety-five thousand, two hundred and ninety-eight, and the whole number during the year was 1,803,776.

The Association was permanently organized and was designed to continue for a number of years.

For some years a bounty had been given by the several counties and also by the State, to such as should set out trees and cuttings and continue for some years, to protect and cultivate them, which greatly encouraged the enterprise, but this Association was designed to be more comprehensive in its influence and encourage this industry in a more systematic manner. Many valuable pamphlets on the subject of forestry were published for gratuitous distribution, by the Society. The objects of the Association must be considered of the most commendable character.

“WOODMAN, SPARE THAT TREE.”

Few natural objects are of more real use and beauty than trees, whether they be fruit, shade, ornamental, or forest trees. The great forests of hard woods, or of soft woods, such as the several varieties of pine, are of great utility and immense value in many respects, besides that of furnishing lumber.

A country without natural timber, is wanting in one of the most essential requisites of comfortable and profitable occupancy. Such a country is apt to be sterile—a desert, and unproductive, because of drouths, and is swept by terrible storms, and subject to great extremes of temperature. Vast regions of the old world, which were once timbered and fertile, but have been denuded of their trees, are now almost barren wastes, and their inhabitants have gone back to semi-barbarism.

The existence of large bodies of timber, or even the presence of many trees and detached groves, distributed over the land, have a marked influence on the humidity of the atmosphere and the rainfall, the evenness of the temperature, and the productiveness of the soil. The influence of trees on the climate is very great. The streams of water grow smaller as the timber is cut away. Many European nations now recognizing these facts, have made provisions by law for the protection of their remaining native forests, and in both Europe and America, the subject, not only of protecting their forests, but also that of growing forests, has attracted the public attention.

Minnesota wisely attended to the encouragement of the growth of forest trees at an early day. But the State has done little yet for the protection of our native timber, and its destruction goes on from year to year. Certain detached portions of all forests should

be preserved from destruction, or the trees simply "thinned out," not all cleared off.

To cut down a tree, of even a century, or two, in age, is something that almost anyone—any fool, can do, but to plant a young tree as it should be planted, and have it grow, requires some sense and skill. It appears to be always easier, to destroy, than create.

In some regions the forest must be felled, of course, to get arable lands for cultivation, but the wholesale destruction of forest trees, where such a necessity does not exist, is quite another thing. But long before the State paid any attention to these subjects, the people in the prairie districts of the State commenced the planting of trees and groves, of various varieties of indigenous trees, about their homes. This county, which in this respect, is but a sample of many others, is now dotted all over with groves of from two to ten or more acres of rapidly growing forest trees, and while at a little distance from a grove on the prairie, you see no habitation near, nothing but a grove, yet in the heart of that grove you will find, perhaps, a dwelling, well, barns, cribs, cattle yards and other out buildings, all protected by the shade of the trees from the heat of summer, and from the storms of summer and winter.

Our better sentiments and natural impulses and instincts incline us very strongly to the admiration and love of trees and the green, sheltering and homelike groves and wild forests. There is a mysterious tie between them and us, as though mankind and the trees are in some way a kin. There is a sort of companionship between us.

"I would not say that trees at all  
Were of our blood and race,  
Yet lingering where their shadows fall,  
I sometimes think I trace  
A kinship, whose far-reaching root  
Grew when the world began,  
And made them best of all things mute  
To be the friend of man."—S. V. C.

We all have or have had associations with trees, they are our friends. Perhaps we played in childhood's years under their pleasant shade and often in maturer years, we have sought rest and peace, on summer days, under their strong, protecting limbs and thick foliage. But there is still another companionship, for where there are trees, there the birds are apt to visit and congregate. But, no trees, no birds. And trees have a voice of their own. That of the pine differs from that of the oak, and that of the oak from the elm, and that of the elm from others. Listen, reader, when the breezes blow and you will hear those low, soft voices. They are whispering, rustling, sometimes sighing and moaning sounds.

A person residing far out on the treeless prairies, however comfortable a dwelling he may have, feels that he is, somehow, away from home. A dwelling without, at least, a few trees about it, is lacking something to its comfort as a home. And no other proof of this is necessary, than the fact of the pleasure we all enjoy in the shade of our trees in summer. Trees, and especially a well kept grove, makes a locality homelike. And no man is so poor, that he cannot have a few trees, at least, about his house, either in town or country. It is not remarkable that a lone tree on the prairies, is always a landmark or guide, but it is a little curious to know that people in its vicinity, are very apt, sooner or later, to visit it and look it carefully over, and that without any very definite motive. The groves, so often called natures' temples of the ever living God, and the great forests, how wonderful they are, how attractive, grand, mysterious, the fresh, pleasant odors, the long aisles, the lofty arches, the world of living beings, whose homes are there, the realm of strange sounds, weird music and dreamy solitude.

But we need not go to the great forests. What more beautiful thing is there in nature, than a well grown, thrifty tree, with its strong body, shapely limbs and green, rustling foliage; and the mysterious life that is in it, and, if a fruit tree, its fragrant blossoms, and then its fruit? Look with an eye of intelligence at such a tree, think how it grows, its uses, its beauty; what can supply its place, what could man do towards making it, with all his skill. All the science and art of the world cannot make a live tree. Only Almighty God can do that.

“There’s something in a noble tree—  
 What shall I say? a soul?  
 For ’tis not form, or aught we see  
 In leaf or branch or bole.  
 Some presence, though not understood,  
 Dwells there always, and seems  
 To be acquainted with our mood,  
 And mingles in our dreams.”—*S. V. C.*

Yet some men can see nothing in a tree but the lumber, or fire-wood that is in it, or the value of the fruit it can bear, and will think all our remarks but sentimental nonsense.

But, reader, when you find a man that admires trees and loves to look at them and work among them, do not say that he is an old crank, or has a soft spot in his head, for that is probably not true, but what is true is this, that you have found one who has intelligence enough to appreciate the useful and beautiful, and that has, at least, one good spot in his heart. Let us always remember Arbor day, and plant a tree.

## THREE ITEMS.

The spring was backward and but little seeding was done until about the nineteenth of April, and corn planting was not begun until the middle of May.

Wheat was very low in the spring, and during May and June money was exceedingly scarce, in fact during spring and summer hard times prevailed, and as indicating the financial situation, it may be stated that but little of the public taxes was paid until June 1st, and there was greater delay in paying taxes than had been known for years.

A great hailstorm occurred on Saturday, May 20th, and prevailed over a large part of the county. A large amount of hail fell. At Blue Earth City the storm was severe, and the windows on the west side of the houses were badly damaged, but no injury, beyond the breaking of glass, was done. The hailstones were larger than had ever been seen before in this county.

## THE S. S. ASSOCIATION.

The action, progress and success of great moral and religious societies, no more than those of political parties and commercial corporations, can be overlooked in history. They are the conserving, elevating, purifying influences of society, without which, every human interest would hasten to destruction.

Strange as the statement may appear, at first sight, it is true, that the natural tendency, *the bent*, so to speak, of every individual, community and state, is to retrograde, to revert to the original condition of barbarism and savagery. There is an element of the barbarous still in the heart of the most civilized races.

An individual, a dozen, or twenty men, isolated from civilized society and free from any external, restraining influences, whatever their other conditions and surroundings may be, would soon grow reckless, negligent, indifferent, uncouth and depraved, and in less than twenty years, would reach a condition, but little, if any, better than that of a barbarian.

The most cultured state of to-day, if left free from the educational and restraining influences of the teachings of the church and of other religious and moral societies, and the laws of the land, made in pursuance of justice, and morality, or if the influence of these saving agencies became greatly inactive, would, in less than the period of two generations, revert to the conditions of the savage tribes, which so lately roamed over our hills and valleys.

And it is a sad truth that, even with all the conserving, redeeming and elevating influences that have been at work in the world, the whole earth, since the day when Cain killed his brother Abel,

has been a human slaughter house, too terrible to picture. Perpetual wars have deluged the earth in human blood. Even to day, the mightiest energies of great nations are not enlisted for the improvement and the happiness of their people, but to secure the most efficient means of destroying property and human life. What infernal spirit has animated the human race, to make men and nations each others' worst enemy?

And the so-called "laws of the land," on which so many would depend, who would abolish religious influences, those laws, however wise they might be, would, themselves, be worthless, whatever power should be provided to enforce obedience to them, unless backed by the moral sentiment and the religious conscience of the people, for without these they would be "but ropes of sand." They, whose duty it would be to enforce the laws, would, themselves, become corrupt and inefficient. In fact, wise laws would not exist, to begin with, but because of an awakened sense of justice and religious conscience.

And no government worth living under, can long exist without the constant cultivation of the sense of justice and of moral obligation and duty.

To progress, in the path of civilization, onward and upward, even to retain what the world has already secured, requires great, positive, aggressive and perpetual effort and the use of not one, but many moral and religious instrumentalities. To go backward, downward, to degenerate, requires no labor.

The work of the churches and other religious and moral societies, even though they may not, at some particular time, or locality, appear to be making much progress, are still, and after all the objections that may be alleged against them, the real conservators to-day of our civilization, and constantly exercise a mighty influence in behalf of the welfare of humanity. And when these influences are active, progressive and all-pervading, we may look for the happiest conditions of mankind. The contest with the powers of darkness, degradation and destruction, is indeed a mighty one. Among the greatest foes of the human race to-day, are intemperance, or in other words, drunkenness, lust, and impurity of thought and conduct, fraud in its hundred garbs, unholy ambitions, lying, the love of money, the worship of wealth, and the studied perversion of truth, even of the Scriptures, to justify evil. And these are some of the ministers plenipotentiary of satan on earth. While in every community there are, happily, some people who labor and give of their time and means to elevate the community, there are also others, whose principles, conduct and work, tend to mislead, demoralize and degrade it. It certainly seems that every one who loves his country and claims to be a free and an honest man and a

good citizen should give every encouragement to all religious and reformatory institutions.

We note with pleasure, the sixth annual meeting of the County Sunday School Association, which was held at Wells, on the 30th and 31st days of May. The attendance was quite large, there being delegates present from all parts of the county. The association was in a very prosperous condition, and doing much good work.

Andrew C. Dunn was elected president for the ensuing year, Chas H. Deaborn, secretary, and J. Chestnut, treasurer, and one vice president was chosen from each town in the county. A resolution was adopted instructing the vice presidents to assist in the organization of schools in their respective townships, and to see that proper reports and returns be made, punctually, each year. The reports had always been defective. The session was a remarkably lively and profitable one.

#### PARAGRAPHIC PENCILINGS.

March 1st.—A bill passed by congress recommends all counties and towns in the United States to have historical sketches written, for July 4th, of this year, and file a copy with the county clerks, and one with the librarian of congress. This was an excellent suggestion, but was not, generally, acted upon. Had it been, much valuable local history would have been saved to the world.

May 30th.—The Sultan of Turkey was deposed.

June 25th.—The Custer Massacre occurred, in which Gen. Custer, one of the bravest of the brave, and his whole command of three hundred, were killed by the Indians. Not one person escaped to tell the story.

July 12th.—A violent war raging in European Turkey.

August 1st.—Gen. Belknap, secretary of war, was impeached by the House of Representatives. He was acquitted by the Senate.

October 17th.—President Grant issued a proclamation commanding certain rifle companies, in South Carolina, to disband in three days. They disbanded.

#### THE CENTENNIAL FOURTH OF JULY.

The Fourth of July is the great secular holiday of our people, as it is of the whole nation, and in our local, social life, is a day of great importance. And it is because of this fact the annual celebrations of the day have been noted through the course of this history. The day was appropriately commemorated, this year, at Blue Earth City. S. J. Abbott, of Winnebago City, read the Declaration, and S. W. Graham, of Blue Earth City, delivered the oration. The day was also celebrated at Delavan, where a large company had assembled, to do honor to the occasion. Here Andrew Carson read



the Declaration, and D. F. Goodrich, of Blue Earth City, was the orator. At these two places were the only formal celebrations in the county.

This being the one hundredth, or the Centennial celebration of American independence, the day was commemorated much more generally throughout the United States than usual, and in many places with extraordinary display. To appropriately signalize the great event, preparations had been made during several preceding years, for a World's Exposition, at Philadelphia, Penn., which opened on the tenth day of May, and closed on the tenth of November, and on the fourth of July there was had, in that city, the most costly and magnificent celebration ever seen in America. The Centennial Exposition was gotten up on the most extensive scale, and far surpassed all the world's fairs which had yet been held. It was in truth an exhibition of the natural and manufactured productions, the industries, the works of art of all nations, and there was gathered there people from all parts of the globe.

The history of the exposition reads like a splendid romance, and it was in all respects, a fitting, a most magnificent celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the nation's birth.

Should you ask, what meant the midnight clamor and the sunrise salute of thundering cannon and ringing bells, and all the display and demonstration to-day? The answer is, that this is the Fourth of July—the anniversary of the birthday of the nation—an event which is not a hazy myth, but a fact, and that the people all over this great nation, celebrate this, the most memorable event, of a political character, in its influences upon the destinies of mankind, that can be found in the records of this world's history. Yea, verily, it looms up like a mountain, above all others.

And we should have clear ideas of the nature, the character of this sublime event, for it was the occasion of a vast stride in human progress made across the line which divides the ages of political and religious darkness, superstition, bigotry, despotism—the alleged divine and hereditary rights of rules and the slavery of the masses from the age of national freedom, freedom of opinion, of the press, of speech, of conscience, of education, of personal action, the age of the acknowledged equality of men in the eye of the law, in short, the age of civil and religious liberty and self government. For, it must be said, that the fourth day of July, 1776, was not only the birthday of a great nation, which then stepped forth on the world's great stage, to demand recognition, but it was also the occasion of the declaration of certain political principles, which form a new departure in governmental science, and which constitute, as all true Americans believe, the only true basis upon which to establish civil government—principles which through all the long, dreary ages

of despotism, men never dared to proclaim before, and which shall forever hereafter inure to the blessing of our people, and after a while, to that of all mankind.

Read that declaration made on the fourth day of July, 1776, thoughtfully, and then tell us, student of history, at what other time and by what other body of men, or nation, or on what pages of the writers on political science, were the great truths announced, or more than vaguely suggested to the world, that are contained in that paper?—The truth that all men are created equal, politically—that by their Creator they are endowed with certain inalienable rights, among which are, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—that to secure *these* rights, governments are established—that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed—that when any government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the governed to alter or abolish it, and institute such government as will secure these rights, and the safety and happiness of the governed. No such declaration was ever made before. Never before did men dare to make it. For ages men had been struggling with an uncertain and ever failing effort to give some expression to their longing for civil and religious liberty and secure the just recognition of their rights, and here at last, in this new world and in this declaration, made on that day, were these new principles formulated and proclaimed to the world.

But those other principles of civil government which are obnoxious to reason and to natural justice, and which have cursed the earth for ages, the Shibboleths of which are, the divine right of kings, of hereditary rulers—of the unequal division of men into classes as to rights and privileges, some of whom, the very few, are to govern, and the others to serve and suffer—of practically unrestrained power on the one hand and implicit obedience and submission on the other—the system of perpetual surveillance and espionage on the part of the government and citizen, slavery and political degradation—the government everything, the people nothing—these, through all the past centuries have been the dogmas of civil government.

And it is fortunate, beyond estimate, that the American revolution produced a change in these, among the most important of all the affairs and interests of man. As a result of that great event, light broke in upon and hope dawned for the downtrodden and oppressed millions of the earth, for those new and better principles of civil government, announced in the declaration and maintained by the revolution, recognizes man, as a being of certain rights and of equal political rights, in the eye of the law—that government is of right made by the people and for the people—not the people for the government. Here is the grand idea of law regulated liberty and

citizen *sovereignty*, and in these few words is contained the whole philosophy of the science of civil government. And these great principles are not for us alone, for therein is that great thought and from thence is evoked that great force, which shall yet overcome all others and lead all nations at last to freedom.

Victor Hugo says, of the great contest on the field of Waterloo, upon the result of which hung the destinies of Europe, that "it was not a battle merely, it was more, it was the change of front of the universe." So we say of the American revolution, with much more propriety, it was not a mere war—a mere revolution, it was more, it was the change of front of the universe, for in maintaining the truths of the declaration, it inaugurated an entirely new system of civil government.

And these better principles are becoming recognized everywhere, notwithstanding the strong bulwarks despotism has been everywhere raising against them. It is indeed but a narrow view that limits the beneficent influence of the great truths of the declaration and the results of the war of independence, to our own time and country. From the very day of the declaration, its great announcements have helped to ameliorate the political condition of men in all lands—they have given hope to the oppressed in all countries—the shackles of the old iron-bound despotic systems of government are loosening, arbitrary power has heard the knell of doom, and the world now is moving forward, though slowly, yet, to the goal of political regeneration. Yes, the truths of that declaration will go forth to all the world, have already gone forth, and will nerve the arm in the battle for liberty and right through all time to come, and while the thrones of tyrants and their kingdoms are crumbling to dust, they will live, the guiding light of mankind, in their struggles from wrong and despotism, to right and freedom.

And now on this fourth of July, 1876, the first century of our national life has rolled away, and we stand to-day at the beginning of our second century, and the question is appropriate at this time, what has been the outgrowth and development of the great principles of the Declaration and the fruits of the Revolution, as manifested in the history of the nation, born one hundred years ago to-day? To answer this question it is not necessary to trace the history of the nation from the day of the Declaration to the present time. We need not recount the long years of suffering, the immensity of blood and treasure it cost to sustain the Declaration, nor need we speak of the constant success of the nation in war and the military glory and renown which render our annals glorious, for our greatest and best achievements, have been in the arts of peace. Let us summarize briefly—unlike any other nation, this republic came into existence an enlightened, Christian people; no long line of barbarous ancestry,

no ages of growth and development, shrouded in the gloom of heathenish despotism, superstition and blood. But at the moment the United Colonies were declared free and independent, they were behind none of the nations in the arts and blessings of civilization. The fathers and founders of the republic were a body of men, than whom, for great experience in the ways of life, in intellectual culture and sterling virtues, no superiors have ever appeared. This people, who at the time of the Declaration, consisted of thirteen small colonies and three millions of souls, without commerce, without a name or a place among the nations of the earth, has grown to be a mighty nation, indeed. Thirty-eight great free states, eight or ten organized territories, and nearly fifty millions of population. We have taken the place now of a first-class power of the earth. Our empire is almost a continent. We have a country possessing every variety of soil, every character of climate and all kinds of productions. We have thousands of miles of sea coast, great harbors, the longest rivers, railroads and canals in the world. Our commerce spreads its sails on every sea. We have brought our manufactures to compete with the world, and we carry our goods and inventions and machinery to every country on the globe. Our people are industrious, intelligent, brave, progressive, and in their personal demeanor they are also frank, courteous, dignified and self-contained, orderly, yet fearless in any presence where they have the right to be. But this is not all. The extent of territory and the vastness of the population of a nation and its progress in material things, is not all that is wanted to make the nation great. We have something more to boast of. In the higher blessings, those of free government, the universal diffusion of knowledge, progress in the arts and sciences and literature, which find their best encouragement and development here, the freedom of conscience, of opinion, of speech, of the press, and of personal action, we have no equal among the nations of the earth, and here withal, and as important as any of our blessings, labor is free and honored, and the ways of promotion are open to all alike, and the culmination of all these blessings is summed up in the announcement, which we make to all the world, that we live to-day in the light of the fullest, freest and most progressive and best civilization of all the ages.

But, says the political philosopher of the old school, is all this permanent—will it last?

The answer may be that we have passed safely through all the chances and changes of a hundred years of experiment. We have, too, been tried in the fires of rebellion, we have withstood the flood of opposition and unfavorable criticism and braved the fury of political cyclones, such as have wrecked many of the nations of the past. Yet we still live, and are stronger to-day than ever before.

We may, too, rise to a higher view of this subject, and claim that by the decrees of the councils of heaven, there has been given to this nation a position, a work, a mission, the grandest that has ever been accorded to any nation of the earth, if we but remember that it is righteousness that exalts a nation—that of being the instrument of high heaven, in the final political redemption and regeneration of the nations of the earth, in these, the last centuries of the world's history.

Such was the great event of the day—the fourth of July, 1776—the anniversary of which we annually observe, and the outgrowth and results in the life of the nation, of the great principles of civil government proclaimed on that day. And it is not only the native born American who does honor to the day, for there assembles on these occasions the people of many nationalities, who have made this land their adopted home. The Scotchman, the Englishman, the Irishman, the Frenchman, the Scandinavian, the German, yea, representatives of the people of almost every land under the sun.

Millions from all lands have come to America, and we bid them welcome. Let other millions of the intelligent, industrious, law-abiding and liberty-loving come. America wants them all.

And herein lies one of the best assurances of the continued strength, prosperity and perpetuity of American institutions—in the infusion of the best blood of Europe, in American veins. In the union, assimilation and Americanization of the best brain and brawn of all nations making a wise, strong, free people, who shall never know mental or physical degeneracy. A people, who are at work, concentrating here, developing and making homogeneous, what is best in all the forms, phases, experiences, of the old world civilizations, in combination with the newer and better principles of government here. To these we can but say, ye are countrymen now, ever most welcome, in the scenes and festivities of this great anniversary.

Well, indeed, may we celebrate this day with music, festivities and rejoicing, in the grove and in the temple, on the land and on the sea. And the voices of the long past come to us and admonish us not to forget it. Do you hear them? Hark! Floating on the mists of the long gone years there comes to us, the tones of a far off bell. Listen! It is the bell on old Independence Hall, on the Fourth of July, 1776, proclaiming liberty to all the land and all the inhabitants thereof. Then ring, ring the bells on this day, over all the nation, long and loud. Fire your cannons from every hill top, they are but the echoes of the storm and thunder of battles, in which, long years ago, our forefathers shed their blood like water, that they and we might be free, and have a home and country. Yes, unfurl on this day the brave old flag—wreath it about your door-posts, let it wave

from every housetop, let it head every procession, for in hundreds of battles, on land and sea, the soldiers of the Republic have followed it to victory.

"Flag of the brave thy folds shall fly,  
The sign of hope and triumph high!"

And we shall not forget it. So long as our people celebrate this day in spirit and in truth, so long our people shall be free, and he wears the visage of a traitor to his country and mankind, or wags the tongue of an idiot, who seeks to belittle the day, or maliciously ridicules its commemoration. As every passing year brings round the day, let it be remembered. It is the patriots' day, the children's day, observe it somehow, in the picnic, the excursion, the quiet walk in the fields, even in the retreat to the shady grove. Had it no other significance, it is the peoples great secular holiday, when neighbors and friends from far and near meet for a good time—for recreation—to renew old friendships, to make new ones, and to cultivate sociability. But best of all is the old fashioned Fourth of July celebration. Let the procession be formed and the marshals ride to and fro, let the bands crash and the drums beat. Let the old Declaration be read, that the young be instructed in its truths, and the old forget them not. Let the orator raise his voice and soar aloft, if he chooses, on the wings of the eagle, full of glorification over the past and proud prophecies of the future. What if his rhetoric is a little florid and his eloquence turgid. Who has a better right to boast than we? And the old songs must be sung, "Yankeedoodle," "Hail Columbia Happy Land," and the "Star Spangled Banner." And let us have the sky rockets and the fire crackers, the lemonade and the ice cream and peanuts. Ring the bells, fire the guns, wave the flags! What matters the noise and bustle, the heat and dust on such a day as this. This is the age of steam and electricity, of iron, of great projects, of giant powder and grand achievements, and these loud demonstrations express the genius of the nation and the spirit of the age. Under all these noisy manifestations lies the broad, deep meaning—the rejoicing of the freest, most generous and most progressive people on earth, in the deeds of their forefathers and their own success, in popular government.

Let us turn from the past to the future. The first century of our national existence is now complete. Whatever the century was, the record is made up, and must remain forever, and, while there are a few, a very few, shadows resting upon the fair pages, yet, as we have seen, no other nation of the past, or present, can boast of such a century of existence. What of the future? We now enter upon the second century of our national life, and the only assurance of the future lies in avoiding the rocks on which other nations have

split and gone down. A word will be pardoned here, as to the future of our beloved country, and we may speak not simply as a moralist, but as a citizen. As we read the history of the nations that have arisen and reigned and fell; as we scan the conditions of nations existing to-day, we learn first of all the two great causes of human misery, and national misfortune—*ignorance and wickedness*. This is the plain truth of all history, all observation. Remembering the thought and some of the language of one long since dead, we may bid you, if an inquirer for the proof of this assertion.—Commence your travel at the beginning of the highway of the ages, ascend to the summit of the last mountain that looms above the deluge, and looking down upon the lost nations of a drowned world, inquire the cause of the universal desolation, and the voice of the mighty waters will answer—*ignorance and wickedness*. Descend the stream of time, through all the generations that have lived and died, and as you pass the wrecks of a thousand empires, with the relics of their altars and dead gods around them, ask the cause of their ruin, and their mournful requiem answers—*ignorance and wickedness*.

Look over the earth. Why are prostrate millions worshipping stars and wood and worms? Why are despots crushing out the hearts of weeping millions? Why is war devouring whole kingdoms at a meal, and illumining the world with lakes of blood, and cities on fire? Why does intemperance fill the world with widows and orphans, and stock the land with drunkards graves? Why do falsehood and fraud and theft and murder pour their poison streams throughout the earth? Because of *ignorance and wickedness*.

It was long ago said that the safety of Republics rests in the intelligence and virtue of the people, not, certainly, in their *ignorance and wickedness*. Herein there lies the best assurance of the future. Let us learn, and learn well, what we can of true knowledge ourselves, and especially let us educate our children. If we can give them no other inheritance, let us give them the best of all endowments—a liberal education, that education which unchains the faculties, liberates, informs and strengthens the mind.

To this end let us ever guard well and constantly improve our free schools and public systems of education, and encourage the higher institutions of learning. And we must permit no sophistries, no craft, or threats to beguile us. We must cherish them as the apple of the eye. We must, too maintain a free press, and never allow any censorship to clog its utterance of truth. But this is not all, intellectual culture will not suffice. Intellectual power and immorality are worse than *ignorance and wickedness*. We must have also, moral training, and this is the chiefest interest. We must lay broad and deep the principles of morality and religion. Let us impress it indelibly upon the minds of the young, and by our

personal example enforce the truth, that there is no safety, no assurance of individual happiness, or of national stability and true glory, but in the maintenance of the laws of right, the practice of justice and the acknowledgment and recognition of God and His laws. A full and complete intellectual development, combined with sound moral principles and practices, constitutes the only true education. It is this that makes the man—the man that is made in the image of God—great, true, strong, of high and honorable mind, of noble impulses and generous heart, “the considerate husband, the indulgent, judicious parent, the true friend, the wise counsellor” and the lover and protector of his country, and the pure, patient, wise, tender, loving woman, fit to be the mother of freemen and the instructor of American youth.

Ever acknowledging God, in whose hands are the destinies of all people, and that it is righteousness that exalts a nation, let us cherish a deep and abiding love for our country, glorious in its history and achievements, grander still in the destinies that await it. Let the children of the Republic be taught, that next to God and home and honor, and as inseparably entwined with them, to love their country, its laws and institutions, then in the days of its peril its defenders will be many and invincible, and we shall transmit our political blessings to the latest posterity, as we received them from our fathers, the noblest inheritance of man. And now with these assurances, what a destiny awaits thee, Oh! beloved land? We look through the veils that hide the future to the close of this second century.

“Behold the unsealed vision,  
To this glorious prospect rise.”

Proud old Babylon—Medo-Persia—Grecia, Rome,  
What were your glories of universal empire here!  
Sesostris, Alexander, Cæsar, Constantine,  
Charlemagne, Napoleon, how weak your wildest dreams of universal rule!

Behold here! an empire embracing a continent—more than two hundred millions of people, free, united, brave, generous and just, masters of all arts, learned in all sciences, practiced in all virtues—the arbiters of the world’s destinies—the chosen people of God.

“Columbia! Columbia! to glory arise,  
The queen of the world, the child of the skies,  
Thy genius commands thee, with rapture behold,  
As ages on ages thy glories unfold.”

#### SECURING THE CEREALS.

The harvest weather was very favorable and the crops were secured in good husbandlike manner. All the crops were fairly abundant, except that of wheat, which was hardly a two thirds yield. Throughout the State, the crop of wheat was called a failure. There



were three causes which led to the reduced aggregate production in the State, all three of which had their influences in this county—heat, drouth and the locusts. These causes also effected other crops to a considerable extent.

The summer was very warm and in some localities quite dry. More people, especially in the cities, lost their lives by sun-stroke, than had ever before been known in a summer, and many children, in the large cities, died of the great heat. Haying, after harvest, was much interfered with by the rains, and much poor hay was put up.

#### FRUITS.

All kinds of tame and wild fruits were, as in the preceding year, very abundant. There were probably more apples raised in the county this year than ever before. Thus it is that while conditions are favorable on one hand, they are deleterious on the other, and the general equilibrium of years is kept up. But what was there to make up for locust depredations?

#### THE SCOURGE.

On the eighteenth day of August, that terrible scourge, the grasshoppers visited this county again, lighting down in myriads. They came on a northwest wind, and spread over a large part of the county. They had already, immediately before reaching us, this year, invaded the whole west half of the State, and laid their eggs. They did but little damage to crops in this county during this year, but their presence here, the fact that they had laid their eggs here, and the doleful prospects for the next year, seriously affected business of all kinds, and much discouraged the people.

After depositing their eggs, vast numbers of the grasshoppers arose, and left about the twenty-fifth day of the month.

In consequence of the presence of the grasshoppers and the vast deposit of eggs and the general wish of the people that some public action should be taken to protect the country, if possible, from their ravages, a number of public meetings were held in various localities. During the early part of September, a grasshopper convention (not a convention of grasshoppers for they had already met), assembled in the town of Verona, to consider the situation. Resolutions were adopted in relation to the best methods of fighting the "hoppers," and an organization affected. The farmers, also, of the towns of Lura, Barber, Walnut Lake and Minnesota Lake, met at Easton, and formed a grasshopper club, and adopted certain resolutions, not exactly against the grasshoppers, but as to the most feasible methods of destroying them.

And on the nineteenth day of September, the board of county commissioners met in special session and took action in relation to

this subject. They offered a reward of fifty dollars for the arrest and conviction of any one who should fire the prairies, in violation of the statute laws. They also appropriated the sum of three hundred dollars to defray the expense of making fire-breaks around the county, on or near, the county lines, in order to prevent prairie fires in the adjoining territory, from running into the county. The manner of making these fire-breaks was that of plowing, or mowing, two strips of land, not less than six rods apart and burning the grass between. They also recommended that no fires be set out in the county, and that all the straw and waste hay be saved to be strewn on grounds where the locusts had deposited their eggs. Now what had all this to do with the grasshoppers? Well this, it was the design that after the pests had hatched out in the spring and were young and still unable to fly, to burn over the prairies and other lands where the pests should appear, and thus destroy them.

#### THE NORTHFIELD TRAGEDY.

In the early part of September, great excitement existed throughout the State, in consequence of an attempt made by certain outlaws—the Younger brothers and others—to rob the bank in that place. Few crimes, probably, ever created more excitement than this, and there are but few instances of greater bravery known than that exhibited by the small company of men who secured the outlaws. A number of the citizens of this county went in pursuit of the robbers on the grand hunt, and for several nights guards were stationed at the bridges on the main stream of the Blue Earth river, and several other places, in the county, to intercept the fleeing murderers should they pass this way.

The Younger brothers—three of them—were finally caught, tried, convicted, and sentenced to the State prison for life.

#### NOW TAKE YOUR CHOICE OF TICKETS.

The political campaign of this year was a long and exciting one, both nationally and locally.

Rutherford B. Hayes, of Ohio, for President, and William A. Wheeler, of New York, for Vice President, were the Republican candidates, and Samuel J. Tilden, of New Ycrk and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, were the Democratic candidates for President and Vice President.

Peter Cooper, of New York, for President, and Samuel F. Cary, of Ohio, for Vice President, were the candidates of the Greenback Party.

A congressman for this district was also to be elected, and Mark H. Dunnell, of Steel county was nominated by the Republicans, and E. C. Stacy, of Freeborn county, by the Democrats.

Let us now turn to our county politics. The Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City, on the thirtieth day of September. Geo. W. Plumley, of Wells, was chosen chairman, and B. G. Reynolds, of Winnebago City, secretary. The following nominations were made:

For Representatives—S. P. Childs, of Blue Earth City, and Andrew C. Dunn, of Winnebago City.

For Auditor—W. W. White.

For Register of Deeds—F. P. Brown.

For Clerk of Court—H. J. Neal.

For Superintendent of Schools—J. A. Dean.

For Surveyor—E. S. Leavitt.

For Coroner—A. B. Balcom.

For County Commissioner 3d District—J. R. Sisson.

The Democratic County Convention was held at Blue Earth City, October 7th, but adjourned *sine die*, without making any nominations, but on the fourteenth of the same month a People's Convention was held at Blue Earth City, for the purpose of placing candidates in the field. D. P. Wasgatt, of Winnebago City, was elected chairman, and H. E. Mayhew, of Delavan, secretary, of this meeting, whereupon the following nominations were made:

H. H. Gilman, of Winnebago City, and L. W. Brown, of Prescott, were named as candidates for Representatives.

Arthur Bonwell, for Auditor.

Frank Lent, for Register of Deeds.

Wesley Hill, for Clerk of Court.

Richard W. Richards, for Superintendent of Schools.

Geo. A. Weir, for Surveyor.

A. S. Mygatt, for Coroner.

Robert Andrews, for County Commissioner 3d District.

Several resolutions on reductions of official salaries and other subjects relating to retrenchment and reform, were adopted.

This presidential campaign and election was a peculiar and exasperating one, in many respects, and owing to the close, in fact, uncertain electoral vote, the excitement and bitterness was continued into the next year, when the question as to who was elected, was finally determined in a novel manner.

In the local campaign, the canvassing of the county was quite lively, and public meetings were held in almost all the towns, by the republican legislative candidates.

The final results will be found in the following table of votes for the several candidates.

For Presidential Electors: Hayes, 1,591; Tilden, 605.

For Congressman: Dunnell, 1,532; Stacy, 727.

For Representatives: Child, 1,585; Dunn, 887; Gilman, 1,368  
Brown, 583.

For Auditor: White, 1,432; Bonwell, 820.

For Commissioner 3d District, Sisson was elected.

For Superintendent of Schools: Dean, 792; Richards, 1,459.

For Clerk of Court: Neal, 2,241.

For Register: Brown, 1,893; Lent, 353.

For Surveyor: Leavitt, 1,168; Weir, 1,062.

For Coroner: Balcom, 1,215; Robertson, 491; Mygatt, 521.

#### WELL SAID.

"An excellent as well as witty reproof, which might be applicable to some politicians even in these enlightened days, is accredited to the celebrated Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

"When his son, Thomas Sheridan, was a candidate for an office of a Cornish borough, he told his father that if he secured the office he had a mind to place a label on his forehead with the words 'To Let' printed on it, and side with the party which made the best offer.

"'Very well, Tom,' replied his father dryly, 'but if you do that, don't forget to add the word *'unfurnished.'*"

#### AGRICULTURE AND FINANCES.

The annual fair of the agricultural society was held at Blue Earth City on the 12th and 13th days of October. For various reasons it proved almost a failure. The crops were short, money scarce, the outlook for the coming year, gloomy.

The fair of the Blue Earth Valley Blooded Stock Association, held at Winnebago City on the 18th, 19th and 20th of the same month, was also a failure, for the reasons given above, and the additional one of bad weather.

Toward the close of the year, the financial condition of the people began to improve, somewhat, in this county. There was not so much borrowing of money and mortgaging, as formerly, and farmers began to turn their attention, more, to stock raising.

The sales of cattle and hogs began to yield considerable returns, and wheat, late in the year, brought a dollar per bushel, and was still higher after New Years.

Thus the benefits of diversified farming became apparent, and the result was the inauguration of a new era too long delayed in this county.

#### A FOX HUNT.

On Saturday, November 11th, the first English fox hunt which probably had ever occurred in this State, took place in Martin county, adjoining this on the west, and attracted much attention. A number of the citizens of this county attended and took part in the hunt. It proved quite a success, and afforded a great deal of sport.

It was inaugurated by the English residents of that county who desired to see and enjoy one of the great recreations of "Merrie Old England," in this new land.

#### A NEW BOOK.

In December of this year a small book appeared, bearing the title "Politicians and other poems," by H. W. H., of which the *Pioneer Press* says:

"These initials in the title stand for Hon. Henry W. Holley, of Winnebago City, in this State, who is better known to the public as an editor, legislator, civil engineer and railroad superintendent, than as a poet, though his productions have frequently appeared in the local press of the State, and have found many admirers. 'Politicians and other Poems,' is an elegant volumn of 126 pages, dedicated 'to Hon. William Windom, United States Senator from Minnesota, whose public life stands in marked contrast to all that is satarized in these pages.' The title poem is now printed for the first time, and we are sure that all who know the author will be impatient to read this splendid satire on the political tricksters of the day. It is full of vivacity, wit, humor and sarcasm, and yet not palpably personal—that is, not intended to strike a blow at any particular individual. The minor poems, seventeen in number, are equally meritorious, and the volume as a whole, will not only enhance the author's reputation at home, but should give him rank among the poets of the nation, not below that enjoyed by Saxe, whose style is not dissimilar to Mr. Holley's.

Mr. Holley has the honor of being the first resident of this county, who had written and published a book.

He was the author also of another small volume of poems, entitled "*Moods and Emotions*," published in 1855, and also a small pamphlet entitled "*What I Think*"—*A Satire*, published in 1859.

Henry Whitcomb Holley, was born at Pierrepont Manor, Jefferson county, New York on the fifth of May, 1828. He received his education at Union Academy, Belleville, in his native county and at Norwich University, Vermont, a college for engineers, from which latter institution he graduated in 1849. He spent seven years as a civil engineer on railroads, soon after his graduation. He was married to Miss Eliza J. Christie, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, November 5th, 1855. They have had six children, all of whom are living, but one.

In 1856 Mr. Holley settled in Minnesota, locating at Chatfield, Fillmore county. For several years he edited the *Chatfield "Republican,"* quite an influential paper in the politics of the State at the time.

He was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1857, and represented the ninth district, in the senate in the second, and the fourteenth district in the third legislature of the State. In 1861 he was appointed receiver at the United States Land Office, and came to this county, locating at Winnebago City, the seat of the land office, where he has ever since resided. He held this office eight years. He was one of the incorporators of the Southern Minnesota Railroad

Company, and in 1865 became the chief engineer of the road. He was connected with the road until 1874, being, during the last four years, general manager and superintendent.

He became a republican at the formation of the party and still adheres to it. For a time since his residence in this county, he was the editor of the "*Free Homestead*," published at Winnebago City.

He is one of the largest farmers in the county, and one of the most successful. Though taking a great interest in politics in early life, he has of late years paid but little attention to the subject, except to keep well informed as to the political events of the time, and to vote.

For many years Mr. Holley has devoted much of his spare time to literary pursuits. We have taken the liberty, during the course of this history, to quote frequently from his writings, and always with advantage to our work.

Since the above brief sketch was written, Mr. Holley removed to the state of Washington.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

A. D. 1877.

The first leading event of this year, and one which called together a large number of the people, was the winter term of the district court. It was appropriate enough that the year should begin with the work of our highest local judicial tribunal, in the application of the principles of justice, to the settlement of the disputes and difficulties of the people. The court began its session January 2d—Hon. D. A. Dickinson, presiding. There was but one criminal case on the calendar. The civil cases numbered thirty-three. The term lasted but three days. There were no cases of special public interest. It may as well be added here, that the June term of the court commenced its session on the fifth day of the month—Hon. D. A. Dickinson, presiding, and the term lasted six days. The civil calendar noted thirty-five cases, the criminal calendar not one, and no grand jury was called to sit on the grand inquest, at this term, a very unusual circumstance. The absence, too, of criminal business, was an encouraging sign of the times. But it was not so everywhere.

In many localities great destitution and suffering existed, and strikes, riots, mobs, bloodshed, and the perpetration of many crimes prevailed to a large extent.

## THE COUNTY'S GUARDIANS.

During this year the commissioners held seven meetings. They assembled January 2d, March 6th, March 15th, April 23d, July 16th, October 2d, and November 8th. At the January meeting, the board organized by electing F. W. Temple, chairman for the year. There was no business transacted during the year, out of the ordinary course, except the action taken at the April meeting, which is noted hereafter. It may be named, however, that a large amount of money was again appropriated, during the year, for the building of bridges.

## THE LAWGIVERS.

The nineteenth state legislature assembled at St. Paul, January 2d, and adjourned March 2d. This county was well represented in that august body, at this session.

J. P. West appeared as our representative in the Senate Chamber and S. P. Child and H. H. Gilman in the House.

James B. Wakefield, Lieut. Governor, presided over the deliberations of the Senate, and in the House we had Geo. W. Buswell, as Chief Clerk. Charles A. Rose was Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, and James M. Robertson, a Senate Messenger, while Thos. H. Webb held the position of Restaurantuer in the rotunda of the Capitol. Our county could not well complain of not being "recognized" at this session.

The legislation of this year, having special relation to this county was comprised in the following acts:

An act to incorporate the village of Delavan.

An act to amend the act to incorporate the village of Minnesota Lake.

An act to amend the act to incorporate the village of Winnebago City.

An act to authorize the village of Minnesota Lake to issue bonds for the purpose of paying for the location of a depot, in said village.

An act to prohibit fishing in Bass lake, except by hook and line.

An act to detach certain territory from School District No. 14, and to attach the same to District No. 58.

Mr. Windom was re-elected United States senator at this session.

The people of this county, especially the older and more permanent residents, have, from the first, manifested a strong attachment for, and loyalty to the county, and its fair fame, and have taken a well grounded pride in its character, standing and progress. Its people have never deemed it necessary to take a back seat, anywhere, further than a due regard for the proprieties seemed to require. And this is in some degree warranted by the facts that our county has, in a number of instances, proved to be the banner county of the State—our rapid progress in population, productions and wealth—the number of our citizens who have held high official positions in the State, and in the governing bodies of great social and fraternal organizations, and in the sessions of our State legislature. And here the words of the poet Halleck are not far from appropriate.

"They love their land because it is their own,  
And scorn to give aught other reason why;  
Would shake hands with a King upon his throne,  
And think it kindness to his majesty;  
A stubborn race, fearing and flattering none,  
Such are they nurtured, and such they live and die."

#### THE FARMERS AND STOCKMEN.

The Agricultural Society held its regular annual meeting January 2d. The officers elected for the year were L. W. Brown, of Prescott, president; Wm. M. Scott, secretary, and D. B. Thurston, treasurer, and this was the only business of importance transacted. In this connection, the fact may now be noted, that the Second An-



nual Fair of the Blooded Stock Association, was appointed to be held at Winnebago City, on the 20th, 21st and 22d days of September and a fine premium list was published. The exhibition of stock at the fair was very good, and the fair was a moderate success. The annual fair of the agricultural society, was held at Blue Earth City, on the 11th, 12th and 13th days of October. But owing to the late date in the year of holding this fair, and because of some other matters, the fair, of this year, was not a great success, though far from a failure.

#### THE WEATHER.

During the latter half of January and through the greater portion of February, the weather was very fine. The following item is clipped from the *Post* of February 24th.

"For thirty days past we have enjoyed delightful weather. The sun has shone every day. The thermometer has ranged up among the sixties and seventies, and only nights has it been cold enough to freeze. Such a long spell of delightful weather has never been witnessed at this season of the year, as at the present. The roads have been dry and dusty, and the wheeling excellent. Farmers are getting ready to sow grain; some have already done so. The frost is out of the ground for a depth of six inches. Laboring men traverse the streets in their shirt sleeves in search of linen pants, and 'kerchiefs' to wipe the perspiration from their 'noble brows.' Beautiful ladies, elegantly attired in summer costume, having thrown aside their furs, promenaded the walks, and their bewitching smiles tell us that we 'don't got some more winter for a little vile.' Oh, ye eastern croackers who think that Minnesota can't grow 'cawn,' and are wallowing through forty-four feet of snow, come up here where you can take off your winter clothes and cool yourselves in the summer sun."

And here is another item of the same tenor, taken from another paper:

"We have heard of several farmers who put in wheat last week, in this vicinity. In our exchanges, also, we see similar notices to this. We believe this is the earliest wheat sowing in the history of the State, though, on one or two previous occasions, it has been put in during the latter part of February."

March, however, proved a winter month. Considerable snow fell, and we had some stormy weather.

#### WHO IS PRESIDENT AND WHY.

Intense excitement and anxiety existed during January, February and a part of March, throughout the whole country, in reference to the result of the presidential election. The whole matter was now in congress, and owing to the condition of the electoral vote, it was found to be impossible to settle the matter, as to which of the candidates had been elected, president and vice president, by the ordinary method, and hence, after much contention, and the making of many grave threats, congress, by agreement, established what was known as the electoral commission, consisting of five

judges of the supreme court of the United States, five senators and five representatives, to whom all contested points were submitted. Their decision was to be final. The commission reported on all disputed questions, and the result was that Hayes and Wheeler had a majority of the electoral votes, and were accordingly declared elected president and vice president. Politically, this commission stood seven democrats to eight republicans. The report gave the disputed states to the republicans by eight votes for, to seven against. This event was a dangerous crisis in the history of the nation, and came near resulting in troublous times.

And indeed the outlook for the new president was ominous, and if there ever was a time when the following beautiful prayer for the president, uttered occasionally by millions of our citizens, was especially appropriate, this was the occasion.

"O God of might, wisdom and justice! through whom authority is rightly administered, laws enacted and judgment decreed, assist our president, we beseech Thee, with Thy holy spirit of counsel and fortitude, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides, by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion, by a faithful execution of the laws of justice and mercy, and by restraining vice and immorality. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

#### EXIT—THE WELLS GAZETTE—ENTRE THE WELLS ADVOCATE.

The *Gazette* ceased to be published with the issue of March 22d, or about that time, but on the 19th of April there arose from the ashes of the *Gazette*, *The Wells Advocate*, a seven column paper—foreign internals, domestic externals.

#### THE WORK OF THE SOWERS.

With the exception of the small percentage of seeding done in February, sowing generally commenced in this county, about the ninth day of April—the higher grounds, being in excellent condition and the work was done up rapidly and well. Yet the fear of grasshopper depredations was distressing. There appeared to be nothing left, but to take the risk. In view of this danger, however, the farmers ordered a large quantity of field peas for seed, a plant but little molested by grasshoppers. There were about one thousand bushels of peas brought into the county, for this purpose. Another plant known by the name of Pampas, and said to be, in the current language of the time, "hopper proof," was planted, to some extent.

A brief item here as to prices, may not be uninteresting. Wheat at the railroad markets brought, in April \$1.15 to \$1.25, oats 30 cents, corn 50 cents, potatoes 50 cents, beans \$2.00, peas \$2.00 per bushel and flour \$3.50 per hundred.

## THE LAST OF THE LOCUSTS.

The vast deposit of grasshopper eggs throughout a large portion of the State, the preceding year, was a matter of such grave public importance, that the legislature of this year, in its efforts to do something for the relief of the public, passed a very curious and impracticable act.

The act was entitled "An act to provide for the destruction of grasshoppers and their eggs," and provided for the payment of certain bounties for destroying the same, as follows:

The sum of one dollar, per bushel, for grasshoppers caught previous to the twenty fifth day of May. The sum of fifty cents, per bushel, from May 25th to the tenth day of June. The sum of twenty-five cents, per bushel, from the tenth day of June to the first day of July and twenty cents per bushel, from said first day of July, to the first day of October. There was also to be paid the sum of fifty cents per gallon, for all grasshopper eggs taken and destroyed. The act appropriated one hundred thousand dollars, to pay these bounties. It also required that all persons liable to work on roads, in each township, should be assessed a number of days labor, not to exceed five, to be employed, under the direction of the overseers of highways, in destroying eggs and locusts. A measurer was to be appointed in each township, by the Governor of the State, who was to be paid by the several counties. It was made his duty to receive and measure the grasshoppers and their eggs, brought to him, keep an account of the same and by whom delivered, and to give a certificate to the person delivering the same, of the amount thereof. All this looked very fair on its face, but a close inspection of the facts and circumstances involved, revealed a very different aspect and results.

At the April session of the county board, after a careful examination of the matter, the board concluded that if this law should go into effect, and the measurers be appointed by the governor, as contemplated in the act the cost to this county alone could not be less than one hundred thousand dollars should the locusts appear as apprehended, and that of the one hundred thousand dollars, appropriated by the State, this county would not get to exceed four or five thousand dollars as its proportional share. They, therefore, requested the governor not to make the appointment of measurers, in this county. They were not made, nor were the labor assessments made, and the act, in nowise, went into effect in this county, and such was the fact not only in this county but throughout the State. The law was a dead letter. Had it gone into effect in most of the counties affected by grasshoppers, it would have entailed a burden of indebtedness upon them, which would have far exceeded in damage, all the depredations of the pests.

And now in pursuance of this same subject, that of the locust scourge, it may be stated, that the twenty-sixth day of April was appointed by proclamation of the governor, and was observed in this county, as throughout the State, as a day of fasting and of prayer to Almighty God, that in mercy, He would relieve the people of the State from this threatened calamity.

In the volume of the book it is written:

"A fruitful land maketh He barren, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein." Ps. cvii:34.

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee and thou shall glorify Me." Ps., L:15.

"Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord." Joel, i:14.

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" Isaiah, lviii:6.

Millions of the eggs hatched out, throughout the infested portions of the State, yet, owing to some inscrutable causes, the peculiar character of the weather, the frosts, rains, freezing of the ground, the hatching was very irregular, and at intervals, and, doubtless, myriads of eggs rotted in the ground, and the young, at various stages of development, perished by millions, and with the exception of certain small districts of the State, no very material injury was done to the crops. Those locusts which attained full size, and there were some such over all the infested districts, appeared to be feeble and degenerate, and they, about the twentieth day of July, arose and left this portion of the State. The following item from a newspaper, well describes this last great exodus.

"Last Friday was a day of great suspense to the people of this section of country. About half-past nine in the morning the 'hoppers commenced flying with a good breeze carrying them a little east of south. Never before in the memory of man were so many 'hoppers seen in the air at one time. It was one dense mass of locusts as far as the eye could see upward, and it took them until three o'clock in the afternoon to pass over. These were hours of deep suspense to the people. All business was abandoned and the flight of the destroying hosts watched with bated breath and weary eye. By two o'clock we all began to breathe easier, as it was noticed that none had come down, but that nearly every one of the resident 'hoppers had risen and joined the marching column, and when night came it was safe to conclude that the 'hopper raid in Minnesota was at an end. It was a glorious feeling of relief, and thousands of prayers of thanksgiving were offered up that night. They are gone, where, at this writing, we know not, and our people are embued with new life. The crops will be carefully taken care of, and every acre of ground possible will be put in good condition to receive the seed next year. Real estate will advance in value, business will revive, and with the stock now in the country, we can see the brilliant future just ahead of us."

And considering the myriad millions of the locusts that passed over at this time, in high, and steady flight, and with army-like regularity, one might well surmise that the hosts were led that day by old Apollyon, the king of the locusts, himself. For some reason, the impression prevailed, generally, among the people, that this was the last we should see of the grasshoppers, and that we should not again be troubled with them, during this generation, if ever. It remains but to add, on the subject, that it was in this year, that that simple, but most effective instrument for the destruction of grasshoppers, "the hopper-dozer," was invented, and used, and for a full account of which, the reader is referred to the history of the year 1874. We are now done with the locust invasion, one of the greatest calamities which has yet befallen the State.

#### THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The County Sunday School Association held its annual meeting at Winnebago City this year, on the twenty-ninth and thirtieth days of May. The attendance was quite large, and the interest manifested in the business and in the discussion of the questions proposed, was very considerable. At no former meeting were more questions proposed for consideration and discussed than at this. The report of the proceedings at this meeting occupy nearly two and a half columns of the newspapers of the county.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: O. O. Odel, president, J. L. Christie, secretary, and James Damon, treasurer.

#### THE PEOPLE SPEAK AGAIN.

An election was held throughout the state on the twelfth day of June, on the question of the adoption of a proposed amendment to the constitution, providing for the application, of certain five hundred thousand acres of improvement lands belonging to the State, in payment of the old Minnesota state railroad bonds. The vote in this county stood two hundred and sixty-nine in favor and one thousand and twenty-nine against the proposition. There was a majority of forty-one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two against the amendment, in the State.

#### RAILROADS! RAILROADS! !

Several railroad companies were organized in the county during the early part of this year, one at Blue Earth City, named "the Blue Earth Valley Railroad Company," organized in February and March, and one at Winnebago City, named "the Winnebago City and St. Paul Railroad Company," organized in May and June. "Bonuses" to aid in the building of roads, were again voted in several towns, and late in the year votes were taken in a number of towns, to extend the

time given in former resolutions, granting bonuses. In June, the county was visited by an individual in the interests of a narrow guage road, to be constructed forthwith. Starting at Des Moines, the capital of Iowa and running thence northward through this county, to Hutchinson, in McLeod county, in this State. While this project was deemed a favorable one, no action was taken in reference to it, and nothing further was ever heard of it.

Attention may also be called to the fact, that the time limited to the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company—ten years—to construct their road to the western boundary of the State, had expired, the road having been completed only as far west as Winnebago City, in this county.

Of the original grant of lands to the old company, there yet remained many thousands of fertile acres, unearned by the company, and which reverted to the State. And now, with an eye to securing these lands, there came to the front the great railroad project of the year, which was the organization of the St. James and Fort Dodge Railroad Company and the Martin County Railroad Company, which were essentially one. The purpose of the one was to build a road from Winnebago City westward, into Martin county, and of the other, to build a road from St. James, in Watonwan county, *via* Blue Earth City to Fort Dodge in Iowa. Grading was done from Winnebago City westward and from Blue Earth City in a northwest direction (towards St. James), some seven or eight miles during the summer. The parties who had the matter in hand, were probably acting in good faith, but the whole project failed, because, as it was alleged, certain persons who had agreed to assist in putting down the ties and iron, when the grading should be done, proved treacherous and failed to do as they agreed. Several of our citizens lost considerable sums in consequence of the abandonment of the project.

Next followed a new company, which was organized at Winnebago City, October 27th, of this year, named "the South-Western Railroad Company," with the purpose of securing the forfeited lands and building the road westward from Winnebago City to the west line of the State, and a collateral line or two north and south. To this company some reference will be made in the history of the next year.

And we may now close this brief and imperfect sketch of the railroad affairs of that year, by the remark, that of the work done that year, there remains only some miles of dilapidated grading, dimly stretching across the prairies, and the companies organized that year have all passed into oblivion.

"All scattered fires but end in wind and noise.  
The scorn of men, the idle play of boys."

## THE 101ST PATRIOTISM EFFERVESCING.

The "Fourth of July" was celebrated in old fashioned style at Wells, where J. M. Nye read the Declaration and M. W. Green delivered the oration. Winnebago City, also had a celebration, and here S. J. Abbott was the reader of the Declaration, and M. S. Wilkinson was the orator.

The people of Blue Earth City were equally patriotic, and celebrated the day in the usual manner. C. H. Slocum was the reader and Daniel F. Goodrich delivered the address. Lastly, at Bass Lake, in the town of Delavan, in the beautiful grove of ancient oaks, overlooking the crystal waters of the placid lake, the good people for many miles around, assembled to commemorate the day, and here Andrew Carson was the reader of the immortal charter of human rights, and J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, addressed the people.

The celebration of the day in so many prominent localities, at all of which were large assemblages of our citizens, made the day a conspicuous one in the events of the year.

"There is no other land like thee,  
No dearer shore;  
Thou art the shelter of the free,  
The home, the port of liberty  
Thou hast been, and shalt ever be  
'Til time is o'er."—*Percival*.

## LACONICS.

That the reader may be able to fully identify this year, we note a few great leading events of the times, outside of our county limits.

On the twenty-fourth day of April, war was declared by Russia against Turkey.

On July 16-19, a memorable strike of railroad employes occurred, which extended to nearly all the roads of the northern states. They greatly interfered with railroad traffic. Great riots took place at Baltimore and Pittsburg, and much property was destroyed and some blood shed. Troops were called out to suppress the rioters.

On the fifteenth day of September, Louis A. Thiers, an eminent French statesman and ex-president of the French Republic died.

Hon. Oliver P. Morton, ex-governor of Indiana and United States senator from that state, and one of the most distinguished of our latter day statesmen, died on the first day of November.

## THE HUSBANDMAN'S REWARD.

The harvest of this year was a successful one. The wheat crop was the largest ever raised in the State, and all of the wheat was No. 1. The yield in this county, both as to quality and quantity,

was extraordinary, and if as great breadth had been sown as usual, we should have had the largest crop, in the aggregate, ever raised in this county. The acreage was less than usual, somewhat, because of the fear of destruction by the locusts.

This was Minnesota's great wheat year, not soon to be forgotten, and the news went out over all the nation and into foreign lands that "Minnesota has raised 40,000,000 bushels No. 1 wheat, 36,000,000 bushels of which she can spare for export," all of which was true and had a great influence on immigration, counteracting, in a great measure, the evil effects of the locust visitation.

The corn crop was also very heavy, and oats, barley, potatoes, and other products were satisfactory, as were also the prices. Saith the Psalmist *CVII:14*. "He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of wheat," and saith Joel, the prophet, in the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth verses of the second chapter of his book, "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm and the caterpillar and the palmerworm, my great army, which I sent among you." "And ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord, your God, that hath dealt wonderously with you."

#### THE BALLOT BOX.

At the election occurring this fall, a number of State as well as county officers were to be chosen, and six amendments to the constitution, proposed, were to be voted upon.

John S. Pillsbury, for Governor, and James B. Wakefield, for Lieutenant Governor, the latter a resident of this county, were the republican nominees for those offices, and W. L. Banning, for Governor, and A. A. Ames, for Lieutenant Governor, were the democratic candidates.

First in order of time was the Republican County Convention, which was held at Blue Earth City on the twenty-second day of September. Andrew C. Dunn, of Winnebago City, was chosen chairman, and A. A. Williams, of Verona, secretary. The following nominations were made:

For Senator—D. F. Goodrich.

For Representatives—J. P. West, H. H. Gilman.

For Treasurer—F. W. Temple.

For Sheriff—Allen Cummings.

For County Attorney—M. W. Greene.

For Judge of Probate—J. A. Kiester.

For County Commissioners:

Second District—F. E. Carey.

First District—L. K. Woodwick.

Fourth District—C. B. Miner.

Fifth District—W. Herring.



Next came the Democratic Convention, also held at Blue Earth City, which met September 27th. W. W. Stowe, of Delavan, was elected chairman, and Q. Adams, of Wells, secretary, when the following nominations were made.

J. W. Polleys, for Senator.

D. P. Wasgatt and Andrew Hanson, for Representatives.

Otto Kaupp, for Treasurer.

M. B. Pratt, for Sheriff.

S. J. Abbott, for County Attorney.

The following named gentlemen were nominated as candidates for County Commissioners:

First District—James Hardie.

Second District—C. M. Sly.

Fourth District—Felix Hill.

Fifth District—Andrew Woesner.

A third convention was held at Delavan on the eight day of October and placed in nomination:

Thomas Blair and J. R. Sisson, for Representatives.

A. W. Johnson, for Treasurer.

Hiram Raymond, for Sheriff.

Benjamin G. Reynolds, for County Attorney.

For Commissioners:

R. C. Alborn, for Second District.

H. A. Woolery, for First District.

A. H. Bullis, for Fourth District.

J. Vial, for Fifth District.

Chas. S. Dunbar, of Foster, was also a candidate for the Senate.

The principal contest in this campaign, was on the offices of sheriff, treasurer, county attorney and representatives, and the electioneering, during the two weeks prior to the election, was quite earnest, and most of the candidates visited, as usual, all the towns in the county. There were, however, but two or three public meetings held, and they were in the eastern portion of the county. There were two republican candidates for treasurer, and two, also, for sheriff, in consequence of which the vote of that party was so divided that it resulted in the election of the democratic candidates for those offices.

One printer reports that at his office, there were printed, 38,500 tickets, and of these, three forms or styles, were "straight," and ninety-two forms, of combinations, or "split" tickets.

The election was held on the sixth day of November. The following table copied from the official canvass of the votes, indicates the result, as to local offices. The Republican State ticket was elected.

For Governor: Pillsbury, 1,271; Banning, 591.

For Lieut. Governor: Wakefield, 1,246; Ames, 529.

For Senator: Goodrich, 1,168; Polleys, 521; Dunbar, 168.

For Representatives: Gilman, 919; West, 997; Hanson, 523; Wasgatt, 662; Blair, 406; Sisson, 243.

For Treasurer: Temple, 650; Kaupp, 747; Johnson, 405.

For Sheriff: Cummings, 691; Pratt, 829; Raymond, 266.

For Attorney: Green, 697; Abbott, 401; Reynolds, 531.

For Judge of Probate: Kiester, 1,662.

For Commissioners: Cary, Woolery, Bullis and Catlin were elected.

#### HALLOW EVE., OCTOBER 31ST.

Hallow Eve., known also as Halloween and Hallowmas Eve., is the vigil and eve., before, or of All Hallows, or All Saints' day, Nov. 1st, of each year. It is best known in this county by the name of Hallow Eve., and has been observed in some localities in this county, for a number of years, notably at various places, this year. It is annually observed in many countries. It is significant now among us, only because of the curious customs incident to its observance, but the day which it precedes, and of, or for, which it was formerly, and in some places still is, a preparation, is one of much significance, with many Christian people, and this being the fact, and to show the origin and purpose of Hallow Eve., it is proper to say a word first, of All Saints' day. All Saints' day is a church festival, observed in honor and remembrance of all the Angels and Saints of Heaven, and it is now annually commemorated on Nov. 1st (but formerly in May) by the Roman Catholic church, the Greek Catholic church, the Anglican Catholic church, in England and America and elsewhere, known as the Church of England, in England, and the Protestant Episcopal church in America, and by the Lutheran church, thus embracing more than three-fourths of all Christendom. It has been observed ever since the fourth century, in the Eastern church and in the Western, or Latin church and the English church, since the early part of the seventh century, when its observance was enjoined by the Bishop of Rome—Boniface, the Fourth. The thought, the sentiment implied, and the purpose intended in the observance of this day, are beautiful and devout.

In the order of worship appointed for this day, in the Anglican Communion, we find the following ancient collect:

"O Almighty God, who has knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Thy Son Christ, our Lord; grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed saints, in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

It may now be repeated that Hallow Eve., is the evening preceding this day and was formerly, generally kept, as it is now, in some places, as the vigil, or watch, and preparation for All Saints' day.

In the course of centuries, many follies, superstitions and curious customs grew up in the various countries, in connection with this eve, among which we may name the performance of spells, by the young people, to discover their future life partners, charms and games, weird incantations, fireside revelries, cracking of nuts, from which it received the name of "nut crack night." It also came to be deemed the night when witches and devils went abroad and was hence called "witches' night." In fairy stories it was said that the fairies held an anniversary on this night. In England and Scotland, many strange superstitions were current among the common people, as to this eve.

The Scotch poet, Burns, wrote a fine poem, the subject of which was "All Halloween," from which we quote the following lines:

"Amang the bonny winding banks  
Where doon runs wimpling clear,  
Where Bruce once ruled the martial ranks  
An' shook his Carrick spear,  
Some merry, friendly, country folks  
Together did convene  
To burn their nits and pou their stocks  
An' haud their Halloween,  
Fu' blithe that night."

But it would be a long task to described the many and various performances indulged in on this evening in the past, and it will be sufficient to state how the Eve is observed in our day, and here, by many who never knew the origin of Hallow Eve., or what it means.

In our times, instead of being a solemn vigil, it has become an evening devoted generally, to social meetings, frolic and pranks, parties and other social gatherings, the meeting of various societies, the calling suddenly of small companies on their friends, are frequent incidents of the evening. But this is not all. It is also a sort of boys' night. The wild boys of the community, "get in" a good deal of mischief, which is not commendable, as the taking of gates off their hinges, changing of sign-boards, building of bonfires, the collecting of old kettles and boots, large stones, discarded hats and old baskets and other rubbish, and depositing the same in vestibules and on porches, quietly, then ring the door bell, and run away; also the pulling up of cabbages and beets, and throwing them against the doors of shops and dwellings, and other pranks too numerous to mention, and such as can only be thought of by a live boy full of what he calls fun.

Thus it is that a solemn vigil, established by a bishop and observed by the church for centuries, became, in the old country,

loaded with superstitions and follies, and finally, as a writer has said, "crossed the ocean, as a season for frolics, and ends with a street boy's joke."

AN EARTHQUAKE!!

And now we must relate the occurrence of a very unusual event for this region of country. On the fifteenth day of November, a slight earthquake shock was felt in this county. The following excerpt, from the *Winnebago City Press*, gives a brief account of the shock at that place.

"The shock of Thursday, the 15th inst., was very distinctly felt by many of our citizens, and no doubt caused some of the more worldly minded to hastily glance at their balance sheets to see how they would stand when they would be called up for final settlement. It must have been a doleful outlook for those delinquents of ours. We have not seen any one that can give us the exact time of the occurrence, but all agree that it was only a few minutes before twelve o'clock, A. M. We were in our office in the second story of Union (brick) block, busy getting ready for press, and did not notice anything unusual. But many of our business men and other reliable citizens did observe it, who say the shock lasted from twenty to thirty seconds. S. J. Abbott, Esq., says the two story frame building, on the second floor of which he has his office, swayed back and forth one or two inches, from north to south. Mr. J. F. Winship, who was alone writing at a desk in the post office, reports about the same duration of the shock, but affirms that his oscillating observations were from east to west. One gentleman, sitting in a buggy on the prairie, about seven miles west of this town, declares he heard the peculiar rumbling sound, and distinctly felt the trembling of the earth. However, no damage was done to buildings or crockery, that we have heard of, and we have probably experienced our first and last earthquake."

"THE ALBERT LEA EARTHQUAKE."

An Albert Lea correspondent of the *Pioneer Press*, writing under date of the 16th inst., says:

"Our newest sensation is an earthquake. It occurred yesterday, at six minutes of twelve a. m.; lasted about twenty seconds; oscillations very rapid; motion distinctly noticed to be from east to west; hanging-lamps, bird cages, water standing in vessels, all swung back and forth in the same direction. No damage done, no special alarm felt."

The shock was also recognized by a few persons at Blue Earth City.

"I kin hump my back and take the rain,  
 And I don't keer how she pours;  
 I kin keep kindo' ca'm in a thunder storm,  
 No matter how loud she roars;  
 I haint much skeered o' the lightnin',  
 Ner I haint sich awful shakes  
 A feared o' cyclones—but I don't want none  
 O' yer dad-burned old earthquakes!"—*Riley.*

A BRACE OF ITEMS.

There were 37,529 forest trees planted on Arbor day, of this year, and there were planted during the whole year, 352,019, and the whole number of forest trees, including cuttings, set out in the

county, up to this time, was 5,993,435, covering 4,734 acres, and that, of this number of trees, there were set out in rows along the highways, 8,430 rods.

At this time, the great question of interest in educational matters, was the State school text-book system, which was, simply stated, the system of supplying all our schools with books by the State, instead of making contracts with book publishers for the same. The objects to be gained were, better, more uniform, and cheaper school books. We clip the following item from the superintendent's report. The law relating to this subject was known as the "Merrill Text-Book law."

#### STATE TEXT-BOOKS.

On the second of September, I issued a circular in which the working machinery of the law was explained. I also appointed several meetings to discuss the subject. I have explained how, in case it was deemed best not to make any changes, books now in use could be secured at lower rates by districts purchasing direct from the publishers.

The Merrill bill was indorsed by the republican convention of this county, and subsequently by the people's convention.

It needs many amendments, and will no doubt receive the attention of the legislature the coming winter."

The text-book law was a topic of heated discussion in the newspapers of the time, and elsewhere, for some years, but became settled, finally, in favor of the law.

#### FINE WEATHER.

Dry weather prevailed during the fall, as appears from the following item, from a paper dated September 28th.

"We need a good soaking rain very much. It is said that the streams and lakes were never so low before as they are now, and we know that all the wells are drying up, so that a fellow can hardly get enough water to make his tea with."

The first heavy frost of the season occurred on the night of October 3d, being much later than usual.

The first snow fell on the fourth of November, and the ground froze up, for a few days, quite hard, but soon thawed out again, and we had a remarkably fine term of weather for December. For several weeks the weather was very mild, and some rain fell. The air was soft and balmy, like Indian summer, and vegetation started up again, to a considerable growth. The plows were put to work. Owing to several heavy rains about the seventeenth of the month, the mud became very deep, and the roads almost impassable. Plowing continued as late as the twenty-eighth of the month.

The opinion was current among the farmers that the grasshoppers would not return again, and they were much encouraged and put forth every effort to get all the land they possibly could prepare, ready for the crops in the spring. Every one was hopeful that a new and prosperous era had dawned for the State.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

A. D. 1878.

## OUR STATESMEN.

The twentieth State legislature assembled January 8th, and adjourned March 8th.

This was a very important session, in many respects. We may call attention first to the acts passed, having a direct relation to the county. They were fewer this year, than usual, and numbered but two. They were as follows:

“An act relating to Winnebago City Independent School District.”

“An act to legalize the issue of bonds in School District No. 22.”

Another act was passed, granting certain swamp lands, to aid in the construction of what may be named here sufficiently, as the St. Cloud and the Blue Earth Valley Railroads, which was introduced by one of our representatives, Mr. Gilman. The act was vetoed, however, by the governor.

Still another act was passed having considerable interest to the people of this county, but in order to understand the matter, it is necessary to say, that there was organized at Lanesboro, in this State, on the seventeenth day of January, the Southern Minnesota Railway Extension Company, the purpose of which was to build the Southern Minnesota Railroad from Winnebago City to the west line of the State, and to secure from the legislature the forfeited lands of the old railroad company referred to in the history of the last year.

The Southwestern Minnesota Railroad Company, organized at Winnebago City in October of last year, and this new Extension Company, became rival applicants, before the legislature, for the transfer of the rights of the old company, in the grant of lands. The contest was very earnest, in fact somewhat bitter, between the rival claimants, but finally, the act was passed, entitled:

“An act granting to the Southern Minnesota Railway Extension Company, certain lands, in aid of the construction of the line of road of said company.”

Our local company, therefore, lost the grant and retired.

As a condition of the grant, the Extension Company were required to complete the road from Winnebago City to Fairmont, in Martin county, by the first day of September, of this year, and to

the west line of the State, before the end of the year 1880, all of which was accomplished. And thus was completed one of the earliest projected and one of the greatest railroads of the Northwest. And we cannot but feel something of a local pride in the final accomplishment of this great project, when we consider that the road traverses our county from the east to the west line, and that two of the principal projectors and builders of the road have resided, for many years, in this county—Col. C. W. Thompson, who may justly be styled the father of the road, and for many years the president of the company, and general manager, and Hon. H. W. Holley, for many years connected with the road as a member of the company, civil engineer and also general manager—men who stood by the project from the beginning, and by their indomitable energy and perseverance, surmounting almost impossible difficulties and many adverse circumstances, until the road was so far completed as to be already one of the great roads of the State, and its ultimate success assured.

During this session of the legislature, articles of impeachment were preferred by the House, impeaching Sherman Page, Judge of the tenth judicial district, of certain offenses.

On the sixth of March, the senate convened and organized as a high court of impeachment for the trial of Judge Page, and on the eighth of March adjourned to May 22d, when the court re-convened for the hearing. On June 28th the court voted on the several articles of impeachment, and the Judge was acquitted, though the majority was largely in favor of impeachment, but not the requisite two-thirds.

Our county was represented in the twentieth legislature by Daniel F. Goodrich, in the Senate, and J. P. West and H. H. Gilman in the House. James B. Wakefield, of this county, Lieutenant Governor, was President of the Senate and also of the High Court of Impeachment.

#### WEATHER NOTES.

Plowing was done in this county on January 1st. The winter was a very mild one, in fact a very remarkable one. There was but little snow, and no sleighing. For many weeks together, the ground was dry and dusty. Winter clothing was not in great demand. The fuel bill was much less than it usually is, and stock did not consume to exceed two-thirds of the usual amount of food, and outdoor work was not delayed on account of the weather.

#### SPRING SEEDING.

The spring of this year opened quite early. The Mississippi river opened for navigation, from St. Paul, Minn., to New Orleans, La., March 8th, being the earliest opening for thirty-four years past.

The record has been kept since 1844. Some seeding was done the latter part of February, but this work generally, was commenced about the fifteenth of March. It was reported that a farmer in Blue Earth county had completed the seeding of one hundred acres of wheat by the eighth day of March. Farmers, generally, this spring made an effort to seed in good and husbandlike manner, all the ground possible. There were good prospects, and many hopes of a golden reward.

#### SOCIAL LIFE—FAMOUS LECTURERS.

Owing, perhaps to the mild weather and the exhilarating influence of forty million bushels of No. 1. wheat and good prices, it may be remarked that there was, during the winter and spring, more of gayety, life in social circles, and social enjoyments generally, than had been known for some years. The papers contained many notices and accounts of parties, concerts, lectures, dances, mum sociables, literary readings, debates, amateur theatricals, besides a host of religious, scientific and temperance meetings. And here the agreeable fact may be noted, that during the winter and spring of this year, the county was visited by a number of persons of national reputation, who delivered lectures at several places in the county. In the latter part of January, Miss Susan B. Anthony came and lectured at Blue Earth City and several other places in the county. In February, Dr. J. J. Villiards, the great humorist. In March we heard Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Will Carlton, and in April, Miss Phoebe Couzens, the famous female lawyer and lecturer of St. Louis, Mo.

The fact was, that at the close of the previous year, and in the early part of this year, an impression, a presentiment, existed among the people, generally, that the heavy burden of the unsettled and stringent times, financially and otherwise, was about to be removed and that an era of great prosperity was near at hand, and the influence of this hopefulness, was seen in many directions.

#### A RAILROAD! A RAILROAD!!

About the first of March, another railroad project started up and created much interest. This was a proposition on the part of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Company to construct and put in operation a line of road from their main line at Lake Crystal, in Blue Earth County, running southward to the Iowa State line, by way of Winnebago City and Blue Earth City. This was indeed but the revival of an old project, on which considerable effort had been expended a number of times before, but it was such an important project, from the fact that a north and south road, ultimately reaching the coal fields of Iowa, was the great consideration in our



railroad system, that the people at once accepted the proposition, and went to work to comply with the requirements of the company. The company required the voting to them of certain amounts of bonds in the several towns through which the road would pass.

The bonds, or "bonuses" were voted in the months of June and July, executed and deposited in bank, as required by the proposition, and to make a long story short, for the writer, and certainly the reader is weary of these railroad affairs, the road was graded from Blue Earth City northward some fifteen miles, by the first day of November. Our assurance was greater now than ever before, that we should get, at last, the much coveted north and south road, the next year.

#### OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

The eighth annual meeting of the Sunday School Association, was held at Blue Earth City, on the 22d and 23d days of May. A very large number of delegates were present and many schools were represented. The exercises were of much interest, and the reports indicated much progress, as being made in the good work. The officers elected for the ensuing year were, Mrs. H. C. Cheadle, president, and Mrs. Henry McKinstry, vice president, A. C. Dunn, secretary and D. B. Thurston, treasurer.

The subject was introduced and discussed at this meeting, of instituting township Sunday School Conventions, and a resolution was adopted, calling such a convention in the town of Verona on the sixteenth day of June following, and delegates were elected to attend the same.

#### "SO SAY WE, ALL OF US."

Of our courts this year, it may be said, that as usual there were two terms, at both of which Judge Dickinson, presided. The January term commenced on New Year's day. There were three criminal, and thirty-three civil cases, noted on the calendar. The June term commenced June 4th. At this term the calendar presented three criminal and twenty-four civil cases. Several criminal trials were had at this term, which created much public interest—those of the State vs. Fred J. Williams and the State vs. Henry Measor. The following is a statement of the facts out of which these trials originated.

#### ATTEMPTED ROBBERY AND MURDER.

Robert Mapson and wife, an elderly couple, live in Winnebago, and keep a restaurant. Their accumulated savings amount to \$500. Some persons with murder in their hearts, learned of this fact, and determined to possess themselves of the money, even though the sacrifice of a life was necessary.

On Saturday night last, March 23d, they retired to rest as usual, he sleeping alone, and his wife with her sister. At a late hour she was awakened by a noise in the adjoining room, and heard the voice of her husband saying, "I

have no money." Then she heard rapid blows. She at once rushed into the room, and cried murder, and ran to the front door and aroused near neighbors. These demonstrations frightened the villains away. Assistance was then rendered Mr. Mapson, who was found to be badly injured about the head and face, and one arm broken.

Vigorous measures were at once instituted, to hunt down the would-be murderers, and on Monday afternoon, a young man named Henry Measor, who had been living near Winnebago for several years, was arrested on suspicion, and failing to give bonds, is now in jail, awaiting an examination before Justice Mell, on Thursday next.

Sheriff Pratt was satisfied that this man Measor had an accomplice, and having secured additional evidence, proceeded on Thursday, about four miles northwest of Winnebago, and arrested a young man named F. J. Williams, and brought him to Blue Earth City, where he is now under examination before Justice G. B. Kingsley. The sheriff found on Williams' premises a policeman's club, loaded, with which the murderous blows were inflicted on Mr. Mapson.

Both Measor and Williams were held for their appearance at the next (June) term of the district court. At the trial, Measor plead guilty, and was sentenced to seven years, at hard labor, in the State prison. Williams plead not guilty, Measor being the principal witness against him, and was acquitted by the jury. The current opinion was, however, that Williams was the principal in the crime. Measor was pardoned by the governor in 1882, and discharged from prison.

#### A TENDER HEARTED JUDGE.

A Texas judge lately made the following very considerate decision. He said:

"The fact is, Jones, the jail is an old, rickety affair, as cold as an iron wedge. You applied to the court for a release on bail, giving it as your opinion that you would freeze to death there. That is my opinion also, and to keep you from such suffering, I do now order and direct the sheriff to hang you at four o'clock this afternoon, and may God be as merciful to you as I am "

#### LIBERTY FOREVER !

A word must be said in reference to the Fourth of July, 1878.

The day was celebrated at Wells, where C. S. Dunbar, of Foster, read the Declaration, and M. S. Wilkinson delivered the oration.

At the grove of Mr. Cahoon, in the town of Elmore, a very interesting observance of the day occurred. Here C. H. Slocum was the reader, and the orators were James Hardie and S. W. Graham.

A formal celebration was had, also, at Minnesota Lake and at several places in the county there were pic-nics.

At Shelbyville, just over the north county line, a reunion of old settlers was had, at which many residents of the county attended. The peculiar feature of this meeting was the number of short and interesting addresses, by old settlers of this county, in which their experiences in frontier life were related. The day was very fine, and the attendance, at all of the above points, was large, and the occasion afforded much pleasure to all.

## THE REFRAIN OF THE REAPERS.

Never was there a better prospect for a bountiful crop, than there was in this county, a few weeks before the harvest of this year. A great breadth of small grain had been sown and the stand was all that could be desired. Everyone was confident of getting, at least, twenty bushels of No. 1 wheat per acre. But a sad disappointment awaited the people. Instead of getting the best, we had probably the poorest wheat crop ever gathered in this county. The causes of this great misfortune were, the intense heat and excessive rains. From the 10th to the 20th of July, especially the 12th and, also, for many days after, excessive heat prevailed. Many were compelled to quit work. The average temperature, for many days, was 95° in the shade, but sometimes it ran as high as 103°. The heat was of that oppressive, sultry character, which enervates the whole system. During this time and, also, through harvest, the rains, especially at night, were quite heavy and the streams rose higher than they had been known for years. Many small bridges were swept away. The roads became very bad. The bottom grass lands were overflowed, destroying much of the best grass. The wheat was blasted and shriveled, and the lands became so miry, that it was next to impossible to get on the fields to cut, or take care of the grain, making the harvest difficult and expensive. Much of the grain was cut late, and some was not cut at all.

This condition of things existed throughout the greater portion of what we call Southern Minnesota. In the northern portion of the State, however, the wheat crop, this year, was abundant, and the quality very good. To comprehend this calamity to the people of this county fully, it is necessary to state further, that owing to various causes, not necessary to name here, the general prices of wheat at best, had fallen very low, and when this inferior grain came to the market, the farmer realized the fact that the wheat crop of this year was a failure. The prices paid ranged from twenty to forty cents per bushel. Most of the wheat was below any grade which had yet been established. The average yield of wheat in this county was from five to eight bushels per acre. Oats and other small grain, also, shared somewhat in the blight. Much of the oats was as light as chaff, but there were some good fields. But to counterbalance the short crops of wheat and oats, the corn crop was abundant, potatoes and all other vegetables were good and plentiful, and fruits of all kinds were an average yield. The dairy products of the year were large, and also the amount of wool grown, and stock of all kinds were thrifty, and yielded a handsome income. We can live and prosper in this county without raising a bushel of wheat.

## FORECASTING THE WEATHER.

A passing remark may here be added in relation to foretelling the weather. While there is undoubtedly much uncertainty in weather prognostications, yet the time has arrived when science has become able to afford many valuable suggestions as to the probable future weather conditions that are worthy of attention. There are always many weather prophecies uttered by the old weather prophets of the neighborhood, as to the coming weather, especially as to hard or mild winters, and they are generally worthless. We have heard a hard winter prophesied, because the corn husks were thick, or because the muskrats had built large houses, or because the moss was very thick on the north side of the trees, or that the squirrels had stored up large stocks of nuts, or that the frogs had buried themselves for the winter in the muck of the ponds perpendicular, heads down and heels to the zenith.

Conjectures, based upon ascertained and uniform facts, observed during a long course of years and noted by scientific men, are getting to be worthy of some attention. As an illustration of some of the methods pursued in this direction, we append a brief article clipped from the *St. Paul Press*, of July 23d, 1878. "Old Prob." certainly hit the mark this year.

## LOOK OUT FOR A WET HARVEST.

Minneapolis dept. *Pioneer-Press*.

Mr. Wm. Cheney, our local "Probabilities," who has kept a complete and accurate weather record in this city for the past twelve years, is authority for the statement that we are liable to have a wet harvest. He finds that the average rainfall during the season, one year with another, is 23.631 inches, the variation is only about six inches—three inches either above or below the average. The rainfall this year during the month of April, May and June was 8.720 inches, considerably below the average. Add to this the average of three succeeding months, July, August and September, (which covers the period of harvesting) and we have but 19.972 inches, whereas the average for the corresponding six months of the past twelve years has been 23.681 inches. By close observation Mr. Cheney is satisfied that nature is accustomed to balance her books each season, and he is therefore of the opinion that we are liable to have more rain, between now and the first of October, than the farmers will really want. All of which is worthy of their attention, in securing the standing crops.

## SOME ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Pope Pius IX, aged 85 years, died February 7th, and was succeeded by Leo XIII, on February 20th.

On February 28th, a bill, known as the "Bland Silver Bill," was passed by Congress, over the veto of the President. For some years prior to 1877-8, silver dollars had not been in use in the United States. Silver, as money, had, by the act of 1873, been practically degraded and demonetized, as has been alleged.

The Bland Bill ordered the coinage of large sums in silver dollars, of 412½ grains weight, and provided that they might be used in the payment of debts by the government. Silver was thus re-monetized. But this act provided that contracts might be made requiring that payments should be made in gold.

A "greenback" dollar was becoming as good as a gold dollar.

March 3d. Peace was concluded between Russia and Turkey.

Early in August, that fatal disease, the yellow fever, made its appearance in the South. In one of our local papers we find the following very appropriate remarks:

"It is appalling to us, situated so far away, to read daily of the visitation of that dreadful scourge, yellow fever, that is raging to such an alarming extent in the southern states and cities. We get only a superficial idea of its disastrous effects. Hundreds have died, and hundreds more are lying sick in all its stages. Thousands are flying northward to catch the healthy breezes of northern localities; towns with their two or three thousand population are almost deserted, and yet, while we look complacently on the destruction this disease is making 1,000 miles south of us, do we fully appreciate the healthfulness of our own climate? When one of those "gentle zephyrs" stirs up the sluggishness of our systems, we are apt to exclaim, "blast those winds." We do not stop to think that in them is the very elixir that blows away the malarious and pestilential fevers and other diseases that combine from various unforeseen circumstances to invade the household. Let us be thankful for the breezes that sometimes fiercely blow, for in them we find health, comfort, and bodily vigor."

This group of general facts may be supplemented by the statement of a significant local item.

The stimulus of the great wheat crop of the preceding year, the universal belief that the locusts had left us, finally, and the prospects in the spring, induced the farmers to break up much additional land, and an immense quantity of land was turned over, not only in this county, but throughout the State.

#### THE COUNTY BOARD.

During this year the board of county commissioners had five meetings of several days' each, but no business of historical interest was transacted, except that the board entered into contract with a purchaser, to sell to him one hundred and sixty acres, or one half of what was known as the "Poor Farm." At the January meeting, A. H. Bullis was elected chairman for the year.

#### AGRICULTURAL MATTERS.

The Agricultural Society held its annual meeting January 3d. The treasurer reported the receipts of the year to be \$172.45 and the disbursements \$161.34, leaving in the treasury \$11.11. The officers elected for the year were A. R. More, Sr., of Pilot Grove, president; C. H. Slocum, secretary, and Henry Sellen, treasurer, and one vice president was chosen for each township. Mr. Sellen de-

clined to serve, and Henry M. Temple was subsequently elected treasurer. During the year, a high board fence was built on the north and west sides of the fair grounds, and the buildings were removed to better situations and repaired, and a number of covered stalls, stables and pens, were erected, all adding much to the convenience and value of the grounds. The annual fair was held at the grounds, near Blue Earth City, on the 19th, 20th and 21st days of September. The following article gives a very correct account of

#### THE FAIR.

"The county fair of last week is pronounced by all to be a success, financially, and in attendance. More people were present than at any previous fair, and the gate money received was nearly doubled. The storm on Thursday evening made a difference in the first day's receipts, and interfered very much with the exhibit of stock. There were 429 articles entered for exhibition. What stock, horses, cattle, sheep and swine, there were, were all first-class, and very creditable to Faribault county.

The exhibits in floral hall were very fine, especially in the fruit department. L. C. Seaton had on exhibition thirty-eight varieties, all of them very choice, and of course took first premiums. J. D. Stanton, Capt. Davy and Frank Cole, also exhibited some choice varieties of apples.

The principal attractions were the races and glass ball shooting, in which a large number participated.

Taken altogether, the fair was the best ever held in the county, and the society has, in a great degree, so regained public confidence that we can safely guarantee future fairs to be successful, and improvements on the one just closed."

#### THE FALL ELECTIONS.

At the election held this fall, an associate justice of the supreme court, several state officers and a member of congress, in addition to our local officers were to be elected.

Mark H Dunnell, was the republican and Wm. Meighen (green-backer) the opposition candidate for congress.

Mr. Dunnell was elected.

The Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City, on the fifth day of October. After choosing J. H. Welch, of Winnebago City, chairman, and Geo. W. Buswell, of Blue Earth City, secretary, the convention made the following nominations:

For Senator—R. B. Johnson.

For Representatives—J. P. West and T. S. Wroolie.

For Register of Deeds—F. P. Brown.

For Auditor—W. W. White.

For Superintendent of Schools—David Ogilvie.

For County Surveyor—E. H. Leavitt.

For Coroner—C. S. Kimball.

On the ninth day of the same month the Democratic County Convention was held at Blue Earth City. D. P. Wasgatt, of Winne-

bago City, was elected chairman, and C. W. Apley, of Minnesota Lake, secretary. The convention adjourned over to the nineteenth of the month, when the following nominations were made:

Geo. B. Kingsley, for Senator.

N. Kremer and H. M. Huntington, for Representatives.

A. Bonwell, for Auditor.

F. P. Brown, for Register of Deeds.

Geo. A. Weir, for County Surveyor.

J. A. Dean, for Superintendent of Schools.

A. B. Balcom, for Coroner.

Next came the County Convention of the Nationals (Greenbackers), which was held at Blue Earth City, on the nineteenth of October. A. H. Bullis, of Verona, was chosen chairman, and C. W. Apley, of Minnesota Lake, secretary, when the following nominations were made:

For Senator—J. H. Sprout, and for Representative—A. H. Bullis.

For Auditor—W. W. White, and for Register of Deeds—G. H. Claggett.

For County Surveyor—Geo. A. Weir.

A very strong effort was made to form a coalition between the two conventions assembled at this time, and unite upon one ticket, but it was not successful, and each party made its own nominations. About this time Daniel F. Goodrich was announced as an independent candidate for Representative, and R. W. Richards as an independent candidate for Superintendent of Schools.

The political issues were mainly on the financial question, "hard money," and resumption of specie payments on the one hand and "soft money," "fiat money," or more properly speaking the "greenback theory," on the other. In the local campaign, though quite a number of meetings were held about the county by several of the candidates, the canvass was not as active a one as many that preceded it. The election was held November 5th.

The following statement of the vote cast for the several candidates, is taken from the official canvass:

For Senator: R. B. Johnson, 962; J. H. Sprout, 513; G. B. Kingsley, 270.

For Representatives: Wroolie, 840; West, 852; Kremer, 527; Bullis, 537; Goodrich, 331; Huntington, 363.

For Auditor: White, 1,158; Bonwell, 597.

For Register: Brown, 1,516; Claggett, 220.

For Surveyor: Weir, 629; Leavitt, 1,119.

For Superintendent: Ogilvie, 651; Richards, 674; Dean, 421.

For Coroner: Kimball, 1,438; Balcom, 302.

Some of the candidates, at this election, got themselves into strange conditions, politically, and for some time after election hardly knew where they stood, reminding us of two certain Irishmen who had just landed in America. They took a room in the second story of a small hotel for the night. During the night the house took fire and the guests were awakened suddenly. Pat arose in great haste, and in the confusion got his trowsers on "hind side" to the front, and dropped himself out of the window to the ground. Moike, greatly frightened, hurried to the window and called out, "Pat me bye, aint ye kilt intoirly?" "No, I aint hurted" said Pat, looking down at his trowsers, "but Moike," said he, mournfully, "I guess I am fatally twisted, sure."

#### FROST—PRICES CURRENT.

The first killing frost occurred on the night of September 10th. The fall weather was very pleasant for threshing and plowing, up to the twenty-fourth of November, when the first snow fell, but both threshing and plowing were continued far into December.

The following list of prices current November 20th, may interest some reader:

Dry Goods: Best prints, 6 to 7 cents per yard; sheetings, 6 to 10; canton flannel, 10 to 15; wool flannels, 35 to 50; good cashmeres, \$1.00 to \$1.25. Groceries: Coffee, 5 to 6 lbs. for \$1.00; tea, 25 to 75 per lb.; sugar, white, 9 lbs. for \$1.00; brown, 10 to 11 and 10 to 12 lbs. for \$1.00; dried apples, 10 to 12 lbs. for \$1.00. Canned fruits: Peaches, 25; raspberries and blackberries, 20. Farm products: Corn meal, \$1.00 per hundred; wheat, 35 to 50; oats, 25; corn, 25; potatoes, 25; butter, 6 to 10; cheese, 8 to 10; eggs, 12; flour, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per hundred; live hogs, \$2.00 per hundred.

#### THANKSGIVING DAY.

(The last Thursday of November.)

The writer has gathered, from many sources, some facts and thoughts to express here, with his own views, of this well known day in our American calendar. And it is well, first of all, to quote a few sentences from the Great Book, and several others of like character. This is a religious subject.

"Lord Thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another." Ps. xc: 1.

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness." Ps. Lxv: 11.

"The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn." Ps. Lxv: 13.

"Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains." Ps. cxlvii: 8.

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits." Ps. Lxviii: 19.

"Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving." Ps. lxi: 2.

"Offer unto God thanksgiving and pay thy vows unto the Most High." Ps. L: 14.

"O ye children of men, bless ye the Lord, praise Him and magnify Him forever."



"Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the name of the Lord."

"Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord." Ps. CL: 6.

"Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee, and saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High."

Thanksgiving day is one of the two great American holidays, the other being the Fourth of July, and it is peculiarly American in its origin and characteristics. Among the ancient Hebrew people there existed an annual feast, known as the Feast of Tabernacles, or Feast of Ingathering, at the end of the year. "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord" (Lev. XXIII: 39), was the command. This feast, probably, suggested the annual thanksgiving day of later times. More nearly allied to it, however, is the Harvest Home Festival, of our day, a most beautiful and appropriate observance. This festival is usually held in September. When held at the churches, and attended with religious services, the interior of the church is usually tastefully decorated with fine fruits, vegetables, cereals and flowers, attractively arranged, and the services are conducted with special reference to the occasion.

"And now, once more, the time of harvest past,  
God's children come to offer praise,  
Not only for the yield and increase vast,  
But all the blessings of their day."

"For the return of seed time and harvest, and for crowning the year with Thy goodness in the increase of the ground and gathering in of the fruits thereof, and for all the other blessings of Thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people."

But, generally, though erroneously, Thanksgiving day and the Harvest Home Festival are deemed, practically, the same, and Thanksgiving day is the only day of general observance.

Centuries ago, the civil authorities of various countries in Europe, occasionally appointed a day of public thanksgiving for such blessings as great victories, deliverance from famines, plagues and pestilences, and the like, and it is one of the peculiar features of the day we are writing about, that though it is a religious festival, yet it is always appointed by the civil powers.

But this festival, as we know and observe it in America, originated with the Puritans. The first public thanksgiving day appointed in America, occurred in old Plymouth Colony, in 1621. After the gathering of the first harvest by the colonists, Gov. Bradford appointed a thanksgiving day, and it is recorded that he sent four men out "fowling" (for wild turkeys probably) that they "might, after a more special manner, rejoice together." In 1623, another

day of thanksgiving was appointed for an abundant, refreshing and much needed rain, and in various subsequent years, such days were appointed in this colony.

In the colony of Massachusetts Bay, thanksgiving days were appointed in 1631, and for a number of years, annually, thereafter. Such days were also appointed in other portions of the country, outside of New England, during the colonial times.

During the Revolution, the day became a national institution, being annually recommended by congress, but subsequently it was observed, nationally, at irregular intervals, and only on special occasions.

In 1789 and in 1795, President Washington issued proclamations, recommending a day of thanksgiving for the whole nation. But in many of the states, especially in those of New England, it continued to be observed annually, and in the latter states, it has been, through all the years, the principal home festival, always most highly prized by the people.

Since 1863, when President Lincoln appointed a national thanksgiving day, it has become again, an annual national institution.

The usual time now fixed for the day is the last Thursday of November.

The president of the United States, annually, issues a proclamation, specifying the day, and is followed by the governors of the several states, who usually recommend the same day.

These official proclamations are usually carefully written papers and vary a good deal in length and style. Some have been written in verse, and occasionally one is humorous, but generally they are in substance uniform. It has been said that in the old days in Massachusetts, and probably in some other states, the governors' proclamations, on these occasions, were about a yard long, and when the pastor read the document in church, which has been the custom for many years, one end would hang down to the floor, in the aisle, before he had finished it. It told the people in great detail, what they should be thankful for—crops, health, peace, etc.—and admonished them to go to church, to say their prayers, to eat a good dinner and generally, on that day, to unite piety with jollity.

Of late years, however, these papers are much shorter, and some are so brief that they only recommend the day, without further comment.

We cannot now state the first observance of the day in this county, but it has been observed, annually, for many years, with all the old time customs, by the people generally.

The customs incident to the day vary somewhat in different localities, but the leading features, everywhere, are, first, the gathering at the churches, or other places of holding religious meetings,

for religious services; and second, the thanksgiving dinner, partaken of by the family and invited guests. Stores and other business houses are usually closed up for a part of the day. There was, it is said, in the old puritan times, a touch of asceticism in its observance, and it is also said that the puritan forefathers, when their peculiar religious opinions were more strongly maintained than they now are, sought to substitute Thanksgiving day for Christmas, as the great religious festival of the year, and even went so far as to punish some persons for keeping Christmas. But they only succeeded partially, for a short time, and the day now partakes much of the jollity of Christmas, and the people of this age observe both days..

Nor must it be forgotten here to state, that many who have no special regard for the religious character of the day, observe it in ways not always indicative of special thankfulness. Balls, routs, parties, dancing, shooting matches, games of various kinds, are often incidents of the day. The turkey, well roasted and stuffed, and flanked with many a dish of good things, is the great bird of America, on Thanksgiving Day, and the proud eagle must, for this day, at least, abdicate his supremacy.

The turkey, pumpkin pie, brown bread, and baked beans, are the great, leading, and "regulation" dishes of the thanksgiving dinner, and it was with these dishes that the pilgrim fathers vainly thought to shove out Christmas, with its geese, and puddings, and mince pies. But we of this age, have compromised the old quarrel by taking them all, in their due season.

The following amusing verse appeared in the newspapers some years ago:

"Thanksgiving day will soon be here,  
The homemade Sabbath of the year;  
And all the land from west to east,  
Will then prepare a turkey feast.  
The fatted ones will then be slain,  
From California down to Maine."

And a would-be witty writer says:

"The average turkey, all over the land, has read, with mingled feelings of indignation and dismay, that the governor has recommended another Thanksgiving day."

Thanksgiving day is peculiarly the day of family reunions—the day when all the younger branches of the family, to the third and fourth generation, are, when convenient, assembled again, under the old homestead roof, and around the festal board. And it is well thus, on this day, to gather home the scattered children, in that most sacred of all temples—home—and give thanks and enjoy a happy reunion, about the old hearth-stone. The summer work is

done. The kindly fruits of the earth have been safely gathered and stored. All have many blessings for which to be thankful. Not only have we a free government, civil and religious liberty, free education, peace, and national prosperity secured to us, for we are a favored people, "God hath not dealt so with any nation," but every one of the more than a million families, and every individual that sits down on this day, to a bounteous table, have each their own peculiar blessings to be thankful for.

Thanksgiving day! What memories of the long gone childhood's years cluster about the day! Joyful memories of the great fires on the old homestead hearth—the groaning table—grandparents, fathers and mothers, kindred and children, gathered home again, all joyful and happy in reunion, the old halls resounding again with the voices of other years. Sad memories, too, come to some, of the old home, now far away, perhaps beyond the sea, perhaps the old hearth desolate, the family circle broken, never to be united again, until all shall be gathered on the other shore.

Be it ours, good reader, to plant in this new, western land, this custom of the fathers, that we and our children and kindred, may, in spirit and true thankfulness, enjoy this holiday.

#### THE WINTER.

And now the winter, as in every preceding year, has come again. The Psalmist says of Him who rules the seasons:

"He giveth snow like wool."

"He scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes,"

"He casteth forth his ice like morsels."

The fields are desolate and vegetation dead. The trees stand up naked and brown. The lakes and streams are frozen over. The earth is wrapped in its winding sheet of snow and ice, and the cold winds sweep far and wide o'er field and forest. The sun is far down the southern sky, and dim and cold, while the heavens are dark and gloomy, with heavy, hurrying clouds, and the day is soon done, and the nights are long. The flowers are withered and scattered. The birds have flown to more genial climes. The insect world is heard and seen no more. Old King Boreas now rules the land with storm and tempest. In the home, closed doors and windows and warm fires are the necessity. But it is not thus all the time in winter. The severity of Minnesota winters has often been grossly exaggerated. Many days the sun shines all day long and the atmosphere is mild and the storms are hushed. In this vast Northwest, as the years roll on, and the country becomes settled and improved, the winters have become milder and shorter.

But winter, as every other season, has its uses and its pleasures. Old mother earth rests from her labors of production. The

atmosphere is changed and charged with new elements, necessary to healthful living, foul gasses and odors and malaria are destroyed. And "the snow, the beautiful snow." Job (XXXVIII: 22), nearly entered four thousand years ago, asked the question, "Has't thou into the treasures of the snow?" It has long been known that the snow is the poor man's fertilizer of the soil. It brings down to the earth, from the upper air, and deposits many elements, that enrich the fields. The snow mantle protects the plant life and roots, in the soil, from the effects of extreme changes. It gives moisture and helps dissolve and refine and enrich the soil. Yes, the snow has its treasures. A good, heavy coat of snow, in its proper season, is one of the farmer's best friends.

But the winter, with all its cold and storms, is not here a dread and dreary season. It is here a period of great business activity, of much profitable work and of social neighborhood and domestic enjoyments. This is the season which embraces Christmas and New Year's, as happy a period of geneality, generosity and jollity as the year affords. It is the season of lectures and the drama, of indoor festivals, of parties and balls, of sleighriding and skating, of good church and school work, the season of nervous energy and activity, of clear brain and the ruddy cheek. The winter is necessary and enjoyable and all right, in its proper time, but he who allows his heart and sympathies to be frozen, and makes a gloomy, unhappy winter within himself, is what is wrong.

Let the snows fall and the drifts pile up, and tempests howl, but be ready for them, in the home, in the barns, in the places of business, and help those to be ready, also, with shelter and food and raiment, who cannot help themselves, and all will be well.

But it is time to close the record of this year. It is already long, and, indeed, there is nothing more to add, except this little story, and then it is certainly finished. Not another line shall be added.

"A certain well-known bishop was in the habit of pausing frequently in his sermon, poising his finger on the desk before him, and drawing a long breath before recommencing. A little boy in the congregation became very impatient of the long service, and was often admonished by his mother. At length, seeing that the child's impatience was increasing, she whispered, during one of the pauses, 'Be quiet, he is almost through.' 'No he isn't,' said the little fellow, 'he is *swelling* up again.'"

## CHAPTER XXV.

A. D. 1879.

We now enter upon the record of the twenty-fifth and last year of this volume of our history. Twenty-four years have passed in review before us, which, with this, completes the record of the first quarter of a century of the existence of our county.

As an introduction to the events of the opening year, these three occurrences are presented. The winter term of the district court began on January 7th, Hon. D. A. Dickinson, judge. There were ten criminal and thirty-two civil cases on the calendar. The term continued thirteen days, and there were many important cases tried, but none of historical interest.

The board of county commissioners met on the seventh of January. A. H. Bullis was elected chairman for the year. The board met subsequently on March 4th, June 3d and July 21st, the latter session being the last of the year. The record of these meetings shows only routine business. The other members of the board, at this time, were David Catlin, J. R. Sisson, F. E. Cary and H. A. Woolery, clerk, W. W. White.

At an adjourned meeting of the agricultural society, held at Blue Earth City, on the fourteenth day of January, John Franklin was elected president; C. H. Slocum, secretary, and F. W. Temple, treasurer. Mr. Franklin died in July following, when the vacancy in the office of president was filled by the appointment of S. Pfeffer.

Let us now adjourn to the capital of the state and learn what was being done by the legislature now in session, relating to our county. The acts passed at this session, were the following:

“An act to incorporate the village of Blue Earth City.”

“An act to amend the act incorporating the village of Wells.”

“An act to amend an act incorporating the village of Winnebago City.”

“An act to authorize the county commissioners of this county to issue bonds for the purpose of building a jail.”

No vote was taken, or bonds issued under this act, the funds necessary being raised by ordinary levy of tax.

“An act to detach certain territory from the village of Minnesota Lake in this county.”

“An act to declare the act to incorporate the village of Winnebago City a public act.”

Our members of the legislature for this year were R. B. Johnson, in the Senate, and J. P. West and T. S. Wroolie, in the House.

James B. Wakefield, lieutenant-governor, was again, and for the last time, president of the senate.

Master West, a son of our member, J. P. West, was appointed one of the messengers of the House.

At the close of the session, a highly complimentary resolution of thanks to Mr. Wakefield, was unanimously adopted by the Senate, for the courteous, impartial and able manner in which he had presided over that body.

And now, returning to the county, we find that about the twentieth of March, the ground was in splendid condition for seeding, and the work was commenced in earnest. The weather was very fine, and the seeding of small grain was done very successfully.

#### THE BEE KEEPERS.

“—So work the honey bees;  
Creatures that by a rule in nature teach  
The art of order to a peopled kingdom.”—*Shakespeare.*

Bee keeping having become an important item in the productive industry of the county, as may be seen by reference to the official reports of the production of honey, the bee keepers concluded that they should like to see and talk with each other, and discuss bee interests, hence, after public notice given in the various county papers, they assembled at Blue Earth City, on the twenty-fifth day of March, and organized the “Faribault County Bee Keepers’ Association.” A. R. More, Sr., of Pilot Grove, was elected president; R. N. Fiero, of Verona, vice president; F. E. Carey, of Blue Earth City, treasurer, and D. B. Thurston, of the latter place, secretary. Among the subjects discussed at the meeting were the following: “Wintering Bees,” “Hives,” “Varieties of Bees,” “Swarming.” The meeting proved interesting and profitable.

On the third day of June another meeting was held at Blue Earth City, at which J. P. West, of Wells, delivered an interesting and instructive address on the subject of bees.

It is stated that there are in the United States two million hives of bees, and that the estimated annual revenue from them reaches the great sum of \$14,000,000. There are several newspapers published in the United States, devoted to this interest, among which the *Bee Keepers’ Journal* is a prominent one.

The statistical reports, for this year, show that we had 284 hives of bees, which produced 5,208 pounds of honey. The reports of the preceding year, however, show 432 hives, which is probably more nearly correct, but still below the actual number of hives.

## THE SUN.

On the third day of May, a new paper, named *The Sun*, with the legend, "It shines for all," was issued at Winnebago City—Col. Wm. Allen, editor and proprietor. It was a seven-column folio, neatly printed. The outsides were "homespun," inside pages "patent."

## THE NINTH SESSION OF THE S. S. ASSOCIATION.

The County Sunday School Association met at Wells, on the 21st and 22d days of May, this being the ninth annual session. The meeting was largely attended and the session was very interesting. A great majority of the schools were represented, and the reports showed the general prosperity of the schools throughout the county.

The following named officers were elected for the ensuing year.

President—O. F. Southwick.

Vice-President—Geo. O. Hannum.

Secretary—N. West.

Treasurer—D. B. Thurston.

Central Committee—R. W. Richards, I. S. Dodd, Mrs. H. C. Cheadle, Mrs. W. W. White.

This Association has gradually grown with the passing years, until it has become an institution of great interest, large membership and extended beneficence.

Two suggestions may here be offered: The adoption of a more complete constitution and organization, is demanded by the interests of the society and its continued usefulness, and should be considered at an early day. Some more efficient method should be devised for obtaining more full and correct reports from the Sunday schools, throughout the county. The experience of years has developed the fact, that one great difficulty in the way of the efficient work of both the State and county associations is found, in not obtaining full and reliable reports, and without them no satisfactory evidence is at hand, indicating the condition and progress of the work.

To illustrate this fact, it may be stated that the State Commissioner of Statistics reported this county as having, in 1877, but one Sunday school! No more than this had been reported to the State society, and thus our county appeared before the world, or to a non-resident looking for our institutions, as a sort of barbarous region, occupied by some twelve thousand people, among whom, the missionaries, so to speak, at the peril of their lives, probably, had succeeded in planting one Sunday school! Let us have better reports than this.

After careful inquiry the writer is able to state that there were in this county during this year, 1879, fifty regularly organized Sunday schools, and that many of these were large and well conducted schools.



And now as a parting word it may be said that our county should be proud of our Sunday School Association, and of the earnestness, intelligence and efficiency of our Sunday school workers. May the Heavenly Father prosper the Association, and bless abundantly all its members and all workers in this good cause.

#### IMMIGRATION.

The immigration which usually commences in May, was very extraordinary this year. It seemed as though the majority of the people of the east and south were emigrating to the western states and territories. Immigration is, of course, one of the greatest elements in the progress and prosperity of the west.

The foreign immigration during the year, to our shores, was also very great, and was peculiar in the fact that it embraced thousands of skilled artisans in all trades, who sought the better remuneration offered in this country. It was estimated that over three hundred thousand people emigrated to new homes west of the Mississippi during the year. This county received a share of this great influx of population, but not so large a proportion as it should, considering the many advantages the county had to offer to new comers, especially farmers.

Hundreds of land hunters passed over lands, more fertile and cheaper, here, than any they found further west.

#### THE COURT AND THE BAR.

The summer term of the district court commenced June 3d. The calendar exhibited twenty-four criminal and twenty-one civil cases. This was the first time in our history that the criminal exceeded the civil calendar. But this fact must not be taken as indicating the increase of crime in our midst. None of these cases were capital, and most of them were of petty importance. The term continued eleven days. A special term was also held this year, in October, of four days.

The following statements as to the constitution of the court, the names of the members of the Faribault County Bar, and a few remarks in reference thereto, may interest some reader of the history of the last year of this volume.

#### THE DISTRICT COURT OF FARIBAULT COUNTY, MINN.

JUNE TERM, 1879.

Presiding—Hon. D. A. Dickinson, judge.

Officers of Court—M. W. Greene, county attorney; H. J. Neal, clerk; M. B. Pratt, sheriff; H. A. Chase and Q. J. Adams, bailiffs.

Faribault County Bar—Abbott, S. J., Winnebago City; Buswell, Geo. W., Blue Earth City; Dunn, A. C., Winnebago City; Goodrich, D. F., Blue Earth City; Graham, S. W., Blue Earth City; Greene, M. W., Wells; Keister, J. A.,

Blue Earth City; Kingsley, Geo. B., Blue Earth City; Mell, J. V., Winnebago City; Reynolds, Benj. G., Winnebago City; Radford, C. H., Winnebago City; Sprout, J. H., Blue Earth City; West, J. P., Wells; Watson, F. E., Wells; Wakefield, J. B., Blue Earth City; Wilkinson, M. S., Wells.

Terms of Court—First Tuesday in January first Tuesday in June.

No Bar association has ever been formed in this county and the nearest approach to any concerted or associate action of the members of the Bar, occurred in 1872, when a fee bill was agreed upon by a majority of the attorneys in practice at the time. The Bar of this county, in learning and ability, and the reputation of its members for integrity and efficiency, compares favorably with the best average Bars of the State. Nor have the members of our Bar been wanting in public official honors, and we are a little proud to set forth here, though briefly, this very honorable record:

One has been a county superintendent of schools, and later a member of the lower house of our legislature. Another has been once assistant and twice chief clerk of the lower house of the legislature. Another has been thrice chief clerk of the lower house of the legislature, and once secretary of the State senate, county attorney and once a member of the lower house. Another, twice State senator and president *pro tempore* of the senate. Another, a member of the lower house of the State legislature. Another, who was twice county attorney. Another, who was register of deeds, county attorney, judge of probate and member of the lower house of our legislature, and four years State senator. Another, who was member of the lower house and clerk of the district court for four years.

Another, who was a Judge of probate court in the state of Ohio. Another, who subsequent to this year, became county attorney for two terms. Another, who was four times successively county attorney. Another, who was three times a member of the lower house of the legislature and once State senator, and afterwards deputy public Examiner. Another, who was several times a member of the lower house of the legislature, once speaker of the House, twice State senator, twice lieutenant governor and president of the senate, and afterwards member of congress for two terms. Another, who has been a number of times a member of each House of our State legislature, member of congress, and United States senator for six years.

The writer ventures the assertion that there is not another Bar in the State, outside of the cities, which can make a better showing of official honors than ours.

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY.

The Fourth of July was appropriately commemorated at Winnebago City where Dr. Everts, of Rushford, was the orator.

At Easton, the day was celebrated with much enthusiasm. Daniel F. Goodrich, of Blue Earth City, delivered the address. A

rag a-muffin parade, ball playing, horse racing and a dance in the evening filled up the list of amusements of the day.

The day was also remembered by a celebration in the town of Seeley. Music, recitations by the members of the several classes of the Sunday school, and an address by the Rev. M. Nichols, of Winnebago City, was the intellectual program. A rag-a-muffin exhibition—games of ball and a dance lasting all night, in a bow-house erected for the purpose, were incidents of this celebration.

It is said that the first national salute in the South, since the war of the rebellion, was fired at Charleston, S. C., on the fourth day of July, of this year, and that the day was generally celebrated throughout the South, as well as in the North.

A thought—At the time of the first Fourth of July—that of 1776—the territory now embraced within the limits of our county was little known to the world, and its only occupants were wild beasts and savages. Now, at the one hundred and third anniversary of the day, we find it commemorated here by thousands of enlightened, patriotic people. Who will be here, and what will be the advancement in civilization, of those assembled to commemorate this day, on the two hundred and third anniversary?

Oh! wonderous land! The hope of the world!  
 The last nation spoken of in prophecy!  
 Thou, dimly foreshadowed in the mysterious visions of  
 the Apocalypse!  
 The last home on earth, of the Church Militant!  
 The fifth and last nation of universal worldly empire,  
 but thine being of political principles!"

"The first four acts already past,  
 The fifth shall close the drama with a day.

"Thy reign is the last, the noblest of time,  
 Most fruitful thy soil, most inviting thy clime;  
 May the crimes of the east ne'er encrimson thy name,  
 Be Freedom and Science and Virtue thy fame."

#### TEMPERANCE.

The visit of the Rev. G. S. Allen, a distinguished temperance lecturer, to this county, during this year, was greatly beneficial, in the revival of the temperance cause, and led to the better organization of those who desired to promote the interests of this good cause, and a wider and more earnest and more influential work.

On the eighth day of July, a convention was held, at Blue Earth City, when a county temperance society, under the name of the "Order of the Blue Ribbon," was organized. Geo. B. Kingsley was elected president, H. W. Holley, secretary, Geo. D. McArthur, treasurer. A vice president, for each township, was also chosen. A number of resolutions were adopted, expressive of the views of the convention, on the subject of temperance. But a more important

and more permanent work, which occurred the same day, was the organization of a county society of the "Women's Christian Temperance Union." Of this society, Mrs. H. C. Cheadle, of Blue Earth City, was elected president. Mrs. H. McKinstry, of Winnebago City, corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. H. Dearborn, of Blue Earth City, recording secretary, and Mrs. H. W. Holley, of Winnebago City, treasurer.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is one of the most sincere, unselfish, devoted, and white-souled societies which exist on earth. The society is widely spread, permanent, unsectarian, and is made up of Christian women who want to do work for the great Master. It has no methods, or principles, but such as the most Christian man, or woman, can approve. It asks no pecuniary recompense for its labor, and is constantly at work, if not in one place, in another, filling its mission to the world. No more efficient or beneficent institution is known to this age.

The temperance cause in this county, as in many others, has had its periods of success and failure. There have been times, when intoxicating liquors were not sold by public authority, and a drunken man was rarely seen, and there have been other periods, when in almost all the villages licenses were granted to engage in this business, and drinking indulged in by many, and drunken men were frequently seen on the public streets. Temperance organizations, of some kind, have existed at all times, in the county, since 1860, when the first society was instituted, which have, at times, been very active, and at others, indolent. Such is the experience everywhere. But there has been no thought, at any time, that this good cause would be abandoned. The world, even small localities, cannot afford that the cause of temperance should ever be entirely abandoned, until its purposes have been attained. What would the world be to-day if there had not been, and was not now, great work being done in this cause? The writer does not intend here to discuss the subject of temperance, but deems it well to make a few observations in reference to the overwhelming evils of intemperance, as they are known at this day, and the remarks will be brief.

Intemperance in the use of intoxicating liquors (and may not any use as a beverage be intemperate), is certainly one of the greatest (if not in fact the chief) of the evils existing in this age, and it has no redeeming features. It sinks its hundreds of millions of dollars annually, fills the world with widows and orphans and beggary, demoralization and crime, and stocks the earth with drunkards' graves. Well ascertained facts show that in our own country over five hundred millions of dollars are wasted, annually, by those who expend their money for drink, that three-fourths of the crimes that are committed, and more than one-half of the pauperism of the nation

and the enormous expenditures of public money, rendered necessary by these two facts, originated from the curse of intemperance. Alas! the wasted resources! But this is not all. The worst features of this great evil are not yet told. Let the reader ponder for a moment, and there may appear to him, as in a vision, the mighty drunken procession of more than a hundred thousand of our own people, who are annually marching onward and downward besotted, staggering, swearing, jabbering, howling, fighting, murdering, to that awful precipice of destruction, down which they plunge and disappear, that precipice, over which is written, in letters of fire, the terrible sentence, "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." Gal. v:21. Almighty Father! what must be the final destiny of all these immortal souls? Certainly the cry of "radical" and "fanatic" and "crank" is unnatural and inhuman here, when applied to temperance workers. If these words have any definite meaning, surely they are more applicable to the users of intoxicants and the supporters of the liquor traffic. It must be true that if this intolerable burden of intemperance could be lifted from the people, the world would step forward and upward, at once, a hundred or more years, toward the millennium. And in view of all these facts is it too much to say that no man, but one whose intellect is defective, or besotted, or filled with the sophistries of satan, or whose morals are greatly depraved, or who is the enemy of God and of the human race, can stand up before intelligent men, in this enlightened age and defend the traffic in, and use of, intoxicating liquors in any of their phases?

#### THE GOLDEN REWARD.

The harvest commenced July 25th, and the weather was the finest ever known in this country. The crops of this year were very good, and were early and well secured, and at fair expense. The prices of grain and other products were very satisfactory, and better than they had been for some years, and new life and energy, as a result, were everywhere apparent. This was a year of prosperity for the farmers. The following item, taken from a newspaper, represents the condition of the crops throughout the country.

"The year 1879 will pass into American history as a year of wonderful agricultural prosperity. The cotton crop is larger by half a million bales than ever before; the tobacco crop 12,000,000 pounds greater, and the sugar crop exceeds, by some 200,000 hogsheads, all previous yields. These are crops which belong, almost exclusively, to the southern half of the republic. In behalf of the northern states, the excess of products this year over the crops of any previous year is, according to the *Chicago Journal of Commerce*, 20,000,000 bushels of wheat and from 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels of corn. The hog crop also is larger this year than for a number of years past—if it be not the largest ever raised."

During the period covered by this history, a great and happy change came over the conditions of farm life affecting the greater

portion of our people, by the introduction of improved farm machinery. Twenty-five years ago, the scythe and the grain cradle were still used, to some extent, and the reapers and mowers and plows and threshers, then used, were quite imperfect. When the harvest came, a horde of men had to be employed, at two dollars to three dollars a day, in cash, besides boarding and lodging. To harvest a field of seventy to one hundred acres of small grain was a great work of weeks, which wore out men in the field and tired out women in the house. To-day how different! The farmer gets up on the seat, on his splendid harvester, gathers up the reins, and drives into his field of one hundred acres, his harvester smoothly cutting and binding the grain, and in six or eight days, with the aid of one or two hired hands, the grain is all in the shock, and the usual quiet and comfort has reigned about the dwelling. No extra preparations or labor having been required. The farmer may now, too, use his sulky plow, either single or gang, and turn over more land, and do it better, in a day, than he formerly could in two or three weary days of incessant tramping. With his mower and horse-rake, he can put up more hay in a day, alone, than he could in the old times in two or three days, with the aid of two or three hands. And when the threshing comes, that great work so much dreaded, the great horse-power, or the steam thresher, puts in its appearance and makes a holiday work, lasting a few days, of the largest job. *The farmer has become master, instead of being, as formerly, the slave of his work.*

#### HUNTLEY.

Sometime during the month of August, another village appeared on the map of the county, situated on section seven, in the town of Verona. It is a station on the Southern Minnesota Railroad, and was named Huntley. This is our seventh village, and will be referred to more fully in another part of this work.

#### THE TWENTY-FIRST FAIR.

The annual fair of the Agricultural Society was held on the grounds of the society, near Blue Earth City, on the 18th, 19th and 20th days of September. The weather was very fine, the attendance large, the exhibition very creditable, and financially, the fair was a success. Twenty years previous to this, the first fair was held at Winnebago City, being the first of the society, and the first in the county. The first and the last were both successes. The principal differences between the two, existed in these facts—that the first was held in a hall and on grounds hired temporarily, the last on permanently leased grounds, well enclosed, having a permanent race track and buildings belonging to the society. At the last, the attendance was much more numerous, and the receipts far greater—a

great variety of fruits were exhibited, considerable blooded stock and greatly improved machinery appeared.

Something of a new feature in premiums was introduced this year, that of giving as a premium in many cases, a year's subscription to some leading agricultural journal, as the *Prairie Farmer*, *Rural New Yorker*, *American Agriculturist*, *Farmer's Union*, and others. The person entitled to a premium could have his choice. This was an excellent idea and should be carried out more fully. Approved books on agricultural subjects, might be added. A premium of one to five dollars in money, soon disappears, while a good paper or book is something of lasting value.

#### THE BATTLE OF THE BALLOTS.

At the general election of this year, in addition to a number of county officers, a Governor and several other State officers, were to be elected. John S. Pillsbury, was the republican candidate for governor. Edmund Rice, was the democratic, and W. W. Satterlee, the temperance candidates for the same office.

The Republican County Convention was held at Blue Earth City, on the twenty-seventh of September. J. P. West, of Wells, was chairman, and D. F. Goodrich, of Blue Earth City, secretary. The following nominations were made:

Anthony Anderson, for Treasurer.

Allen Cummings, for Sheriff.

J. A. Kiester, for Judge of Probate and Court Commissioner.

B. G. Reynolds, for County Attorney.

J. H. Burmester, for County Commissioner, 3d District.

The Democratic County Convention assembled at Blue Earth City, October the 4th. Capt. P. B. Davy, of Blue Earth City, was elected chairman, and C. H. Radford, of Winnebago City, secretary, after which the following nominations were made:

For Treasurer—Otto Kaupp.

For Sheriff—A. B. Davis.

For County Attorney—M. S. Wilkinson.

For Judge of Probate and Court Commissioner—J. A. Kiester, endorsed.

On the eleventh day of the same month the Greenbackers, more properly named the "Nationals," met at Blue Earth City, in mass convention. A. H. Bullis, of Verona, was made chairman, and C. S. Dunbar, of Foster, secretary. A central county committee was appointed, but no nominations were made. The campaign of this year, in the matter of local offices, was a quiet one. The election was held November 4th. The following table exhibits the vote as officially canvassed.





## DIPHTHERIA.

A passing reference should be made here to the fact that diphtheria, one of the most terrible diseases, prevailed to an alarming extent in some portions of the county, during this year, and as the statistics of the year will show, many, especially children, died. This disease is epidemic, contagious, and it would seem that it is in certain phases, wholly incurable. The plague which desolated Europe at various times during the past centuries, and known as the "black death," "black tongue," was doubtless, but a virulent or malignant type of this disease. This is not the place to discuss the pathology, or diagnosis, of this terrible disease, nor to mention the remedies used for its cure, but it is well to sound the alarm here—beware! on the breaking out of this pestilence as you would be of the cholera.

## A SAD ITEM.

About the sixth of October a terrible prairie fire started up and raged through the county, doing much damage. It had long been very dry, and high winds prevailing from the south, the fires were very fierce, and swept over large areas in a very short time.

## THE OLD SETTLERS' SOCIETY.

On the tenth day of October of this year, which completes the first quarter of a century of the history of our county, the old settlers' society of the county was formed. The time had come when this was proper. Some of the first settlers of the county had already passed away and others were growing old. The general purposes of the society are expressed in the preamble to the articles of organization, as follows:

We, the old settlers of Faribault county, state of Minnesota, whose names are subscribed to these articles, desiring to form the old settlers of this county into an organized society, to renew and perpetuate old-time friendships; to cultivate sociability among us; to promote a friendly interest in each other's welfare, and to provide for the annual re-union of the members of the society, do hereby ordain and agree to the following articles of organization and government.

The society was organized by the election of officers and the adoption of articles of organization and government, as will appear by the copy of the minutes of organization, appended hereto. As the first settler of the county was still living, and in many of the towns, the first settler of the town, was still living, it was a very proper and graceful thing to do, to choose the first settler of the county, Moses Sailor, Esq., the first president and the first known resident settler, of the several towns, vice presidents of the society, at its organization, and to exempt, as was the fact, all of the first board of officers, forever, from the payment of any membership fees, or annual dues. All persons who resided in the State, on, or prior

to the first day of June, 1860, and have lived in this county, at any time six months, are eligible to become members of the society. It was necessary that some year be designated, as the period which should divide the older from the later settlers of the county, for this purpose, otherwise, the society would be but a social club, without any distinctive character. And there is no year in our history, which could so properly be adopted, as 1860. That year was the beginning of a new decade, it was the first year of a national census, in this county, from which it may always be easily determined who were in the county prior to the census. It was a marked and memorable year in the history of the county, in that among other things, a great change came over the manners and customs of the times and in the public affairs of the county—a new order of things, so to speak, was instituted. That year was also sufficiently remote, so that the society would not have too numerous a membership, and yet there were enough old settlers who came in prior to June of that year, still residing in the county, to form a sufficiently large society for many years.

In fact many of the old settler's societies in the west, and elsewhere, are not designed to continue and embrace only a certain definite class, and are so organized that in course of time, they must necessarily, from the death of the particular class, become extinct. And such is a correct idea of an old settlers' society. While provision has been made in the articles of organization of our society, for fixing a later date than June 1st, 1860, when the society chooses so to do, yet many years should pass before such change should be made, and it should never be brought to a later date than June 1st, 1865, which marks the final close of the civil war, and also the close of an important period in our local history. This would also make eligible to membership many resident veterans of the war who could not otherwise be included. We cannot forbear remarking the propriety of old settlers' societies. There are many of them throughout the west, and where instituted and properly conducted are highly appreciated. At these re-unions festivities and rejoicings are the order. Old memories are rehearsed, old social ties and interests renewed and strengthened, kindly sympathies and feelings are awakened, and those who have stumbled or faltered in treading the pathway of life, receive new courage, new hope, to go forward. Those, too, are appropriately remembered, as the years go 'round, who have reached life's journey's end and gone to their final rest.

"Our early days! How often back  
We turn—on life's bewildering track,  
To where o'er hill and valley plays  
The sunlight of our early days."

The meetings of the society are to be held annually, in June of each year. Here is a copy of the record of organization.

"Pursuant to notice given in the several county papers, a number of the old settlers of Faribault county met at the court house, in Blue Earth City, at ten o'clock, a. m., on the twentieth day of October, A. D. 1879, for the purpose of organizing an old settlers' society.

On motion, Lieutenant Governor James B. Wakefield was chosen chairman, and P. B. Davy, secretary of the meeting.

The chairman briefly stated the object of the meeting.

On motion the chair appointed a committee consisting of J. A. Kiester, Henry Schuler and Otto Kaupp to prepare and report articles of organization and government of the society.

The committee reported the preamble and articles hereto appended, and on motion the same was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Schuler the meeting proceeded to the election of officers, when the following named persons were unanimously elected *viva voce*, namely:

For president—Moses Sailor, Esq., of Blue Earth City, the first settler of the county.

For vice presidents—Ebenezer Crosby, of Winnebago City township; Thomas Blair, of Delavan township; Ozias C. Healey, of Lura township, Alvin Barber, of Minnesota Lake township; L. C. Taylor, of Dunbar township; C. R. Lord, of Clark township; Absalom Wilcox, of Walnut Lake township; Andrew Woensner, of Barber township; George S. Miles, of Prescott township; Henry T. Stoddard, of Verona township; Burton Chute, of Jo Daviess township; Aaron Mudge, of Blue Earth City township; Henry Weber, of Emerald township; James Prior, of Brush Creek township; Abraham Ackerman, of Foster township; Joseph Wing, of Kiester township; Jacob E. Shirk, of Seely township; Ole Nelson, of Rome township; Allen Shultis, of Elmore township; Gilbert McClure, of Pilot Grove township.

For Secretary—George B. Kingsley, of Blue Earth City.

For Treasurer—Willam M. Scott, of Blue Earth City.

For Chaplain—Rev. S. L. Rugg, of Seely.

Elective members of executive committee—J. H. Welch, of Winnebago City; P. B. Davy, of Blue Earth City.

Whereupon the chair declared "The Old Settlers' Society of Faribault County," duly organized.

The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That the secretary cause to be printed, in convenient form, two hundred copies of the articles of organization and government, and present one copy to each member of the society, on application.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned *sine die* amid many congratulations and pleasant anticipations of happy re-unions hereafter, of the old settlers of Faribault county.

Attest:

J. B. WAKEFIELD,  
Chairman.

P. B. DAVY,  
Secretary.

It is the hope of the writer that the society may secure the purposes of its institution, be ever prosperous, and that the annual meetings of the society may ever be occasions of great pleasure and profit to all who participate. It will be the duty of the historian of the future to note the annual meetings of the society, and chronicle the events and incidents of its progress. The writer of these pages must be content with having taken an active part

in the institution of the society, having called the meeting for organization, and written the rules or regulation for the government of the society, and having now the pleasure of making an historical record of the event of the organization.

#### RAILROAD OPENING AND EXCURSION.

The thirtieth day of October, of this year, was a memorable day in the history of this county. On that day occurred the formal opening of the new north and south railroad, now completed from Blue Earth City, northward, to a connection at Lake Crystal with the main line of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad. It was determined by the people of Blue Earth City to make this a grand event, and they accomplished it. No locality ever needed a railroad more than Blue Earth City, considering its circumstances, at the time. The people of no locality ever worked longer, or more persistently, or against greater discouragements to secure a road, than did the people of that village, and no people, in view of these and other facts, ever deserved to succeed, more than they. It was but natural that they should rejoice when success crowned their efforts, and that they should desire to signalize the event by some memorable demonstration. We cannot enter into an account of all the details of this event, but may state the general features. A committee of citizens was appointed to take charge of the matter, in connection with the city council. Securing the co-operation of the railroad company, the day was set, and invitations sent out to prominent people all around the country and along the line of the road, to St. Paul, to attend the celebration of this great event. A great dinner was prepared and spread upon two long tables in the new depot building, and was in readiness when the guests arrived. About one o'clock, p.m., amid the thundering of cannon and waving of flags, a long train, bearing hundreds of invited guests, steamed up to the depot. On alighting, the guests were received with a hearty welcome, and conducted to seats at the tables. An address of welcome was then given by Capt. P. B. Davy, president of the city council, in well chosen words, which was responded to by Ex-Senator Ramsey. Speeches were also made by Hon. Edmund Rice, Gen. Sibley, Gen. Bishop, Ex-Senator Wilkinson and Lieut. Governor Wakefield. The day was fine, all the arrangements admirable, and the splendid programme perfectly carried out.

It was a proud day for Blue Earth City, and the village appreciated it fully, and especially the fact of the attendance on the occasion, of the many distinguished men, some of national reputation, who came to participate in, and do honor, to the event. But it was also an auspicious event for the whole county, even the State, for this line of road, passing, as it does, through the whole length of

the Blue Earth and Minnesota river valleys, the best portion of Minnesota, to the very heart of the lumber manufacturing regions of the north, and southwest through a great portion of the great valley of the Des Moines, in Iowa, directly penetrating the great coal measures of that state—a line connecting the capitals of these two great states, must, at no distant day, become one of the great trunk lines of the northwest, and transact an immense business.

Finally, it may be justly said, that the completion of this road perfected the fundamental structure of our local railroad system—one road passing through the county from east to west, and one at almost right angles, from north to south, provided for all time to come, egress and ingress, by connecting roads, in every direction.

But the festivities, instituted to signalize the opening of this road, were not yet complete. The railroad company, and the good citizens of Mankato, appointed a free excursion, to take place on the twenty-fifth of November, for all the people of the Blue Earth valley, who choose to accept it, and on that day vast numbers of people, along the line of the road, took passage on the trains, and visited Mankato, where they were most hospitably and royally entertained, free of all cost. A great public dinner, given by the city to all visitors, was the great feature of the day.

#### A REMARKABLE OCTOBER.

The weather of October, 1879, was remarkable. During twenty years, no such an October had been known. The thermometer often, during the month, indicated more than 80° in the shade. The question was often asked, "Well, is the summer going to last all winter?" The temperature, during the entire month, was much like that of July. In some portions of the country warm showers of rain fell, causing vegetation to take a new start, and wild prairie grass commenced to grow again, and appeared quite green on sward that had been burned off early. At one place in the State, ripe raspberries were picked on the eighth of October. Even the mosquitoes which had retired for the year, put in an appearance again, and resumed business. One individual who had expended some \$300 in advertising a new heating stove, declared that the weather was all out of tune, and simply exasperating.

#### THE "TIMES," AND OTHER COUNTY PAPERS.

On the eighteenth day of November, the *Winnebago City Press*, which had been published at that place for about six years, ceased; the office and material having been purchased by the proprietor of the *Sun*. A new paper named the *Winnebago City Times*, successor to the *Press*, appeared December 6th. It was a large, eight column folio; Messrs. Allen & Sherin, editors and proprietors. It was

printed on the auxiliary plan. Subscription price \$1.50 per annum. This being the closing year of this volume of this history, it may be stated that the newspapers published in the county, at the close of the year, were the *Blue Earth City Post*, and the *Bee*, at Blue Earth City, the *Winnebago City Times*, above named, at Winnebago City, and the *Wells Advocate*, at Wells.

#### THE LAST FIGURING UP.

The statistics for the year are very full and complete, and being the last we shall present, are made up with care. And here, first, are our farm products for the year:

Wheat, 556,696 bushels; oats, 570,523 bushels; corn, 655,647 bushels; barley, 41,141 bushels; rye, 105 bushels; buckwheat, 412 bushels; potatoes, 67,765 bushels; beans, 176 bushels; sorghum syrup, 19,096 gallons; cultivated hay, 4,066 tons; flax seed, 6,652 bushels; timothy seed, 426 bushels; tobacco, 507 lbs.; butter, pounds produced, 524,080; cheese, pounds produced, 14,250; wool, pounds grown, 56,467.

The writer has no hesitation in saying, that there should be added, as least, thirty per cent to all of the above amounts, to bring the several productions up to what they really were.

Live Stock—Horses, total of all ages, 5,942; cattle, total of all ages, 15,495; sheep, 13,294; hogs, 6,675; milch cows, 6,419.

There should be added, also, to each of these aggregates, twenty per cent at least.

Miscellaneous—Land surface, acres, 454,723.59; taxable land, acres, 398,240; number of farms, 1,254; cultivated acres, 90,028; taxable valuation, real and personal property, \$4,199,612; forest trees, planted this year, 3,029; forest trees planted along highways, rods, 48,365.

Public Schools—Number of school districts, 108; number of school houses, 77; number of scholars enrolled, 4,201.

#### VITAL.

During the year there were in the county 383 births and 191 deaths. Of the deaths reported, 68 were caused by diphtheria. There were nine deaths of persons between 60 and 70 years of age, seven between 70 and 80, and six between 80 and 90 years of age. There were 125 marriages and but two divorces.

Fruit—Apple trees growing, 38,880; trees bearing, 7,622; bushels produced, 314.

Manufactures (Census of 1880)—Capital employed, \$100,200; hands employed, 73; Paid in wages, \$31,072; value of products, \$449,532.

Population (Census of 1880)—Males, 6,875; females, 6,140; total, 13,015. Native born, 9,874; foreign born, 3,141.

#### CHRISTMAS—DECEMBER 25TH.

The Christmas festival, December 25th, now a legal holiday recognized in the laws of most of the states, was, in this year, 1879, more generally and elaborately observed throughout the whole

country than it had been for years. This great day of the Christian year is, everywhere, getting to receive its proper recognition. While the Christmas day of this year was, undoubtedly, the merriest Christmas ever known in this country, it was, also, in this county, the coldest. The thermometer marked from thirty to forty degrees below zero, and a strong wind blew, the whole day; but these facts did not interfere, materially, with the festivities of the occasion. Long ago, Sir Walter Scott sang:

"Heap on more wood—the wind is chill,  
But let it whistle as it will,  
We'll keep our Christmas merry, still."

But Christmas time is not limited to one day—it embraces a number of days, and the period is known as Christmas tide, or a series of holidays, often named the Christmas holidays, of which Christmas is the great day. This period, or Christmas tide, commences, in most countries, as in our own, on Christmas eve, or the evening of the day before Christmas day, and extended, in former times, to the Epiphany, January 6th, thus including New Year's day. This great day is usually preceded by a week, or two, of bright anticipations and busy preparations for the time. And we are happy to record the fact, that this sacred, festive day and period, has been observed every recurring year, in some manner, in this county from its first settlement.

Merry Christmas! the holiday of all Christian nations, limited to no sect, or class, the property of no one people, it is observed universally, wherever the name of Christ is known. As Christ lived and died and reigneth for all, so is Christmas for all, and it needs no proclamation of president or emperor to command its observance, or give notice of its coming. All the world knows when it comes, and from the gray-haired sire to the little child, is looked forward to with joyful hopes and pleasant anticipations. The writer cannot resist the impulse to say something more of this day, for the benefit, especially, of our younger readers. What means this day which brings such general rejoicing? Let us go back through the mists of nearly nineteen hundred years, and to the sacred soil of old Judea. We stand here in the quiet, starry night, surrounded by the shepherds, watching their flocks. Busy life is stilled. A holy peace reigneth here, and we are alone with God and nature.

"Wonderful night! Wonderful night!  
Angels and shining immortals  
Thronging thine ebony portals,  
Fling out their banners of light."

Look upward! behold! the wonderous radiant being! the Angel of the Lord is here. Hear the voice of the Heavenly messenger, as he speaks: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke ii: 8, 9, 10, 11.

"Hark! A burst of Heavenly music,  
From a band of Seraphs bright,  
Suddenly to earth descending,  
In the calm and silent night,  
To these shepherds of Judea,  
Watching in the earliest dawn  
Lo! they bring the joyful tidings,  
Jesus, Prince of Peace is born."

"Ah! listen to the grand angelic choral, as they praise God saying:"

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."—*Luke ii: 13-15.*

The foretold by the prophets of old,  
The desire of the nations—  
The light of the world,  
The world's Redeemer, has come!

By angel messengers was announced to the world,  
This greatest event of time or eternity.

And now down to us, through all the Christian centuries, has come the annual commemoration of the nativity, or birth of Jesus, the Messiah, the Prophet, Priest and King, the mighty Lord of All, and floating down to us, too, through the long gone centuries, come the triumphant songs of the angel choirs that sang together for joy, at our Savior's birth, filling earth and heaven with their melodies, repeated on earth, re-echoed in heaven, at every annual commemoration. How appropriate that this day should be celebrated with religious and domestic festivities, merry-making and general geniality, the healing of old feuds, the forgiveness of the past and the re-establishment of friendships and love among all, for this day more than all others awakens all the highest religious sentiments and the purest domestic affections. For He who was born to-day, brought to us all that which makes life valuable in all its relations, and revealed to us *immortality*. And the man or woman must indeed be bankrupt in faith and hope and love, or grown sordid, or bigoted, or soured with the world, who cannot appreciate and celebrate Christmas. Yet it is true, that certain religious bodies have, in the past, made but little of this day, commemorative of one of the greatest historical facts of the Christian religion, which they profess, and the old puritan forefathers, at one time, made it an offense, punishable with fine, to observe Christmas, even by ceasing to work on that day. See here! "Whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas, or the like, either by forbearing labor, feasting, or any other way \* \* \* shall pay for every such offense, five shillings, as a fine, to the county." 1659, M. S. records, vol. 4, part first, page 336 General Court. But better views have long prevailed, and Christmas is coming to be generally observed



by all religious bodies, in the spirit, and according to its time-honored customs.

And the growing love of our people, old and young, for this great festival, is evident, not only in its general observance, but in the happy anticipations and conduct of all. For weeks before the day we may see in the stores crowds of town and country folk, with cheerful faces, full of mysterious meaning, who are buying everything of art and taste and beauty, as Christmas gifts, to make the young happy, and to attest the love for friends and kindred. The purse strings, often so tightly drawn and knotted, come open now, and even the miser takes something from his savings to make someone happy. Even the cynic, the ascetic, the sceptic, and that other great man, who from his high intellectual eminence, is wont to look down with contempt upon Christian teachings and customs generally, as vain myths and superstitions, even these grow more genial, and offer a tribute on Christmas.

So let it ever be. Christ was the best gift the world has ever received, so let the Christmas gift commemorate it.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." John iii: 16.

The primitive Christians celebrated this day "with great joy and triumph, the labors of life were suspended, the churches were crowded with joyful worshippers who sang their jubilant hymns and anthems, and it was their practice to adorn their churches with flowers, boughs, and garlands of evergreens," and such has been the custom in some branches of the church, through all the centuries to this day. Religious services at the place of holding public worship, and the Christmas dinner, are now the great features of the day. For Christmas is a feast day in the church's calendar. Roast geese, plum puddings, and mince pies, are the proper, leading and historic dishes of Christmas, as turkey, pumpkin pie and baked beans are of Thanksgiving. Merry Christmas! Often called the children's festival, what day so dear to the heart of childhood as this? Ah, we are all children again on this happy day. Let us touch old memories:

" 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care  
In hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there."

And St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, came too, from somewhere, perhaps from the far off regions of ether, noiselessly down the chimney, as tradition says, with his loads of gifts, and filled the stockings.

Then, when can we ever forget the home and church decorations, or the family Christmas tree, or the great evergreen tree in the

church on Christmas eve, or the Sunday school, which has now so long and so properly been one of the great features of this festival? What a wonderful tree, with its lights and ornaments and generous presents.

“The Christmas tree is a bonnie tree,  
Strong and straight and brave to see,  
Each branch and shoot from crown to root,  
Is clustered thick with rarest fruit,  
Such fruit as never on any shore,  
Was known to grow on a tree before.”

Hark! how the voices burst forth, in the joyous carol,

“Gather around the Christmas tree,  
Every bough bears a burden now.  
They are gifts of love for us we trow,  
For Christ is born his love to show  
And give good gifts to men below.”

And let us not forget, on this day, greatest of all in its geniality and beneficence, the poor, the sick, the friendless. They, too, must be made to rejoice in the abundant charity and kindly sympathy of friend and neighbor. Let the waifs, the orphans, the homeless be hunted up, and made to share our abundance. And this must become the distinctive feature of this day. As we revere Him, who was the friend of the poor, and taught us that we must love our neighbors, as ourselves, that it is better to give than to receive, so must we on this glad day remember the poor, the needy, and the outcast. Merry Christmas! With what curious customs it has been kept through the centuries by the various nations. The queer songs, the gleeful carols and the great feasts, in the old baronial halls of Europe—the Christmas legends, the decorations, the holly-boughs and berries and the mistletoe, the Christmas flowers, the Yule logs and cheerful hearths, when the great fires “went roaring up the chimney wide,” all rise in visions before us, and we hear again the sweet music of Christmas bells and chimes, but we cannot write of them here.

As one after another of the human systems of philosophy from Hermes Thismegistus, to our own day, which have sought, on the basis of mere reason and natural law, to provide for man’s moral government, improvement and elevation, fail, it becomes evident that Jesus Christ, the Christ life and Christ teachings afford the only assurance and hope of man’s true progress and permanent happiness on earth, and this is the only power to unlock for him the gates of heaven. The world, indeed, has no influence, or power, even in its highest forms of civilization, nor in any of its systems of philosophy, or its mere human systems of education, to produce the Christian life. That life is the fruit of grace. And none can come to the true knowledge of God, His will and His ways, but

through this life and grace, as found, and found only, in Jesus the Christ. The whole record of our race but shows the truth of the Scripture, that "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus' Christ" (1 Cor. iii, 2), and if this fails, all fails, ah! then indeed!

"The pillared firmament is rottenness,  
And earth's base built on stubble."

Well indeed, may we ever celebrate our Lord's nativity, and sing with the poet:

"While the angels wake the chorus,  
So let ransomed men reply,  
Chanting the celestial anthem,  
Glory be to God on high."

And now to every reader, may you ever have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

#### WINTER APPROACHES.

The first snow of the season fell on the tenth of December, and was followed by some cold weather which inaugurated the winter of 1879-80.

"When all aloud the wind doth blow,  
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,  
And birds sit brooding in the snow."

#### COUP D'OEIL.

Could we, in this year of grace, 1879, ascend to some sufficiently elevated station, on a bright summer day in August, and from thence cast a hasty glance over our county, what a beautiful scene would be spread out before us. First, perhaps, we should observe certain dark blue lines and curves, which indicate the native timber, bordering the many streams and the many crystal lakes, shimmering in the sunlight, like mirrors. And we should see over the wide reaching prairies innumerable groves and lines of forest trees which were not here when we first saw these fertile lands. And what are those dark straight lines which cross the field of view—one passing from east to west, another from north to south, and still another across the northeast corner of the county? Ah! These are railroads, and the long trains passing over them, indicate their business of travel and traffic. And see, scattered over the county the large tracts of cultivated lands, aggregating nearly one hundred thousand acres, divided into nearly thirteen hundred farms, on which you notice the many substantial farm-houses, barns and other structures, which tell of the prosperous home-life of their owners. Scanning this wide field closer, we observe certain distinctly marked points, and these are the villages of the county—the marts of trade and centers of population in this good year, Blue Earth City, Winne-

bago City, Minnesota Lake, Wells, Delavan, Easton and Huntley--and each of these places is located on a railroad, and each surrounded by a beautiful, populous and fertile, tributary territory. But see! there is another kind of points, which indicate something else, and these are the United States post-offices located in the county; Alton, Banks, Blue Earth City, Brush Creek, Clayton, Cornet, Delavan, Easton, Elmore, Emerald, Ewald, Grapeland, Home-dahl, Huntley, Minnesota Lake, Pilot Grove, Walnut Lake, Wells, and Winnebago City. And we observe, also, certain neat structures, very similar to each other, all over the county, and these are seventy-seven, or more, substantial district school houses. And we also see many buildings of a larger kind, with spires pointing always upward, and these are the many churches erected to the worship of God. And we see here too, grazing quietly, on the green grasses of this wide area, innumerable herds, large and small, of milch cows and other cattle, and horses and sheep, and we notice hundreds of people busy at work in the fields and about the farm houses. And see those wide lines, stretching across the county in every direction. These are the public highways, and you observe that they are well worked and well bridged, and upon them, going to and fro, are many people, traveling on business, or pleasure, droves of cattle, hogs and sheep, and the white covered wagons of the immigrants coming in to locate among us, or passing through, to more distant localities. How vastly changed is all this scene, from what it was, when we first beheld this region, a quarter of a century ago! And it is indeed a goodly land.

#### A NEW ERA.

The year 1879 marked the beginning of a new era in the condition of the whole country—a period of returning prosperity and progress.

For nearly ten years the country was passing through the most unparalleled depression in every branch of industry, as has been more fully detailed in some of the preceding years of this history, but with the incoming of 1879 a new and better day dawned upon the country, and everywhere was heard the happy exclamation "the good times have come." And the evidences that such was the fact, were numerous, palpable and cheerful. This year saw everywhere the revival of long stagnant business. On the first day of January, 1879, specie payment was resumed by the government, in pursuance of the act of congress passed several years before, fixing that day for resumption. That great event, looked forward to with great hopes by many and with fear by others, took place without causing the least excitement in the business world. Indeed resumption had practically taken effect some months before, as greenbacks

were at par long before the day arrived. Our currency became exchangeable, at par, in the markets of the world, with the money of the world. This event was the starting point in the financial and business revival. Money perfectly safe, became plenty, and sought investment. The furnace, the forge and the foundery went again to work, and the workers in iron and steel found their business recovering so rapidly from its long and great depression, that they were unable to supply the demand. Railroad building, which makes the great demand for iron, began with wonderful energy, and more miles of railroad were built in the United States, in this year, than in any year since 1873, the number of miles being 3,738½, and more would have been built, could the iron, which ran up to an enormous price, have been had. Over four hundred miles of railroad were built this year, in Minnesota. Some twenty of which were built in this county.

Turning to commercial interests, it was said that on one bright day in June of this year, more steamers gathered in New York harbor than had ever before been seen in that great mart of commerce. Our foreign trade had been, for several years, increasing, until now our exports far exceeded our imports, leaving a large balance of trade in our favor, causing the shipment to this country, of many millions of dollars in gold, to balance accounts.

Our cotton factories all went to work again, running on full time, and our manufactures of all kinds were sent abroad more than ever before. All these awakened industries created a demand for labor, which rapidly increased, and many thousands of working men, skilled and common laborers, who had for some years been out of employment, and had been reduced to great destitution, went to work again, on full time and full pay.

The mines of precious metals, too, increased in their products. The *Miner's Journal* said, that during this year, American mines produced \$80,000,000, and this great yield mainly stayed at home.

As a result of all these favoring causes, the wholesale and retail trade of merchants also greatly revived. The demand for all kinds of manufactured goods increased rapidly, and millions of dollars' worth of goods, long stored in warehouses, were brought out and sold at good figures. But this is not all, nor the best of this summary of revived industries. In this happy year, that great industry which lies at the bottom of all real national prosperity, agriculture, was also highly favored in abundant harvests and fair prices throughout the nation. A number of years of bad harvests in Europe made a demand for a large share of our agricultural and other food products. Many millions of bushels of our surplus wheat, millions of pounds of beef, pork, hams, bacon, butter, cheese and tallow, were exported to foreign countries, the value of which

returned to us in gold, with which to build railroads, and inaugurate other great enterprises, which added to the general prosperity. This prosperity of the agricultural interests was the chief element in the general prosperity of the country, making the revival of business in many other lines possible. But many causes, however, which cannot be named here, contributed to bring about this new era.

Locally, our county shared in the general revival. A new spirit of enterprise and hopefulness was infused into the hearts and lives of the people. The hard years of scarcity of money, grasshoppers, short crops, small prices, seemed to have gone by, and all looked upon the future with great cheerfulness and confidence, and they were not disappointed. New lands were broken up, the trade of our merchants greatly extended; payments became prompt, wheat and other products brought fair prices, two new railroad markets were established in the county, to the great convenience of large districts of country. A competing line of road was secured, many new structures were erected in the county, mechanics of all kinds found plenty of work, and money was plenty, and could be had on long or short time, at ten per cent. and even less. The better days, so long hoped for, had come, with an outlook for the future of the best assurances. And, notwithstanding the steady, sure, substantial, even rapid progress of our county, a progress manifest in each succeeding year, which the writer has had the pleasure of recording in these pages, made in face of many discouragements, it is, nevertheless, a most grateful task to him, to close this volume of our history with the record of a year of such activities, prosperity and bright prospects for the future as this, the last. And now—

“The long day’s task is done,  
And we must sleep.”

## PART SECOND.

---

### Brief Descriptive and Historical Sketches of the Several Townships in Faribault County, Minnesota.

---

“Rise too, ye shapes and shadows of the past,  
Rise from your long forgotten graves at last,  
Let us behold your faces.” \* \* \* —*Longfellow.*

---

#### PREFATORY REMARKS.

In Part First of this work we have treated of those matters which pertain to the history of the county generally, and as a county. But the county is divided into twenty sub-divisions, and each of these has its own local history, which could not be advantageously included in the general history of the county; yet the history of these several localities, or sub-divisions, is a part of the history of the county, and this work would be far from complete should it be omitted, and it is proper, therefore, now to enter upon the history of the several townships which constitutes Part Second, of this work. These sketches contain an account of the first settlement, organization, names of early settlers and interesting events, of each township, from its first organization to the close of 1879.

Attention may here be called to the fact, that a valuable part of this history consists in the lists of names here given, of all the inhabitants of the several towns, as they appear on the rolls of the national census, taken in June, 1860. And these are they, who are entitled to the honorable designation of “old settlers,” and whose names should go down to posterity as those who laid the foundations of our county, and changed the wilderness into the happy abode of free and enlightened people. And this record shall be their patent of nobility, to which their descendants, for generations, may refer with pride. And it is just as honorable a beginning, to boast of, as that of those who began their family history with Hugh Capet, in France, or with the coming in with William the Conqueror, in England, or at the landing of the Pilgrims, from the *Mayflower*, on the desolate shores of New England. Often the brave, self-sacrificing

men and women who spent their lives amid the hardships of pioneer life, receive not the credit that is due their industry, foresight and achievements, and are forgotten, while some subsequent, ambitious and unscrupulous individuals, seeking to magnify their own importance, rob the early settlers of their just honors. While great care has been taken to have every name, date, and statement correct, yet some errors may exist, but if any, the mistakes are few and of but little importance. Much of the information contained in these pages was obtained from the old settlers themselves, and from the records of the several towns.

A brief biographical notice is given of the first settler of each town, and of the person after whom the town was named, where such was the fact, and of a few others who bore some special relation to the town, or to some important event or office, but no extended notice could be given to other early settlers, just as worthy, in many respects, as it would render the work too voluminous. But the great majority of the early settlers, and many of later date, will find their names, at least, mentioned somewhere in these pages. Prior to the organization of township government, the whole county was divided into election precincts, each of which comprised a number of towns. Judges of election, justices of the peace and constables were elected or appointed in the several precincts. By the act approved August 13th, 1858, known as the township organization act, it was, among other provisions, enacted "That the governor is hereby authorized and required to appoint three persons to act as commissioners in each of the organized counties of this State, who shall be residents thereof, to divide such counties into towns, under the provisions of this act."

The governor, accordingly, appointed Andrew C. Dunn, James S. Latimer and R. P. Jenness such commissioners, who, for convenience in this history, have been designated special commissioners. They met at Winnebago City on the twenty-seventh day of September, 1858, and proceeded to the performance of their duties. The result of their action is embodied in the following report made to the register of deeds, October 1st, 1858.

*"To the Register of Deeds of the County of Faribault, State of Minnesota:*

SIR:—The undersigned commissioners appointed by his excellency, the governor of the State of Minnesota, to divide the county of Faribault into towns, in pursuance of the act of the legislature of the State of Minnesota, entitled an act to provide for township organization, approved August 13th, A. D. 1858, do, in conformity to the said act, make this their report. The commissioners have taken and adopted for the boundaries of the towns, the government surveyors' stakes, and have divided the county as follows, and with the following names:



TOWNSHIP.	RANGE.	NAME.
One hundred and one.....	Twenty-four.....	Lake
One hundred and one.....	Twenty-five.....	Seely
One hundred and one.....	Twenty-six.....	Campbell
One hundred and one.....	Twenty-seven.....	Dobson
One hundred and one.....	Twenty-eight.....	Pilot Grove
One hundred and two.....	Twenty-four.....	Foster
One hundred and two.....	Twenty-five.....	Brush Creek
One hundred and two.....	Twenty-six.....	Emerald
One hundred and two.....	Twenty-seven.....	Blue Earth City
One hundred and two.....	Twenty-eight.....	Johnson
One hundred and three.....	Twenty-four.....	Cobb
One hundred and three.....	Twenty-five.....	Walnut Lake
One hundred and three.....	Twenty-six.....	Barber
One hundred and three.....	Twenty-seven.....	Prescott
One hundred and three.....	Twenty-eight.....	Verona
One hundred and four.....	Twenty-four.....	Douglass
One hundred and four.....	Twenty-five.....	Marples
One hundred and four.....	Twenty-six.....	Lura
One hundred and four.....	Twenty-seven.....	Guthrie
One hundred and four.....	Twenty-eight.....	Winnebago City

The commissioners have in conformity to the law aforesaid, attached certain towns to others, as follows: The town of "Lake" is attached to the town of "Seely." The town of "Campbell" is attached to the town of "Dobson." The town of "Johnson" is attached to the town of "Pilot Grove." The town of "Emerald" is attached to the town of "Blue Earth City." The town of "Foster" is attached to the town of "Brush Creek." The town of "Prescott" is attached to the town of "Verona." The towns of "Cobb" and "Douglass" are attached to the town of "Marples." The towns of "Lura" and "Barber" are attached to the town of "Walnut Lake." All other towns are separate and unattached. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated Winnebago City, Sept. 27th, 1858.

ANDREW C. DUNN,  
 JAMES S. LATIMER,  
 R. P. JENNESS.

Commissioners.

It will be seen from the above report, that the boundaries of the the several towns, as named for civil purposes, were the same as the boundaries of the land survey, or congressional township, being twenty in all. It should also be observed that by attaching one or more towns to another, for civil, or township purposes, there were created eight town districts, and that there were but two congressional towns—Guthrie and Winnebago City—each organized separately, the result being ten separate township organizations in the county: All the congressional townships in the county are now (1879), separate town organizations, being twenty in all. Upon the filing of the above report, the register of deeds, then J. A. Kiester, in pursuance of the act above referred to, caused the election notices for the first town elections to be posted up, appointing October 20th, 1858, for the election of officers in each town or town district. Several of the towns failed to hold elections and organize, in con-

sequence of which the county commissioners appointed officers for such towns. These town officers, whether elected or appointed, were to hold their offices until the succeeding annual town meetings, which were to be held on the first Tuesday of April, annually. At the succeeding town meetings, April 1859, being the first regular town meetings held in the county, all the towns, with two or three exceptions, were fully organized, which organization has continued to this day. By act of February, 1870, the time of holding the annual town meetings was changed to the second Tuesday of March. The township authorities comprise the following officers: Three supervisors, one of whom is designated as chairman—a town clerk, an assessor, a treasurer, two justices of the peace, two constables, a pound master and an overseer of roads, for each road district. The justices and constables hold their offices for two years, the other officers for one year. For the official duties of these several officers the reader is referred to the town laws. In these remarks, and in the following history, the words "town" and "township," are used as synonymous, as they are understood to be in common usage. By the township organization act of 1858, the chairman of the several boards of town supervisors, were members of and constituted the board of county supervisors, and superseded the board of county commissioners. The county supervisor system existed but a short time in this county. This system added much to the dignity and importance of the duty of chairman of the board of town supervisors, and it may be remarked here, that the county board was never composed of more able and efficient men, than it was during the existence of this system.

The geographical divisions, known as towns, or townships, established for governmental purposes, appears to have originated in Germany about the beginning of the tenth century, and have now existed for many centuries in most, if not all the governments of Europe, but in many different forms. The system was introduced into portions of America at an early day of its history. The township system of local self government is found in its most complete form in the New England States, and there the county is not the unit of government and quite unimportant. In almost all the southern states, and in several of the northern states, the county is the unit and smallest division of local government divisions, and the powers of the towns, in this respect, are comparatively of little consequence, the towns being, as a rule, merely election precincts. In most of the middle and northwestern states, a compromise system of town and county government exists. Such is the fact in this State. Here the town is a body corporate, may sue and be sued, may purchase and hold lands within its own limits for town purposes, may make certain contracts, purchase and hold personal

property, and has power to do many other things of a beneficial, local character, as the election of its own officers, the laying out of roads, building of bridges, the levying of certain local taxes, the making of by-laws, in reference to various subjects, all such powers being clearly defined by statute. Within certain limits established by law, our town governments are small republics, established for local self-government, and independent of all other towns, and of the county. It is, perhaps, not too much to say that our system of township government, if carefully preserved, will form a safeguard, in a large measure, against the consolidation and centralization of governmental powers in the state, or nation, and be the security of our free institutions, and of popular self-government. The powers of towns should be extended to all those matters of local interest which can be best understood and regulated by the people themselves who are immediately concerned, and they should be jealous of all restrictions, or limitations by the State, and especially of the absorption of their local powers of government by any larger body. Political power should be kept as closely as possible to its source—the people.

The appropriate following words are quoted from M. DeTocqueville's *Republic of the United States*, page 70:

“The citizen is attached to his township because it is independent and free; his co-operation in its affairs ensures his attachment to its interests; the well-being it affords him secures his affection, and its welfare is the aim of his ambition and of his future exertions; he takes a part in every occurrence in the place; he practices the art of self government in the small sphere within his reach; he accustoms himself to those forms which can alone ensure the steady progress of liberty; he imbibes their spirit, he acquires a taste for order, comprehends the union of the balance of powers, and collects clear, practical notions of the nature of his duties and the extent of his rights.”

We may now close these observations with the remark, that the importance of choosing the best men the town affords—men of good judgment, experience and integrity, to fill the town offices, must be obvious to every one. And the most learned and honorable need not deem it derogatory to their dignity to hold a town office. James Madison, after retiring from two terms of the presidency of the United States, accepted the chairmanship of a small agricultural society near his home. James Monroe, after a service of, also, eight years, as president, retired to private life, and accepted, and held for years, the office of justice of the peace; and John Tyler, after the expiration of his presidential term, served his township, for a time, as overseer of roads. Certainly, after such high examples, no man need be ashamed to hold these small, local offices.

In speaking of the first settler, or settlers, of the several towns, there are certain distinctions to be kept in mind. Actual, or permanent settlers, were those who came here with the purpose of remain

ing, and who filed upon lands, and remained as permanent residents of the county, for some years, at least. There was another class of settlers—mere transients—who simply came to get lands, and who filed upon their “claims,” and remained the length of time required by law—ten, thirty or ninety days, as was the fact for several of the first years, and then left to “prove up.” Some such returned, in subsequent years, but many never returned. The mere pre-emption of lands did not make an actual settler. In range twenty-four, the lands were “in market” from the first, that is, could be purchased of the government, at once, without settlement or improvement.

---

## CHAPTER I.

---

### DUNBAR TOWNSHIP.

#### LOCATION AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.

Dunbar is “land survey” township, one hundred and four, (104) north, of range twenty-four (24) west, and lies in the northeast corner of the county. As to the surroundings of the town, it is bounded on the north by Waseca county, on the east by Freeborn county, on the south by Clark township, and on the west by Minnesota Lake township. This is a prairie town. The general contour of the surface is somewhat undulating, the descent being mainly from five to fifteen feet from the higher portions, by long slopes, to the sloughs. The town is drained, principally, by the Big Cobb river, a small stream, two branches of which, having their confluence on section eleven, pass through the eastern and northeastern portions of the town. There are no other streams in the town, except several slough runs. The average estimated height of the town, above the level of the sea, is 1,120 feet, though there is a higher point near the southeast corner of the town, which is about 1,150 feet. The general slope of the surface descends, mainly, though almost imperceptibly northward. The bed rock, beneath the drift, lies at a depth of, perhaps, 120 to 150 feet, and consists mainly of gray sandstone and whitish limestone. The soil of this town is the same as that of the county generally, and is very fertile and well adapted to grain raising and grazing. Good water is easily obtained by digging a reasonable depth, and this town lies in a section of our county in which artesian fountains, or flowing wells, are obtained at little cost. There are several such fountains in the town. There was a remarkable flowing well obtained on the farm of Mr. L. C. Taylor, in 1874. In February of that year, Mr. Taylor employed some men to bore a

well for him, with an eighteen inch auger. They passed through compact yellow and blue clay without interruption, to a depth of ninety-six feet, when suddenly, the auger with the rods attached, weighing 1,500 pounds, were raised up with tremendous force, some eight feet, when the rods came in contact with the derrick, and the water began to flow, and on taking out the auger, flowed a stream of great volume and velocity for about four hours, flooding everything. The stream then decreased to a diameter of about two inches, and has so continued to flow, but a remarkable circumstance is, that at intervals of a few weeks, the same original rush of water occurs for a short time. The wide spreading landscape here, is very beautiful. Numerous groves, cultivated fields and many well-built farm houses and barns, are seen on every hand. The most distant part of the town is not more than seven miles, on a direct line, from a railroad market at Wells, and a portion of the town is quite near a railroad market, at Minnesota Lake, and Wells and Minnesota Lake are the commercial or trading points, of this town. The line of the Central Railroad passes through the southwest corner of the town.

#### THE NAME.

This town was named Douglass, by the special commissioners in 1858, in honor of the Hon. Stephen A. Douglass, who was at the time among the most active and noted statesmen of the period. It was attached to Marples, now Minnesota Lake township, for civil purposes. But it subsequently appeared that there was another township in the State, which had secured the name of Douglass, and hence the State Auditor, then Hon. William F. Dunbar, directed the name to be changed, with those of several other towns, and the board of county supervisors, on January 4th, 1859, named this town Dunbar, in honor of the State Auditor.

William F. Dunbar was born in Westerly, R. I., November 10th, 1820. He received a common school education. From this place his family removed to Connecticut, and from thence to Massachusetts. At the age of twenty-two years, Mr. Dunbar went into the mercantile business at South Hadley Falls, Mass., where he continued some years. In 1843 he was married to Miss L. P. Rice, and they have had eleven children. In 1854 he came west and settled in Houston county, in this State. He was a member of the territorial legislature at the session of 1855-6, and in 1857 he was elected the first State Auditor of the State of Minnesota, and became a resident of St. Paul for some three years. His term of office expiring, he returned to Houston county in 1861.

The name of Dunbar is one of some distinction. A William Dunbar, who lived in the latter part of the 15th century, was a very eminent Scottish poet. There is also a seaport town of Scotland

named Dunbar, and there are six post offices in the United States of this name.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

A. L. Taylor and his father, Lucerne C., and family were, so far as the writer has been able to learn, among the very first settlers of Dunbar—perhaps the first permanent settlers.

A. L. Taylor preceded his father and family in his settlement here. The former located in Dunbar in 1856. He entered some eight hundred acres of land, and broke up one hundred and sixty acres, and raised a crop of sod corn. A. L. Taylor was born in New York state, February 2d, 1840, and came to Minnesota as above stated. He enlisted during the war of the Rebellion in the fourth Minnesota Infantry, and served four years. He was in thirty-seven battles. In 1868 he was married to Miss Ida M. Thomas. In 1870 he removed to the then new village of Wells, in this county, and engaged in business. In 1882 he went to North Dakota, where he opened a farm and spent one season, when he returned to Wells, where he has since lived. He was a county commissioner of this county for some years. Mr. Taylor is a republican in politics, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

Lucerne C. Taylor, father of A. L. Taylor, came with the remainder of the family to Dunbar township in 1857. His family then including A. L., was made up of his wife, eight sons and two daughters. He settled on the northeast quarter of section twelve. Mr. Taylor was born in Saratoga county, N. Y., in 1812. Coming west, he resided for a time in Wisconsin, and from thence came to Minnesota. He has always been a farmer by occupation. His sons located around him in this town. Such was the manner of family settlements in the patriarchal age.

#### ORGANIC.

This town remained attached to Minnesota Lake township (originally Marples township) until, on the petition of Spencer J. Armstrong and twenty-four other citizens of the town, it was detached by the board of county commissioners at their session held March 19th, 1866. The commissioners directed that the first meeting for the election of town officers be held at the house of L. C. Taylor, on the third day of April, 1866, and notices were posted accordingly. Since that time the town has been a separate and independent organization.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school house was erected in this town in, or about, the year 1864. There are now (1879) three good school houses in the town, and the people manifest a commendable interest in the subject of education.

STATISTICS.

Population—At the census of 1865 and the prior one of 1860, the inhabitants of the town were enumerated with the people of Minnesota Lake township. The population of the town, by the census of 1870, was 203, and by that of 1875, 247, and in 1880, the number was 368. The population of this town is almost wholly of German nationality.

The agricultural productions in 1879 as nearly as can be estimated from the reports, were of wheat, 44,000 bushels; oats, 36,100 bushels; corn, 20,900 bushels; barley, 2,355 bushels; potatoes, 3,353 bushels; syrup, 618 gallons; flax seed, 450 bushels; butter, 19,675 pounds; wool, 1,770 pounds; apple trees growing, 1,200; bearing, 356; apples grown, 121 bushels. The number of acres of cultivated land, was 4,900. Stock, etc., in 1879: Horses, 211; cows, 226; other cattle, 291; sheep, 327; hogs, 168; wagons and carriages, 63; sewing machines, 17; organs, 1.

VALUES IN 1879.

Assessed value of all personal property.....	\$17,325.00
Assessed value of all real estate.....	157,324.00
Total.....	<u>\$174,649.00</u>
Total amount of taxes assessed for the year.....	\$2,189.06

In the closing year of this historical sketch, the affairs of the town were in the care of the following town officers: supervisors, Wm. Schroeder, Wm. Tellet and August Ganskow; clerk, James Nixon; treasurer, E. S. Behm; assessor, S. J. Taylor; justice, James Nixon; constable, S. H. Davis. Among the inhabitants residing in this town, prior to the close of 1879, the following names are found: S. J. Armstrong, David Anthony, E. S. and Wm. Behm, H. F. and Charles and Harman Bebler, Alfred and Truman Bowen, C. and W. Brigger, H. and W. Barnick, C. T., Fred and Chas. Dumke, S. H. Davis, Andrew Eaton, Aug. Ganskow, H. Hille, W. Hohensee, M. Johnson, H. and W. Krigger, A. Kuffman, C. Kreplin, M. Kula, S. Lowry, C. Milcher, F. and J. A. and W. Miller, A. Newson, James and J. A. Nixon, E. O'Bryan, P. O'Bryan, J. Rhoda, L. Rahn, F. B. Robbins, L. Reihnore, F. Rollenhagen, John and J. C. Rasmussen, W. and F. Schroeder, F. and F. Schünke, G. Stalmacher, V. and J. Schultz, J. Schnoor, W. and J. Tellet, L. C. and E. C. and A. A. and W. and S. J. and P. R. Taylor, A. Wendt, C. Weden, and A. and W. H. Young and S. Young. Before the close of another quarter century, this township will be one of vast productiveness and great wealth.

## CHAPTER II.

## MINNESOTA LAKE TOWNSHIP.

## LOCATION.

The township of Minnesota Lake is Congressional township one hundred and four (104), north, of range twenty-five (25), west, of the 5th principal meridian. This town lies in the most northern tier of townships in the county, and is bounded on the north by Blue Earth county, east by Dunbar township, south by Walnut Lake township, and west by the township of Lura.

There are three names here, which should not be confused with each other—Minnesota Lake, which designates the body of water; Minnesota Lake, the village, and Minnesota Lake, the township. We write here first of the township. This is one of the best farming towns in the county. The lands are well divided between tillable and pasturage. A large portion of the town is prairie.

## GEOLOGICAL.

The general surface of this township is slightly undulating, or "rolling." The estimated average height of the town, above the level of the sea, is 1,050 feet. The drift here is from 90 to 120 feet, in depth, when the bed rock, consisting of limestone and sandstone, is reached. Mr. C. Barber's well, which is 140 feet deep, disclosed the following strata: Yellow till, 10 feet; soft blue till, 80 feet, to top of rock; thin whitish limestone, 3 feet; thin layered limestone, 2 feet; soft green shale, 2 feet, and gray sandstone, 43 feet. This town lies in the region of artesian, or flowing, wells, several of which are found in the town. There is a peat deposit in the town, on section thirty, of about eighty acres in extent, and of about four feet in depth. The soil, black and fertile, the result of the decayed vegetation of centuries, and the ashes of a thousand prairie fires, is from two to four feet deep.

Minnesota lake, the body of water of that name, the largest sheet of water in the county, lies in the northwest portion of the town. It is one, to one and three-fourths mile wide, from north to south, and about two and a half miles long, from east to west. It is a beautiful lake of crystal waters, having a gravelly beach, and is bordered by timber. This lake, with its agreeable surroundings, is as



attractive a summer resort, for rest and recreation, as many a more famous place, and the day will come when the necessary capital and enterprise will make it a noted resort. There are several other small lakes in the town. One on sections twenty-seven and thirty-four which is the head of one of the branches of the Maple river, and another on the south line of the town. The town is drained mainly by the Maple river, which runs in a general course from east to west through the central portion of the town. There are no other important streams. There was, formerly, considerable native timber on the Maple river and about the lake, some of which remains and which, with the numerous artificial groves of forest trees, give the country a pleasant wooded appearance.

#### NAMES.

This town was named Marples by the special commissioners in 1858, in honor of Charles Marples, an early settler of the town.

Mr. Marples was an Englishman, and in his younger days served some seven years in the British regular army. He soon became a prominent citizen of the town. He had secured a fair education and considerable general information, and possessed a sound judgment upon public and business affairs, and was probably the best penman, not a professional, who ever resided in this county, yet strange to say, he had never attended any school whatever, a single day in his life. He was at one time chairman of the board of town supervisors. Some years since he removed to the state of Missouri.

The name of the town was changed to Minnesota Lake, by act of the legislature, approved February 23d, 1866.

The towns of Dunbar (then Douglass) and Clark (then Cobb), were attached to this town by the special commissioners in 1858 for township purposes.

Clark (then Cobb), was detached by the county supervisors on the fifth day of March, 1860, and on the same day Lura township, adjoining Minnesota Lake on the west, was attached to the latter town for town purposes, the town district, then comprising Minnesota Lake (then Marples), Dunbar and Lura, and so remained until January 5th, 1864, when Lura was detached and commenced its career as a separate town. Dunbar was detached in March, 1866.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Chauncey Barber and family and Nicholas J. Kremer and his brothers John and John P., were the very earliest settlers of this town, though several claims had then, perhaps, been taken by other persons, but if so, had been abandoned. The Kremers and Mr. Barber settled here in 1856. Mr. Barber remaining permanently, while the Kremers, soon after, went into Danville township, in Blue Earth county.

Mr. Barber kept the first hotel in the town, and which was, for many years, the headquarters of that section of the county, and was known far and wide as one of the principal stopping places on the road, for immigrants, travelers and land hunters, and in the days when Waseca was the railroad market of this county, this hotel was thronged by those going to and returning from the railroad. The township of Barber, in this county, was named in honor of Mr. Barber, and he was the original proprietor of the village of Minnesota Lake.

Mr. Barber came, originally, from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin, and from thence to Minnesota Lake, at the time above stated. He possessed a great fondness for hunting and fishing, and was allured to this country, largely because of the opportunity it then presented for engaging in hunting. He was a man of varied mechanical skill, and not only kept a hotel, as above stated, and which was his principal business for many years, but at times he engaged in carpentering, blacksmithing and merchandising. He had two sons, Benning W. and Ira. The former was at one time sheriff of this county. Mr. Barber himself, it appears, never held any public office.

Mrs. Barber was an invalid for some eleven years, and during the last six of which she was confined to her bed, helpless and almost demented, and during all these latter years, Mr. Barber attended her bedside, never leaving her, day or night, until her death, except when the most urgent business required. There are but few like instances, of constant and affectionate devotion. In 1878 Mr. Barber went to Utah to reside for a time, but did not sell his property here. He subsequently returned for a brief period, and disposed of his property. He then removed to Oregon, where he has since resided.

N. J. Kremer afterwards returned to, and became a permanent resident of this town, and has from early years, been one of its most active, prominent and wealthy citizens. Peter Kremer, another of the brothers, located at the lake in 1874, where he has since taken an active part in the business and public affairs of the locality. The Kremers were born in Lorraine, France, and came with their father to America in 1850, and located at Alden, Erie county, N. Y. Several years later they emigrated to Wisconsin and from thence to Minnesota.

And we now have the pleasure of presenting here a "roll of honor," comprising the names of all the residents of the town according to the national census taken in June, 1860:

*Barber*—Chauncey, Mrs. Almira, Benning W., Ira. *Barber*—Alvin J., Mrs. Martha, Gilman, Mary, Obediah, James, Chauncey, Samuel, Elizabeth, Caroline. *Brown*—Henry. *Grover*—LaFayette, Mrs. Olive, Willard. *George*—Herbert. *Harrison*—A. R., Mrs. Helen. *Marples*—Charles, Mrs. Jane, Charles, Dicey. *Merrick*—Samuel W., Mrs. Fidelia, Telford, Isabel. *Palmeston*—John, Mrs. Jane, Melissa. *Stewart*—James. *Walsh*—Henry. Whole number of inhabitants, 34.

## OLD TIME MILLS.

There was at one time, a saw mill in this town, near the lake, which did a good business for some years, and in the census reports of 1860 we find the firm of John Harrison & Co., returned, as manufacturers of lumber. The mill was operated by a fifteen horse-power steam engine. The product of lumber for one year, ending June 1st, 1860, was as reported, of black walnut, 20,000 feet, of basswood, 30,000 feet; of oak 40,000 feet, of ash, 5,000 feet, of butter-nut, 10,000 feet.

## THE OLD WIND MILL.

The following account of this curious mill was taken from a newspaper.

"Near the village of Minnesota Lake, situated on the north shore of the lake, stands an old-time wind mill which resembles in all its phases the Dutch mills of Holland. It is owned by Gotleib Shastag, an old German, and built by him some thirty years ago, and used as a grist mill. For the past fifteen or twenty years Shastag has allowed no one to enter the building, not even his wife or son.

His reason for this is a strange one. It appears that, as the story is told by an old resident, some evil-disposed person "put the devil in the mill" and for five years it (the devil) caused him a great deal of annoyance, trouble and anguish of mind. After repeated efforts he finally succeeded in getting the devil out, and he knows this to be a fact for he distinctly saw him going out in the form of a rabbit. As long as he allows no person to enter, it will be impossible for his Satanic majesty to return and renew his direful work. He is perfectly honest in his dealings, and a cut in the price of grist grinding by a competitor worries him not, for, as he says, 'God make de wind blow, and when de wind blow I grinds,' and he has an advantage over the competitor as it costs him nothing for fuel.

The building being octagon, its dimensions are larger than one would think at a casual glance. It has a diameter of forty feet, tapering to about twenty-five at a height of forty. The main arms, of which there are four, each thirty-five feet in length, are of hewn oak, ten inches at the largest end and tapering to six, and are firmly fastened to an axle on top of the mill, and to this main axle or shaft, the machinery is attached. It is necessary, as is the case with modern windmills, to keep the fans facing that point from which the wind is coming, and this mill is not so automatic in its construction as modern ones are, as the wind changes it has to be turned by hand. This is accomplished by a long sweep or pole which is framed into the roof extending to within a few feet of the ground, to the end of which a chain can be attached. The other end of the chain is attached to a capstan, and when the miller finds the mill out of wind he drags the capstan ahead a few feet, where it is caught by anchor posts set for that purpose, and with a lever draws the sweep around until the proper point is reached.

The arms, as they revolve to the highest points, reach a height of eighty feet, and although at a distance they seem to be moving very slowly, in fact they pass a given point at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour with a thirty horse power. No one knows how the machinery of the inside is constructed, but it is supposed, like that of the exterior, to be an exact counterpart of the mills in Holland. When any part needs repairing, Shastag, unaided and alone, makes the change. Even to the long arms, which are very heavy, it would be

nothing less than suicide, under the circumstances, to allow any one to assist. And so he works alone, in the words of the old song, 'Happy is the miller who lives by himself.'

#### VILLAGE OF MINNESOTA LAKE.

The village was laid off on the northeast quarter of section four (4), in October, 1866. The site of the village is on the east bank of the lake from which it derives its name, and it is a station on the railway running from Mankato to Wells. Mr. Chauncey Barber was the original town site proprietor, on whose lands the village was situated. In November, 1870, an addition known as 'Lambies Addition,' was laid out. The village was incorporated by act of the legislature, approved February 14th, 1876, under and pursuant to the general act entitled "an act to provide for the organization of villages in the State of Minnesota," approved March 4th, 1875, and N. J. Kremer, W. Lambie, Chauncey Barber, S. T. Barnes, and C. W. Appley, were by the act of incorporation designated as commissioners to give notice of a meeting for the election of village officers.

The village contains a population of about one hundred and fifty to two hundred people. There are four grain warehouses in the village at this writing (1879), an agricultural implement store, several dry goods and grocery stores, a furniture warehouse, several blacksmith shops, a meat market, several wagon and carriage shops, a harness shop, a cabinet shop, several saloons and a good hotel. The principal public building is the new brick school house, which is thirty-five by forty-five feet, and two stories in height, and is well finished and well furnished.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

It is said that Mrs. Harrison taught the first school in this township. She taught a three months' term in the summer of 1860.

The first school house in this town was erected in 1864. It is a frame building, and was first located on the lands of Wm. Gilson, but was subsequently removed to the village. There are now (1879) eight (8) substantial school houses in the town, in which are found well conducted district schools. There are more school houses in this town than in any other town in the county.

#### VARIOUS HISTORICAL ITEMS.

Up to the close of 1879, this town had furnished two members of the board of county commissioners, S. W. Myrrick and D. Catlin; a county superintendent of schools, R. W. Richards, who held that office a number of terms, and a sheriff, B. W. Barber.

The population of the town in 1860 was 34; in 1865, 290, including the town of Dunbar; in 1870 it was 564, and in 1875, 630, and in 1880, 784, including the village.





S. T. BARNES.

The population is largely Poles and Germans, with a fair proportion of Americans.

There was reported for the year 1879, for the town, 388 horses, 347 cows, 288 other cattle, 6 mules, 133 sheep, 301 hogs, 95 wagons and carriages, 20 sewing machines and 4 organs.

The assessed value of real property..... \$170,050  
 The assessed value of personal property..... 37,212

Total..... \$207,262

The total tax assessed for the year was \$5,085.

The farm products for the same year, as nearly as they can be estimated from the returns, were as follows: Wheat, 55,000 bu.; oats, 37,000 bu.; corn, 21,500 bu.; barley, 3,000 bu.; potatoes, 2,700 bu.; syrup, 1,080 gals.; flax seed, 490 bu.; wool, 470 lbs.; butter, 26,000 lbs. Apple trees growing, 1,400; bearing, 700.

There were 7,500 acres of cultivated land reported.

Among other residents of this township, prior to the close of 1879, the following well-known names may be mentioned: F. M. Andrews, C. Allace, C. W. Appley, L. Brant, W. Ford, J. Brown, A. Berger, David Catlin, T. Cote, A. Clark, L. J. Cale, Albert Crechee, A. Crechee, E. A. Cooper, H. O. Camfield, A. Crocker, H. Drager, Geo. Doremus, A. Deitman, G. H. and David Dazel, W. H. Dodge, William and John Dornfielt, S. Even, P. Tallman, John Felber, the Gillsons, William, John, Robert, George and R. G. and W. G.; G. M. Graves, F. Grunsky, R. N. Gale, W. Hunt, Jas. B. Hill, C. Hudson, C. J. Hall, S. A. Halleck, T. Jokel, Peter Kremer, J. Klenk, And. Kulah, A. Lepka, J. Latusie, J. Lutz, Wm. Lambie, M. V. McKinstry, J. Naubauar, A. P. and A. S. and C. B. Park, F. Popel, John and J. Penhiter, C. L. Pease, J. Pease, F. Petrus, D. H. Pratt, Dr. R. Parkin, Dr. A. H. Pelsey, A. Plegeman, A. Pietrus, H. Quimby, J. Robinson, A. Rahn, A. B. Stiles, Frank Schoffman, O. Schumaker, H. R. Smith, M. T. Smith, J. J. Schermerhorn, F. Stalock, P. Sonnek, A. Sonnek, Andrew Sonnek, F. Stencel, F. Schultz, M. Stalock, John Stephenson, M. Schumaker, Joseph Schoffman, Albert, Frank and John Troske, J. D. Townsend, William and August Urban, Fred Voight, John Walner, W. Wheatly, Ed. Willson, H. A. Wolcott, L. B. Wolcott.

HON. SMITH T. BARNES.

A prominent citizen of this town for many years was Smith T. Barnes. Mr. Barnes was born on a farm in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., January 11th, 1841. His early youth was spent on the farm. His father engaged in farming and merchandising until his death. Smith received his education in the district schools of the locality and at a select school. When eighteen years old he engaged in clerking

in a store at Racket River, N. Y. Subsequently he was appointed postmaster at this place by President Lincoln. His brother, George, came to Minnesota Lake in 1864, and giving favorable accounts of the country, Smith came west also and located at the Lake, May 8th, 1866. His mother, then a widow, and his brother, Frank, came to the Lake in 1868. Mr. Barnes, on locating here, went to work at once to erect a building, and in August purchased a stock of groceries and opened a store. He soon after added dry goods. In December of that year he was appointed postmaster at the Lake, a position which he held for eighteen years. Mr. Barnes, though always a staunch democrat in politics, was appointed postmaster in New York, and also in Minnesota, under republican administrations.

Benning W. Barber was in partnership with Mr. Barnes in the mercantile business which continued until 1871, when Mr. Barnes sold out. Several years later he opened a drug store. After the building of the railroad through the town, he also engaged, for some years, in the purchase of grain. Mr. Barnes was married in August, 1871, to Miss Agnes Lambie, of Minnesota Lake. They have had three children, one of whom is now dead. Mr. Barnes' fitness for office was soon apparent to his neighbors, and he was chosen town clerk at an early day, an office which he held for fifteen years. He was also justice of the peace for ten years. During those years there was no lawyer residing at the Lake, and Mr. Barnes did much of the conveyancing, writing of contracts and of wills for the people. He was also for many years connected with the school boards of the town.

In November, 1884, Mr. Barnes was elected clerk of the district court of the county, and removed to Blue Earth City. The term of office was four years. After the expiration of the term, he acted as deputy clerk for his successor, and at the general election of 1890, he was elected judge of the probate court, which office he filled until the expiration of the term. Mr. Barnes died August 8th, 1895.



## CHAPTER III.

## LURA TOWNSHIP—EASTON.

## LOCATION.

Lura is township number one hundred and four (104) north, of range twenty six (26) west. It is bounded on the north by Blue Earth county, on the east by Minnesota Lake township, on the south by the town of Barber, and on the west by Delavan township.

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

This is a prairie township, and the lands are as productive as any in the county, and adapted to grazing and the raising of all kinds of crops, usually produced in the Northwest. The fertility of this soil can never be exhausted. The general surface of the town is slightly undulating.

The Maple river, which drains the town, passes through the northeast corner of the town, which stream has, also, a western branch, which runs through the central portion of the town, in a northwestern direction. There are several other small rivulets and slough runs, which are unimportant. There is, also, a small lake about a mile east of the center of the town, which is supposed to be the source of the west branch of the river. Some timber is found on the Maple river, but not a great quantity. The farmers of this town, however, have not been behind the people of other towns in setting out fine groves of forest trees, some of which have already attained a large growth.

## SEVERAL GEOLOGICAL HINTS.

The estimated average height of the town, above the level of the sea, is 1040 feet. The northern end of a belt of slight morainic hills, extending from the southeast portion of the county, reaches several miles into the southwest part of the town. In this town, the drift deposit, upon the bed rock, is about one hundred feet in depth. The bed rock is composed of limestone, and light gray sandstone. There are a number of fine artesian, or flowing, wells in the town, mainly along the Maple river.

“Mr. Haight reports that in boring a well in this town, two miles north of Easton, he met, at sixty feet below the surface, a layer of mixed sand and grass-leaves, appearing like drift grass, on a sandy beach. This was between beds of till, and marks an interglacial epoch.”

Peat has also been found in the town, in considerable quantities, some of which has been tested and proved to be very good fuel.

#### NAME.

The town was named Lura, by the special commissioners in 1858, after Lake Lura, a small body of water, which lies about a mile west of the northwest corner of the town and which is situated partly in Delavan township and partly in Blue Earth county. The commissioners had no very accurate maps of the county, at that early day, and supposed that the lake was situated in this town. The name of Lura, is short and neat, but is not a very common name. It may be mentioned, however, that there is a post-office of this name in the state of Kansas.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Lura was attached, for town purposes, to Walnut Lake township, by the special commissioners in 1858, and was detached therefrom, by the county supervisors on the fifth day of March, 1860, and attached to Marples, (now Minnesota Lake township). The town was detached from Marples on the fifth day of January, 1864, to be organized as a separate town, and an election for town officers was directed to be held on the twenty-sixth day of January, following, at the house of O. C. Healy. But it appears that the town did not get organized at this time, for on September 7th, 1864, it was without officers, and the board of county commissioners, on that day, appointed Chester Johnson (chairman) and N. Haight and G. W. Ware, as a board of supervisors, and John Howard, town clerk.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first two settlers of this town were Osias C. Healy and John McCormick. They located in the town on the fifteenth day of May, 1856. Mr. Healy claimed the northeast quarter of section three and Mr. McCormick took the northwest quarter of the same section. They came from Connecticut, and were members of the "Minnesota Settlement Association," a more full account of which will be found in the history of Delavan township.

The following list comprises the names of all the residents, old and young, of the town in June, 1860, as appears by the national census taken in that year:

Chase—John, Mrs. Abigail, Martha, Orson, Florence, Juliette, Elva, Luella.  
 Healy—O. C., Mrs. Isabel, Mary, Ada, Oscar.  
 Kimpton—George, Mrs. Elizabeth, William, George.  
 McCormack—John, Mrs. Elizabeth, Alexander.

## EDUCATIONAL.

The first school house in this town was built of logs, on the northeast quarter of section three, in the year 1864, and the first teacher of the public schools was Mr. C. G. Spaulding. There was, however, a school kept in the town several years before the building of this house. In a letter to the writer, Mr. John Chase says that the first school taught in the town was kept in his house, and at his own expense. There are now (1879) seven good school houses in the town.

## POST-OFFICES.

There has for many years been a post-office near the north boundary of the town, named Grapeland. At one time there was, also, a post-office at the house of J. P. Emerson, on the north side of the town, known as "Fountain Brook," but this office has been discontinued. There is also a post-office at Easton.

## INCIDENTS.

An unknown man was found dead, at an early day, on the prairie in this town, by John Howard, B. A. Stowe and others, and this was probably the first death in the town, and at his burial occurred the first public religious services in the town. The Methodists organized a class and a Sunday school here in the spring of 1865, which were the first in the town. There was also a Baptist organization at an early day. Up to the close of 1879 this town had furnished to the public service a county commissioner, Joseph Claggett, who held the office six years, and a representative in the state legislature, T. S. Wrooley.

## EASTON.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway (formerly the Southern Minnesota) passes through the town of Lura, in the southern tier of sections. On the line of this road, on the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section thirty-six, is situated the village of Easton, the capital of the town of Lura. The village site was surveyed and staked out in September, 1873, but the plat was not filed for record in the office of the register of deeds of the county until March 14, 1874. The original proprietors of the village were J. C. Easton and Conrad Ruf. At the close of 1873 there were already twelve buildings on the town site. The village was named in honor of Mr. Easton, but it was for some time known as "Lura Station." The name Easton is not an unfamiliar one. There is a fine city of that name in Pennsylvania, which contains a population of about fifteen thousand people. It is to be hoped that at some day, probably in the very distant future, our village of that name may rival that of Pennsylvania, in numbers, wealth and enter-

prise. It may not be inappropriate to mention here the fact, that there are, in the United States, sixteen post-offices of the name of Easton.

Jason C. Easton, after whom the village was named, was for many years the most extensive banker and land owner in this State, and one of its wealthiest citizens. He was born in Lewis county, state of New York, on the twelfth day of May, 1823. He was prepared for college at Lowville Academy, N. Y., and entered Yale in 1847, but owing to failing health, he left during the first year. He subsequently became the editor and publisher of a newspaper, at Lowville, N. Y., for some four years. In 1851 he was married to Miss Sarah J. Johnson, of Lewis county, N. Y. They have had one child. Mr. Easton came to Minnesota in 1856, and located at Chatfield, Fillmore county, where he has since resided. He engaged, very extensively, for some time, in the grain commission business, and was for some years a director in the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company. His principal business, however, has been banking and dealing in real estate. He has many farms, and has engaged largely in stock raising, and has some of the best sheep, hogs and cattle in the State. Mr. Easton is, undoubtedly, one of the ablest, most reliable and most successful financiers of the Northwest. The village was incorporated by act of the legislature, approved March 9th, 1874.

#### STATISTICS.

The population of the town was 20 in 1860, 362 in 1865, 621 in 1870, 724 in 1875 and 648 in 1880, including the village. Of the residents of this township, about one-third are Norwegians, and the remainder are of various nationalities, but principally American.

In 1879, the last year of this history, there were in the town, of horses, 394; cows, 370; other cattle, 323; mules, 11; sheep, 932; hogs, 386; wagons and carriages, 129; sewing machines, 34; organs, 3.

The assessed value of real estate was..... \$173,882

The assessed value of personal property was..... 42,473

Total..... \$216,355

The total tax assessed on the same was \$3,022.31.

The agricultural products of the town, for the same year, as nearly as they can be estimated from the returns, were as follows: Wheat, 40,000 bushels; oats, 44,800 bushels; corn, 32,500 bushels; barley, 840 bushels; potatoes, 2,750 bushels; sorgham syrup, 990 gallons; flax seed, 3,340 bushels; tame hay, 112 tons; wool, 5,617 lbs; butter, 26,000 lbs.; cheese, 300 lbs.; honey, 200 lbs. There were reported, also, 3,000 apple trees growing, 690 of which were bearing, and 450 bushels of apples were produced. The total number of acres of cultivated land was 6,600.

While not attempting to give the names of all the early settlers of this town, the following list embraces the names of many of those who were residents of the town prior to the close of 1879, and are in addition to those already mentioned in this brief sketch: A. J. Armstrong, Jacob Bachtle, E. S. Bailey, D. G. Bailey, E. D. Bailey, G. L. Beare, R. M. Broe, A. Corey, S. Corey, C. Chaffee, G. M. Claggett, O. E. Colby, J. W. Chestnut, G. W. Corey, H. H. Catlin, M. A. Davis, John Evans, H. P. Edwards, Henry Filble, William Gale, John Gollnick, W. H. Gilpin, John Hodge, J. Holverson, Thorston Holverson, G. W. Herring, J. M. Herring, M. J. Herring, Wm. Herring, H. Haynes, A. Haynes, Jos. Haynes, M. D. L. Haight, E. D. Healy, O. W. Healy, S. E. Iams, Griffith Jones, S. E. James, E. J. Jewett, D. S. Kelley, Wm. Kauder, C. Latourell, Ed. Lang, G. C. Lang, J. Loomer, C. Lass, D. McGregor, R. J. Odell, J. Osborn, T. J. Probert, S. S. Probert, L. Pitcher, S. Pollard, B. Rand, John Rand, Carl Rath, H. L. Ridgway, J. R. Ridgway, J. S. Richards, A. Ramspot, W. Stevermere, S. W. Shoen, J. Scheid, C. Stockley, B. A. Stowe, O. B. Tenny, E. Traver, B. Traynor, A. E. Traver, E. Thayer, H. W. Woodard, J. B. Whitney, S. Warner, T. S. Wrooley, P. H. Wood, S. Wood, J. Warner, S. H. Waterman, J. E. Way, J. Weatherly, H. P. Walsh, J. W. Young.

Large portions of this town are conveniently near to railroad markets, either at Minnesota Lake, Easton or Delavan, and its future in many other essential respects also, is forever secure.

---

## CHAPTER IV.

---

### DELAVAN TOWNSHIP.

The township of Delavan is congressional township one hundred and four (104) north, of range twenty-seven (27) west. On the north of this town lies the town of Mapleton, in Blue Earth county. On the east it is bounded by the township of Lura, south by the town of Prescott, and on the west by Winnebago City township.

#### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The surface of the town is designated as mainly rolling prairie. The soil is deep and as fertile as any in the county, and possesses the same characteristics as that of the county generally.

The estimated average height of the town above the level of the sea is 1,050 feet and the drift here is presumed to be about one hundred feet in depth, to the bed rock.

There are several beautiful lakes in the town, one known as Bass Lake, the other named on the government maps, Maple Lake which is now generally called Rice Lake, and there is also Lake Lura on the northern boundary. There are several small running streams and outlets of the lakes.

There is considerable native timber in this town, and many beautiful artificial groves, the result of the forethought and industry of the people. It is probable that the first grove of trees set out in this county was planted by John Chestnut, in this township, in 1860. A few trees had been set out prior to this, along the road and in front of several dwellings, but this was doubtless the first grove. It contained two acres. And this was, probably, the beginning of that industry which has since covered our county with innumerable groves.

On the lands of Mr. Blair is a beautiful elevated grove of ancient oaks, overlooking that fine sheet of water, Bass Lake, which for years past has been a summer resort and has long been known as "Camp Comfort." Here families and small companies of people, have been wont to resort in the heat of summer for rest and recreation. Camping out under the shade of the moss grown oaks and passing many pleasant days in boat riding, fishing and hunting, or in quiet reverie. Here too, for years past, have been held every summer, assemblies of the people from the surrounding country, in attendance upon Sunday school pic-nics, Fourth of July celebrations, old settler's reunions and religious meetings and there are few, if any, more pleasant resorts to be found, anywhere, and many of the good people of the county have spent many agreeable hours here, the remembrances of which will remain with them for many years. There are other beautiful groves about this lake which are occasionally used for public assemblies.

#### NAMES OF THE TOWN.

The town was named Guthrie by the special commissioners, and there has been some question as to in whose honor the town was named. There is a southwest county of Iowa by this name. There was a very eminent Scottish clergyman by the name of Thomas Guthrie, who died in 1873, and during the last century there was a Scottish author of distinction by the name of Wm. Guthrie. We have also had a statesman of eminence, in our own country, the Hon. James Guthrie, who was United States senator from Kentucky, from 1865 to 1868, and formerly Secretary of the Treasury in President Pierce's administration. But it was not in honor of either of these men that the town was first named, but the honor was reserved for a resident of the town. Wm. and Sterrit Guthrie were among the earliest settlers of this township, and it is quite certain

that the name of Sterrit Guthrie, the first of the two to settle in the town, was in the minds of the commissioners when the town was named. The name of the town was changed to Delavan, by act of the legislature, approved March 1st, 1872, to agree with the name of the village of Delavan, some time previously located in this town.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

In relation to the first settlement of this town, the writer presents the following letters:

BASS LAKE, Minn., Aug. 14, 1873.

FRIEND KIESTER:—I am in receipt of yours of July 26th. It being harvest time, I have not the leisure I should like to give to the subjects you suggest, but will give you a few disjointed statements of the facts, as near as I can.

John S. Robertson and myself, on the 11th day of May (1856), took our claims, which we, in due time, pre-empted. He (Mr. Robertson) went off to work, and was gone about all the time the law would admit. I continued on my claim from the first—never left it. He took the southwest quarter of section nine and I the southeast quarter of section nine. Next came W. J. Dickerman, George and John Hart, two or three days later. Next came I. D. Irish and Joseph Predmore, about the last of May (1856). I. D. Irish lived on section sixteen about six years, and left. Predmore settled on the southeast quarter of section seventeen. Sterrit Guthrie and Ed. Thorpe came about the same time. Sterrit and Thorpe told me that they had been at Bass Lake a few days before I took my claim, but went west to the Blue Earth river, and spent some time looking around, to find such a place as they wanted, and concluded to come back to Bass Lake and take the claim I had selected, as they had examined it on their way west, but they found that they were too late when they returned. Wm. Guthrie did not come in until the next year (1857). The Guthries came from Harrisburg, Penn., but Sterrit had resided, before he moved here, at Vinton, Iowa. \* \* \* \*

Yours truly,  
T. BLAIR.

MINNESOTA SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION.

BASS LAKE, MINN., August 30th, 1873,

FRIEND KIESTER:—Yours of the twentieth is received. The two Harts, Dickerman, Robertson and myself, came to Mankato on the same boat. We organized in the City of New York during the winter of 1855-6, what was called the Minnesota Settlement Association, and gathered members from all parts of the eastern states and emigrated as said association to this State in the month of April, 1856. Most of the colony settled in Blue Earth county. Harts and Dickerman were from Hartford, Conn. J. S. Robertson was born in Scotland. He worked in New York City at his trade (cabinetmaker) two or three years. I was born in Scotland (October 8th, 1825.) I emigrated from Glasgow on the twelfth day of June, 1848; landed in Boston, Mass., and went to Camden, Maine, where I engaged to work, learning the trade of ship calker, serving two and a half years. I then left that place and went to New York City and worked about three years. I then picked up my tools and went on a cruise to Pittsburg, Pa., thence down the Ohio river to Louisville, Ky., thence to St. Louis, Mo., and from there down the Mississippi to New Orleans, where I worked about four months in winter, and from thence I went by steamship, by way of Cuba, to New York City, where I again worked at my trade until I came here in 1856.

Yours truly,  
THOMAS BLAIR.

Mr. Blair was married in 1856, to Miss Agnes Kirk, of New York City. They have seven children living. Mr. Blair and Mr. Robertson are entitled to the honor of being the first settlers of this town, yet but a few days passed when several other persons located here. In connection with the subject of the first settlement of the town, there is here presented a copy of the census roll of the inhabitants, taken in June, 1860, and, also, a few items taken from that census, as to some other matters of interest. It is well to remark here that there were several settlers in the town, who were absent from home, when the census was taken, and whose names, consequently, do not appear on this roll of honor.

*Alcock*—Charles, Mrs. Jane, Sarah. *Alvey*—John, Mrs. Sarah, William, Elizabeth, Mary, Sarah, Eliza, Samuel. *Blair*—Thomas, Mrs. Agnes, John. *Brans*—Cornelius. *Bandy*—Jacob F. *Burk*—John. *Conklin*—H. S. *Cole*—Perry, Mrs. Lucinda, Sarah. *Dickerman*—Winslow J, Mrs. Laura. *Fuller*—Enos, Mrs. Clarinda, Lucy, Delos, Sarah. *Gray*—Donald, Duff. *Hart*—John. *Hart*—George. *Irish*—Isaac D. *Jordan*—Hugh, Mrs. Susan, Hugh, Jacob, Sarah. *Lardner*—Patrick, Mrs. Mary, Thomas, Mary, John. *McColley*—Alonzo, Mrs. Martha, Alvin. *Morehouse*—Walter, Mrs. Harriet, James, Mary, Aaron, Jacob, Chester. *McKinney*—John. *McElsander*—Henry. *McElsander*—Napoleon. *Snell*—Appleton, Mrs. Elizabeth, Lydia, Josiah, Jacob. *Spickerman*—Horace, Mrs. Amanda, Charles, George. *Thompson*—Knut, Mrs. Augusta. *Williams*—W. R., Jeston, John, Benjamin, William, Mary, Dorcas. *Wheeler*—Wm. H., Mrs. Betsey, William, Polly, Eveline, Emily, Menzo, Sarah. *Wheeler*—Zachariah, Mrs. Martha, Ellen, Albert. *Wilson*—Jothan.

Acres of land improved, 65; value of farms, \$1,800; value of farm implements and machinery, \$215; number of horses, 5; number of milch cows, 7; number of working oxen, 2; number of other cattle, 5; number of swine, 12; value of live stock, \$625.

#### ORGANIZATION.

This town was organized for civil purposes, on the twentieth day of October, 1858, by the election, on that day, of the first town officers. Isaac D. Irish was chosen chairman of the board, and John Alvey, town clerk. The town meeting was held at the house of Mr. Irish, and there were fourteen votes cast.

At the first annual town meeting held in the spring of 1859, Thomas Blair was chosen chairman, and Mr. Alvey, clerk. This organization has continued to this day. The list of officers for the concluding year of this history, 1879, was composed of the following named gentlemen: Supervisors, E. J. Lien, chairman, and L. Andrews and W. McNeil; town clerk, John Alvey; treasurer, Wesley Hill; assessor, J. W. Jenkins, Sr.; justice of the peace, W. J. Dickerman; constable, E. Griffin.

#### JOHN ALVEY.

An historical sketch of Delavan township would be incomplete should some special reference not be made to Mr. Alvey, one of the



early settlers, and for many years one of the prominent citizens of the town. He was born in England, March 30th, 1807. He learned the trade of making hosiery and gloves, at which occupation he worked a number of years. In 1831 he was married. His wife died in 1834. In 1836 he married again, and four of his children were born in England. He became a member of the Odd Fellows society in that country, and after holding several of the principal offices of the lodge, he was elected permanent secretary. Leaving his family in England, for the time being, Mr. Alvey came to America in 1848, and located in Connecticut, where he had some relatives, and went to work in a factory. The company for which he worked kindly advanced the money to bring his family to this country, and they arrived in November of that year.

After working in the East some years, a part of the time at market gardening, he sold out some real estate, which he had secured, at a good price, and concluded to come west and procure some farm lands. Leaving his family in comfortable circumstances, he visited Wisconsin, but could there find no lands to suit him, and came to Minnesota. Here he found a claim, on government land, on section fifteen, near Bass Lake. This was in the year 1857(?) He then bought eight acres of timber of George Hart. He built a house, broke up twelve acres of sod, made some rough articles of household furniture, put up some hay, and then, in September, went to Hastings, on the Mississippi river, to meet his family, who had come on to that place, by previous arrangement, and they were all soon comfortably settled in their new home. Here Mr. Alvey opened up and improved his lands, from year to year. He always took much interest in the public affairs of the town and county. He held the office of town clerk for fifteen years. He was clerk of his school district for twelve years and postmaster at Bass Lake, until the discontinuance of the office. He was subsequently appointed postmaster at the village of Delavan, where he had removed, which position he held for quite a number of years. He was, also, school district treasurer for six years, but during many of the years of his service, he held a much more important office than those named, that of justice of the peace, for his town, which office he held for fourteen years. Mr. Alvey took quite an interest in politics, especially local. He was a member of many county, and several State conventions. When he first came to this country he affiliated with the democratic party, but, in 1859, he became a republican, and ever after adhered to that party. In 1886 he retired to his farm, and there spent the remainder of his days, surrounded by his children, all comfortably situated. In the same year he was elected county coroner, an office which he held several terms. Mr. Alvey, and his family, were members of the Methodist Protestant Church. He died in 1891,

aged eighty-four years. Mrs. Alvey died in 1889. For many years he was familiarly and kindly known as Uncle John Alvey, and will long be remembered by many old time friends.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school in the town was kept in the upper room of Uncle John Alvey's house, and the first school teacher in the town was Miss Lydia Snell, afterwards Mrs Alfred Raymond.

The first school house erected in the town was located in the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section ten (10), and was in district number eleven. It was a balloon frame, fourteen feet by sixteen feet in size, and one story in height.

There are now (1879) six good substantial district school houses in the town, and the people take a commendable interest in educational matters.

#### RELIGIOUS.

Religious meetings were held in this town at a very early day—as soon, in fact, as there were two or three to gather together in the name of the great master, and several religious societies were organized, and stated services held at an early period in the history of the town.

#### VILLAGES.

A village site was once, in very early days, laid off and staked out, on section one or two, but nothing more ever came of the enterprise than this traditional remembrance.

The village of Delavan, a station on the M. & St. Paul Railroad, formerly the S. M. Railroad, was surveyed and located October 10th and 11th, 1870, and is situated on section thirty-six of this town. It thus appears that the village of the township, instead of being located on the first, is upon the last section of the town. The original proprietors of the village were H. W. Holley and O. D. Brown.

The village was named after Oren Delavan Brown, one of the proprietors, and the name Delavan was suggested by Mrs. H. W. Holley. Mr. Brown was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., in 1837. He is the son of Orville Brown, Esq., for some years one of the leading editors of the State. Oren came to Minnesota with his father in 1856, and they located at Chatfield, in Fillmore county. In 1858 they removed to Faribault, Rice county, and from thence to Mankato, where the elder Brown became the publisher and editor of the *Mankato Record* for some years. Mr. O. D. Brown was connected with the Southern Minnesota Railroad, as engineer, from May, 1865, until February, 1875, and subsequently, he was for some years employed as engineer of the St. Paul and Sioux City R. R. Company. He acted as chief engineer in the employment of this

company, on the Worthington and Sioux Falls road and on the Blue Earth City branch of the St. P. and Sioux City R. R. He resides at Luverne, Rock county, Minn.

There are several post-offices in the United States named Delavan. The first train of passenger cars came into the village of Delavan, and consequently into the township, on the nineteenth day of December, 1870. The village was incorporated under the general act of incorporation, by special act of the legislature, approved February 7th, 1877, and embraced the following territory, "section 36, in town 104, range 27." M. White, R. B. Johnson and A. Anderson were designated in the act, as commissioners to post notices of the first election. The first post-office was established in the town, about the year 1859, and John Alvey was appointed postmaster. It was named Bass Lake post-office. It continued many years, but was finally closed, and the post-office of the town was established at the village of Delavan.

#### HON. A. H. BULLIS.

Mr. Bullis, of Delavan township, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, February 8th, 1832. He remained in the state until 1854, when he came to Minnesota and settled in Rice county. Here he was engaged for a short time in the government surveys. He then engaged in merchandising, in partnership with another young man. He soon, though quite successful, quit this business and served for five years as county surveyor of his county. He was a member of the State Legislature from Rice county, in the House, at the sessions of 1864 and 1865. He soon afterwards was appointed an officer in the United States land office, at Winnebago City, and came to that place to reside. He served in the land office three years. He subsequently removed to section 31, in Delavan township, where he opened up a large farm. He has made a specialty of raising Short Horn and Hereford cattle. He was the first person to introduce these breeds of cattle into this county.

Mr. Bullis was a member of the board of county commissioners of this county for six years, serving a part of the time as chairman. He was married October 15th, 1859, to Miss Ellen L. Pierce, of New York state. They have had three sons.

#### SEVERAL INCIDENTS.

On the fifteenth day of April, 1858, Wm. A. Miller stood on a cake of ice in Bass Lake and speared seventy-two pickerel. He speared them as fast as he could throw them out. An item from the *Post*:

## A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE CLEARED UP.

## FINDING OF HUMAN REMAINS.

"Our readers will recollect an item which we published sometime ago in regard to the finding of a human arm near Rice Lake in the town of Guthrie. It was supposed at that time that this arm belonged to a man by the name of Abel Varney, who disappeared from that neighborhood in September, 1870, and a close search was made for the remainder of the body, but with no success. Since that time other portions of a human body have been found in different places in that vicinity, but the source from whence they come could not be ascertained until last Sunday, when Mr. George McKay, who lives in the neighborhood, found the greater portions of the bones of a human body in a slough on the edge of the lake. Coroner Rose was sent for and an inquest was held which resulted in identifying the remains as those of the unfortunate Varney. It appeared as evidence that he was of unsound mind, and was last seen by Mr. McKay, in September, 1870, going in the direction of the place where the remains were found. Mr. McKay spoke to him at the time but received no reply, and afterwards went and looked for him without finding him. A small amount of money and some papers which could not be read were found with the body, and the bones which had been found previously corresponded with those finally discovered. The body was found in a reclining position in the slough with the head resting upon the right hand. He had evidently wandered into the slough, and being weak and emaciated, had sunk down unable to proceed farther, and perished there from exposure. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts, and the remains were decently interred. We believe Varney had no immediate relatives in this region."

The first and only newspaper published in this town, to this date, was the *Delavan Bee*, the first issue of which appeared June 8th, 1872, Carr Huntington, editor and proprietor. The press was removed from Delavan to Blue Earth City in December, 1874.

This town has furnished to the public service, two county commissioners, Mr. Blair, who served eight years, and was thrice chairman, and Mr. Bullis, who was twice chairman; a county treasurer, A. Anderson, and a representative in the State legislature, M. A. Hawkes.

During the years of the first settlement of this town an incident occurred, worth preserving. Mr. McDuffy, an Irishman, had been to town and procured a jug of molasses, and on his way home, following a dim trail across the unsettled prairie, he met a stalwart Indian. The Indians in those days were friendly, yet McDuffy did not feel entirely at ease, being alone and unarmed and far from help if needed. They approached each other in a friendly manner, however, when the Indian seeing the jug, pointed to it and said: "Visky, me have some." McDuffy answered "melasses, ye villain;" the Indian repeated "visky;" "melasses, I say, ye bloody son of a gun," said McDuffy; "visky," said the Indian again, and made a grab for the jug. "Melasses, ye red divil," answered McDuffy, as he struck the Indian on the head with his cane, knocking him down. "Melasses," uttered McDuffy at every stroke, as he hammered poor Lo, and then

started homeward at full run, muttering "Melasses, be jabers, and whisky too, but divil a drap will that black baste get av it now, I say."

#### STATISTICS.

The population of the township in 1860, was 88; in 1865, 367; in 1870, 550; in 1875, 797; and in 1880, 845.

Many of the people of this town are Scotchmen, and they were the first to settle in the town, but there is now quite a settlement of Scandinavians found here.

In 1879 there was reported in the town: Horses, 401; cows, 466; other cattle, 482; mules, 15; sheep, 1,599; hogs, 523; sewing machines, 41; organs, 9.

The assessed value of real property for same year was, \$190,263; personal, \$55,710; total, \$245,973. Total amount assessed on same, \$4,095.17.

The agricultural products of the town for 1879, were as follows: Wheat, 48,500 bushels; oats, 39,200 bushels; corn, 57,000 bushels; barley, 1,900 bushels; potatoes, 3,600 bushels; syrup, 1,500 gallons; flax seed, 975 bushels; apple trees growing, 4,100; apples, 320 bushels; wool, 6,550 pounds; butter, 30,000 pounds; honey, 250 pounds; total number of acres of cultivated land, 7,100.

A roll of honor, embracing the names of the "ancients" of this town, has already been given, but another list must now be presented, of those not already named, who resided in the town prior to the close of 1879, and many of whom took an active interest in the affairs and progress of the town during many years. The names of all cannot be given, because unknown to the writer, or unobtainable at this time. Among the well known names, there appears, Q. Andrews, S. M. Alvey, Wm. Alvey, C. Alcock, Even Anderson, Thos. Bailey, N. G. Bailey, H. C. Brown, M. W. Butler, L. Bemis, O. Casidy, W. F. Cox, Andrew Carson, Wm. Carson, M. A. Carson, T. W. Cotton, M. M. Cox, D. Coman, J. Currier, C. Colter, John Chestnut, Wm. H. Childs, E. A. Dutcher, J. Douglass, D. Davis, J. Everson, O. Eddy, K. Evanson, W. H. Finch, W. D. Fuller, J. Foster, D. Gray, C. Gray, Jas. Geddes, O. N. Gardner, W. C. Hall, D. T. Hodge, S. G. Hodge, E. Harding, Jno. A. Hynes, V. V. Hinman, J. Hodge, D. Hynes, A. Hassing, A. J. Hill, M. A. Hawk, O. A. Holt, E. J. Hendricks, H. Jones, O. Jenson, J. W. Jenkins, Sr., J. W. Jenkins, Jr., T. J. Jenkins, E. Johnson, J. Kinney, A. Klasen, E. J. Lein, Lars Larson, J. B. Lien, M. C. Litch, B. J. Lein, H. Larson, O. J. Lein, J. J. Lein, J. Lee, W. E. and D. McNeil, B. McDermot, W. McNeil, P. M. Marston, J. McGuiggan, F. C. McColley, Nat'l McColley, E. L. Malmain, G. McKay, Hugh McDuffy, J. Monigal, Alonzo McColley, S. B. Miller, C. Marston, J. E. Nettet, Jens O. Nettet, M. Nicholson, B. Olsen, O. Olsen, J. Olsen, G. Ol-

sen, M. Peterson, A. J. Pettit, G. Pettit, W. J. Pettit, J. D. Rorman, M. S. Reynolds, A. Raddue, A. Richter, L. S. Reed, E. H. Rowley, W. G. Reed, J. Rusho, A. Raymond, E. Stillman, Geo. Sheid, C. C. Snare, J. Smith, W. W. Smith, J. P. Smith, W. Smith, A. E. Springer, M. Springer, J. Sharpley, M. Scheid, C. Springer, H. L. Springer, A. Traynor, P. Thompson, A. W. Tenny, M. T. Thayer, A. Trowbridge, W. M. Toler, O. Thompson, T. B. Thorstonson, B. Thorstonson, K. Thompson, H. Thompson, E. C. Thorson, Wm. Waldren, Sr., L. Waldren, D. Wood, S. S. Wrooley, C. L. Wigan, Z. Wheeler, H. Westover, J. White, G. G. Young. The railroad markets and general trading points of this town are the village of Delavan and Winnebago City. Considering its proximity to railroads, its fertile soil, its industrious, progressive inhabitants, there is a grand future for this township. The second generation of its people will see its lands worth from fifty to seventy-five dollars an acre.

---

## CHAPTER V.

---

### WINNEBAGO CITY TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.

#### LOCATION.

This township is congressional town one hundred and four (104) north, of range twenty-eight (28) west. It is bounded on the north by the town of Shelby, in Blue Earth county, on the east by the township of Delavan, on the south by Verona township and on the west by the township of Nashville, in Martin county. The township lies in the northwest corner of our county.

#### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The average elevation of the town above the level of the sea is estimated at ten hundred and eighty (1080) feet. The elevation of the Blue Earth river at the north line of the county, in this town, is approximately 990 feet. The depth of the drift here to bed rock, exceeds, probably, 150 feet. The bed rock is magnesian limestone, as was indicated in the boring of the steam mill well, which is 230 feet deep. The greater portion of the surface of the township may be denominated undulating prairie, with high bluffs along the course of the river. The soil has the same general characteristics of that of the county generally, being a black loam, slightly sandy, deep and fertile.

Good water is obtained anywhere in sufficient quantities for domestic use, by digging or boring, to a moderate depth. The main

stream of the Blue Earth river passes almost centrally northward, through the town. A small branch of Elm creek is found in the southwest corner of the town. The bottom lands and bluffs of the river and some of the uplands, are well timbered. Some of the timber being of superior size and quality, and being centrally located through the town, is quite convenient to all parts of the town, and has been of incalculable value to the people. The inhabitants have also been quite enterprising in growing artificial groves, and the prairies are everywhere dotted over with these homestead protectors.

#### THE NAME.

This township was named by the special commissioners, in 1858, Winnebago City, after the village of that name, located in the town at an early day. For information as to how, by whom and when, the village of Winnebago was founded, the reader is referred to the general history of the county, for the year 1856. In relation to the subject, it will be sufficient to say here, that the village was located by a company, consisting of Andrew C. Dunn, James Sherlock, E. H. Burritt, W. N. Dunham and C. H. Parker. It is situated upon the southeast quarter of section 34, and the southwest quarter of section 35. The original town site contained three hundred and twenty acres. Several additions to the town have been laid out since. It was the first design of the proprietors to name the new village Middletown, after a fine city of that name in Connecticut—a name which was thought quite appropriate, as the village lay about midway between Shelbyville on the north, and Blue Earth City on the south. The proprietors petitioned for a post-office of that name, but could not get it, as there was another post-office of that name in the State. This name was then abandoned, and the place was called Winnebago, but they could not get an office of that name, as there was another Winnebago in the State, and so finally they named the village Winnebago City. This was, too, in accordance with the usual custom in those days, of naming every new town a city. It sounded well abroad.

The word Winnebago is derived from the Indian language and is the name of a tribe of Indians. The name was originally spelled Winnibegouk, and signified in the original language—*men from the salt water*. The French gave them the name of Puants or Pauns. They were always a haughty and turbulent people, shiftless and given to wandering. The fortunes of this tribe illustrate the fate which has attended most of our Indian tribes, and as their name will probably forever be identified with our county, as well as with other localities in our State and in Wisconsin, a very brief synopsis of their history may interest the reader.

It appears that they, with other wild tribes originally occupied the valley of the Minnesota river, but were finally driven out by the ancient Dakotas. The evidence, however, that such was the fact, is not very clear, or satisfactory. It is said that the language of the Winnebagoes is so similar to that of the Dakotas, as to indicate a common origin and relationship. They doubtless belonged to the Dakota family.

The French explorers and traders, early in the seventeenth century, found the Winnebagoes occupying a large part of Wisconsin. They were then a very powerful people, and continued in possession of the country for many years.

In 1832, they ceded all their lands, south of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, to the United States. Subsequently they were removed to what was known as the "Neutral Ground," in Iowa, where in 1842, there were some eight hundred of them on Turkey river, but more of them still remained back in Wisconsin. From the Iowa location they were removed about the year 1848, to a tract of country obtained from the Ojibways, between Sauk and Long Prairie and Crow Wing rivers, in this State. In 1855 they again removed and found a home on a reservation provided for them in Blue Earth county, a county adjoining this on the north. Here they had possession of a very fine tract of country and were next door neighbors to us. In 1863, after the Sioux outbreak, they were disarmed and the remnant of their tribe was removed to a reservation selected for them on Crow Creek, in Dakota, on the upper Missouri river. This proved a very unsuitable place for them, and again, in 1866, their location was changed, and they were placed at Winnebago, Nebraska. Here, in 1874, they numbered 1,445 souls, and had made some advances in civilization, as they had at that time quite a number of farms, cottages, stock, and clothed themselves as white people, and had three schools in operation. Some of the tribe, however, still remained in Wisconsin, and a few of them are still to be seen in Minnesota, but only a few years will pass away, when they, as many other tribes, will have become extinct.

There is a county in the state of Illinois and one in Iowa, adjoining ours on the south, and one in Wisconsin, named Winnebago, and a large lake of that name in the latter state, and a township in Houston county, in our State, and three or four post-offices in the United States, named Winnebago.

But now to resume our history of the village. The village was first incorporated in the year 1857, in which act A. C. Dunn was designated as president, and E. H. Burritt, James Sherlock, C. H. Parker and W. N. Dunham, were named trustees. But it was more fully and completely incorporated by the act of the legislature of 1874. Many amendments have been made to these original acts,



which will be found noted from year to year in the general history of the county. The first incorporation was procured mainly for the purpose of securing title to the town site lands from the general government and the subsequent division of the property among the original owners. One of the great events in the history of the village was the location of the United States Land Office at this place in 1861. It proved to be a great benefit to the village, and also to the county. The office remained here until August, 1869, when it was removed to Jackson, Minn. The first newspaper published in the town was the "*Whig of '76*," Carr Huntington, proprietor and editor. The first issue occurred on the thirty-first day of October, 1863. The subsequent history of the newspaper press of this town will be found in the general history of the county. Mr. J. L. Christie bought out this paper in March, of the next year.

J. L. CHRISTIE.

The facts of a somewhat remarkable career, condensed from a fuller statement. Indomitable pluck and energy win at last.

He was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, December 17th, 1841. In 1844 his father with his family removed to Calhoun county, Ill.—a pestilential region. Here his father, a brother and an uncle died. The family, poverty stricken and in broken health, return to Salineville, Columbiana county, Ohio. About 1851 they removed to Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Christie engaged in regular employment at fourteen years of age, though without education, and in poor health. In April, 1858, he came with H. W. Holley, a brother-in-law, to Chatfield, Minnesota, and went into the office of the *Chatfield Republican* and learned the printing trade. In November, 1861, he removed with Mr. Holley to Winnebago City, in this county. Here he worked for a short time in the United States Land Office. In March, 1862, he got a position on the *News*, published at Blue Earth City. In April he leased a half interest from Mr. Bonwell. In August the Sioux outbreak occurred, and the paper went down, though several numbers were published a little later. He enlisted in a company of thirty days' men, to put down the Indians, and served thirty-five days and was discharged at Chatfield, Minn. He again enlisted at Faribault, Rice county in Company H, Mounted Rangers, for one year, and was discharged in the fall of 1863.

In March, 1864, he bought the office of "*The Whig of '76*," at Winnebago City, and changed the name of the paper to *The Free Homestead*. In February, 1865, he leased the *Homestead* for one year, and enlisted in Battery H, First Heavy Artillery and was commissioned first lieutenant—went to Chattanooga, Tenn., where the company remained until September, when it was mustered out. In October, 1865, he returned home and assumed the control of the *Homestead*.

He was married, October 10th, 1866, to Miss Annie Coggrave, of Faribault county. Five children have been the fruits of the marriage.

In February, 1867, he sold the *Homestead* to E. A. Hotchkiss. In August, 1868, he bought the *Southern Minnesotain*, at Rushford, Minn., and moved the outfit to Lanesboro, Minn., and on September 10th issued the first number of the *Lanesboro Herald*, which, after three years, he sold, and in November, 1871, returned, with his family, to Winnebago City, and for a time worked in various places, until April, 1873, he bought the *Houston County Journal*, at Caledonia, Minn. In November, 1873, he sold the *Journal*, but worked in the office until

February, 1874, when he and family returned again to Winnebago City and here bought the *Winnebago City Press*. He published the *Press* nearly six years and sold it in November, 1879, to Wm. Allen. In November, 1879, in partnership with Gen. Baker, he purchased the *Mankato Union* and the *Record* offices, consolidated them, and produced the *Mankato Free Press*. In August, 1880, they sold out to Woodard and Foss.

In October, 1880, he removed to Blue Earth City and established there the *Faribault County Journal*, which he published about a year, and then in December, 1881, he removed with his press material to Superior, Wisconsin, and united the material with that of the *Superior Times*, owned by Mr. Bordon, and in January, 1882, he took up the work of editing and publishing that journal. Here great prosperity, certainly deserved, attended his venture. He acquired considerable wealth. Mr. Christie has always been a Republican. He and his family were members of the Methodist church. Mr. Christie and family continued to reside at Superior until his death, which occurred in December, 1895.

The Southern Minnesota Railroad (now the C. M. & St. P.) was completed to the village early in 1871, and remained the western terminus of the road until 1878, when it was extended westward. And during all this time, this little city was the principal grain market and trading point of a large district of country.

In the year 1879, the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad, (now the C., St. P., M. and O. R. R.), running from Lake Crystal southward, was built through this city and township, giving the city direct outlets to the east, west, north and south. The town gave aid, at various times, in the form of local bonds, or town bonds, to encourage the building of these roads, as did other towns in the county.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

From a letter received from Austin R. Nichols, it very satisfactorily appears that he and Henry Roberts were the first settlers of this township. He says they were in the town, and cut house logs on the 16th and 17th days of April, 1855, but left the county—that they returned in June, following, and that their actual residence dates from June 8th, 1855—that Moses Sailor moved upon his claim four days before they did on theirs, and that Ebenezer Crosby came in a few days after they did. There are several slight errors in the above statements, but of no great importance, however, and such as might easily occur in the recollection of events so long past.

Mr. Sailor settled upon his claim, and commenced residing upon it on the twenty-fifth day of May, 1855, which was fourteen, instead of four days before Mr. Nichols and Mr. Roberts located. Mr. Sailor had also been in the county and upon the lands he subsequently claimed, on the eighth day of April, preceding his settlement. Mr. Sailor also informed the writer that he well recollects that sometime after he had commenced living on his land—some days, he did not remember how many, Messrs. Roberts, Nichols,

and he thought, one other person, at least the two former called on him and stated that they had struck his (Sailor's) trail (wagon track), in the north part of the county, and had followed it up until they found him. They had not then definitely taken their claims. The reader is referred to the history of the year 1855 for a more full account of Mr. Sailor's settlement.

The following schedule is a list of the residents of this town in June, 1860, according to the national census taken at that time, which will be of interest to the older settlers of the town.

*Aldrich*—Wm. F., Mrs. Louisa. *Charles*. *Burt*—Grover C. *Badger*—James, Mrs. Harriet, Samuel, Amelia, Joseph. *Burnett*—Warren, Mrs. Lucinda, Ambrose. *Brown*—Franklin. *Bailey*—Thomas, Mrs. Julia, Nathan. *Boling*—Richard, Mrs. Jane, Anna, William. *Cleveland*—Guy K. *Camp*—Sarah A. *Coggrave*—Elizabeth, John, Hannah. *Chilson*—Sumner, Mrs. Rachel. *Crosby*—Ebenezer, Reuben, Angeline, Calista. *Clabaugh*—John, Mrs. Mary, James, Lavenna, Susan, Cornelia, Emeline, Luther. *Chapel*—John B., Mrs. Catharine, Charles, Mary, Sarah, Alice, Laura, Emily, Jane, Helen, Kate. *Chapin*—Henry. *Dunn*—Andrew C., Mrs. Diana J., Mary. *Dodge*—Trustern, Mrs. Adeline, Adelia, Phebe, Albert, Mary. *Dudley*—Loyal, Mrs. Betsey, Elbert, Clara, Rufus. *Dustin*—William, Mrs. Abby, Willie, Fannie, Minnie. *Ellis*—Alva, Mrs. Ruth, Millard, Alvin. *Edwards*—John B., Mrs. Elizabeth, James, Martha, Minnie. *Goodnow*—George H., Mrs. Laura, Julius, Charles, Laura, Susan. *George*—Thomas, Mrs. Flora, Jane, Hiram, John, Jesse. *Gilman*—Horace H. *Griffey*—A. D., Mrs. Helen. *Howe*, William, Mrs. Sarah. *Hartman*—Philip, Mrs. Elizabeth, Joseph. *Humes*—John P. *Jamison*—Joseph, Mrs. Susan, Minnie. *Jenness*—Thomas. *Kimball*—Charles S., Mrs. Mary, Ella, Horace. *Kendall*—Edwin, Mrs. Almira, Edwin. *Lord*—Asiel. *Latimer*—Smith, Mrs. Sarah, Ida, Ellura, Walter. *Latimer*—Jacob A., Mrs. Julia, Daniel, Nancy, Mary. *Leise*—Benjamin F., Mrs. Lodena. *Lenox*—John, Mrs. Mahala, Jacob, Silas, George, John. *Moulton*—Geo. K., Mrs. Susan. *Madison*—Bailey. *Moore*—John, Archibald, Andrew. *Miller*—Mary, John, William, Peter, Caroline, Miles. *Miller*—William A., Mrs. Julia, Elbert, Ella. *McCabe*—Cornelius. *Nichols*—Austin R., Mrs. Mandana, Frederick, Rufus, Philena. *Oligher*—Nicholas. *Pierce*—E. *Pierce*—Frederick M. *Porter*—John F., Mrs. Susan, John, Daniel, Henry, Mary. *Patten*—James, Mrs. Ann, Eliza, Isabel, Jasper, Mary. *Randall*—Alvin R., Mrs. Harriet, Charles, Elva, Williard. *Roberts*—Helen. *Sherman*—A. P. Mrs. Celia, Carlos, Julius, William, Edward. *Spickerman*—Henry, Mrs. Elizabeth, Samuel, Alva. *Smith*—William. *Smith*—Floyd. *Spencer*—John, Mrs. Sarah, Ellen, Mary, Sarah, John W., Emily, Rebecca. *Stiner*—Joshua. *Still*—Wilson, Mrs. Ellen, Charles, Edgar. *Stauffer*—William, Mrs. Elizabeth, Emeline Melinda, Henry, Amelia. *Terhune*—Henry, Mrs. Sarah, George, Mary, Ann. *Van Nice*—Cornelius, Mrs. Susan, Caroline, Sarah, Sephronia, Philander, Clement, Henry. *Wiltsey*—Simeon S., Mrs. Mary, Sarah, Emma, Mary, Jacob, Hannah. *Wheeler*—J. M., Mrs. Mary. *Weir*—Joseph L., Caroline. *Weir*—George A. *Weir*—Daniel P., Vandalia, Elizabeth. *Young*—Hiram L., Mrs. Emma. *Yount*—Sela A., Mrs. Priscilla, William.

And these are they, who constitute that honorable company, who forever hereafter are to be known as the old settlers, of Winnebago City township.

Here is a summary of certain items of interest, which explain themselves, taken from the census rolls of 1860. Surely that was the day of small things.

Acres of land improved, 755; value of farms, \$20,000; value of farm implements and machinery, \$1,555. Number of horses, 20; number of milch cows, 30; number of working oxen, 18; number of other cattle, 43; number of sheep, 18; number of swine, 87; value of live stock, \$4,257.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The township was duly organized for civil purposes, in October, 1858, by the election of town officers, which organization has continued, unbroken, to this day. The town officers in 1879, the last year of this historical sketch, were the following named persons. Supervisors, C. McCabe, chairman, H. C. Shufelt and N. H. Dorsey; town clerk, W. W. Quiggle; assessor, F. M. Pierce; treasurer, C. S. Kimball; justices, C. H. Radford and J. V. Mell; constable, H. I. Kimball.

#### VARIOUS ITEMS.

The first building on the town site, was a log structure twelve by fourteen feet, and in this cabin the first store was kept by one Thomas Foley, for C. H. Parker, of St. Paul, Minn.

The first hotel was erected in 1856, but not completed until early in 1857. It was a log building twenty by thirty-six feet and one and one-half story in height. It was built by Dr. W. N. Towndrow, with the aid of the town proprietors. This was, in fact, the first dwelling house on the town site. During the Indian excitement in the spring of 1857, this house served a good purpose as a fort for the early settlers.

The first saw mill in the county was erected here in 1857. The mill was first owned by the town proprietors, but was subsequently purchased and operated for some years by Geo. H. Goodnow, at one time sheriff of the county. Mr. Goodnow attached a set of burrs, to the power, and this was the first grist mill in the county.

Blue Earth Valley Lodge, No. 27, A. F. A. M. was instituted in this city, in 1858, and was the first Masonic lodge in the county. Subsequently, a Chapter—Mt. Horeb—of R. A. M. was instituted here.

A large, and for some years, a very flourishing Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, was organized in 1873. Before the close of 1879, Valley Lodge, No. 33, A. O. U. W., and Winnebago City Lodge, No. 30, I. O. of O. F. had been organized here. The exact dates of institution, are not at hand.

There are two improved water powers in the township. One is on section three, where a grist mill has been erected, and has been long known as "Woodland Mills." There is a school house at

this locality and other buildings and a post-office named "Cornet." The other improved water power is on section thirty-three, and here also is a grist mill, known as the "Banner Mills."

During the civil war, the town voted liberal sums in town bonds, to encourage enlistments in the military service, all of which bounties were promptly paid.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The subject of education attracted the attention of the people of this town at a very early day. The first school district in the county was formed in this town in 1857, on petition of John Clabaugh and others. A school house was erected in Winnebago City in 1858. This was a small, frame building. Some years later, a large, frame, two-story building, of a number of apartments, was built. A good, graded district school has been kept here for many years. There are six or seven school districts organized in the town, and good school houses erected in each. The first school in the village, and the first, probably, in the township, was taught by Miss A. D. Nichols, afterwards Mrs. G. B. Kingsley.

The various religious denominations have organized societies in the town, several of which—the Methodist and Presbyterian—were instituted soon after the first settlement. Several of the societies have fine churches in Winnebago City. There is a church building on section seven, and one on section twenty.

The history of this township, having been, for so many years, closely identified with the general history of the county, many facts of historical interest, relating to the village and township, will be found in the history of the several years which constitutes Part First

#### HON. JACOB ALEXANDER LATIMER.

Mr. Latimer, for many years a prominent citizen of Winnebago City township, and of the county, was born in the State of Tennessee, on the twentieth day of April, 1827. The family removed to the State of Illinois in 1830. Mr. Latimer's opportunities were very slim, in his youth, for an education, but he overcame the difficulties by much study and reading. He was married in February, 1850, to Miss Julia A. Meek, and they have had six children. They came to Minnesota in the spring of 1857, and settled on section eleven, in Winnebago City township, where he has ever since resided, engaged, largely, in general farming operations. Mr. Latimer has always taken a large interest in farming, since coming to this county, and has filled a prominent place in our Agricultural Society, having been president of the same and supported it, in every way, for many years. He was also prominent in the Grange, in the days when that institution flourished. In politics, Mr. Latimer was brought up a democrat, but early espoused the anti-slavery cause and helped, subsequently, to organize the republican party in Illinois, and also in this county. Before leaving Illinois, he was tendered the nomination for sheriff of Knox county, but he declined it, as he had made up his mind to come to Minnesota. Here he has frequently held town and school offices, and he was elected a member of the state legislature in 1858,

and was a member of the House of Representatives in 1864, and held the office of county commissioner in 1869, 1870 and 1871, and, in the meantime, was a member of the State Senate in 1870. Mr. Latimer is a member of the Presbyterian church.

HON. F. M. PIERCE.

Mr. Pierce was born in Putney, Vermont. He was brought up on a farm, and received his education in the common schools, and from an extensive course of reading. He learned the trade of marble cutter, and followed it until 1854, when he came to the west on a prospecting tour. He returned to the east, and in 1855 he came to Iowa, and in May, 1856, he came to this county and took up a claim in Winnebago City township, which he proceeded to improve. Several years afterwards he opened a store in Winnebago City, where he remained for some twelve years, when he again returned to the farm, which contains two hundred and sixty acres of land. Farming has since been his business. Mr. Pierce was married in 1866, to Miss Hattie Wetherell, of Mankato. To them have been born four children.

He has frequently held town offices. In 1874 he was elected to the State legislature, lower House, and attended the session of 1875. Mr. Pierce is a republican in politics, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

HON. H. H. GILMAN.

Mr. Gilman is a native of New Hampshire. He was born October 31st, 1833. He spent his early years on a farm. His education was obtained in the common schools, and at an academy in Maine. In the spring of 1857 he came west, and located at Fulton, Illinois. In October, of the same year, he came to this county and took up some land in Winnebago City township. He afterwards entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which he has ever since lived. He has held various town offices, and was elected to the legislature, lower House, in 1876 and again in 1877. Mr. Gilman was married in 1880, to Miss Sophia Quiggle, who died two years later. In 1883 he married Johanna Shatz. He had one child by his first wife and three by his second. Mr. Gilman has always been a republican in politics. He cast his first presidential vote for Fremont.

OTHER RESIDENTS.

The following list presents the names of many persons, not already named, who were residents of this township prior to the close of the year 1879:

M. Ayers, T. O. Allen, Wm. Allen, P. H. Allen, J. A. Armstrong, S. J. Abbott, C. Albee, E. H. Burrit, L. D. Babcock, Ira Babcock, F. M. Babcock, Jeff. Bathrick, Wm. Brockman, Wm. Brown, Geo. Baxter, E. Bersie, Geo. Baker, R. M. Benson, J. F. Benson, W. Baxter, C. D. Bates, F. M. Brown, C. Comstock, E. G. Collins, H. Crist, T. R. Christie, L. K. Carson, H. C. Case, L. Comstock, W. Comstock, Jas. Crays, A. J. Crusen, H. A. Chase, W. J. Comstock, S. Dutcher, R. Dudley, N. W. Davis, B. P. Doud, D. Damon, N. H. Dorsey, F. Duncason, C. Dennie, D. E. Dingman, Frank Deudon, John Deudon, T. J. Derba, J. Derr, H. J. Davlin, A. B. Davis, W. N. Dunham, A. Eastwood, T. S. Ellingson, S. Foster, C. Fessenden, M. J. Fellows, H. R. Fellows, R. C. Foot, J. K. Fairbanks, L. C. Fowler, E. Fletcher, D. Fagen, A. L. Fox, J. S. Green, J. P. George, B. F. Goodwin, D. T. Goodwin, A. C. Gayman, G. H. Goodnow, Thos. George, Z. G. Harrington, P. Huber, W. H. Huber, G. C. Hannum, O. G. Hannum, R. H. Harvey, H. W. Holley, C. F. Howard, L. Hargraves, A. M. Hewitt, W. W. Howe, O. Harvey, H. H. Howe, C. Holgate, J. Herman, J. Hartman, P. Hartman, L. C. Harrington, J. W.



H. H. GILMAN.





Huffman, E. A. Hotchkiss, W. Z. Haight, F. F. Harlow, H. M. Hall, G. N. Hillman, E. H. Hutchins, A. A. Huntington, A. Jordan, Isaac Kamrar, J. Koebble, H. H. Lewis, D. Lossing, D. A. Latimer, M. Loomer, J. Leet, P. Lutz, Geo. Lattin, H. Lester, D. Lothrop, A. Lord, A. Latimer, W. K. Latimer, E. L. Maine, Paul McKinstry, H. McKinstry, J. V. Mell, J. Mapson, R. Mapson, C. Merkle, P. Murphy, L. Murphy, J. McKibbin, S. Mitchell, G. M. Miller, J. N. Miller, Geo. Masters, A. R. Nichols, J. B. Nichols, G. E. Nelson, C. Osman, C. H. Patten, C. H. Payne, J. G. Paschke, J. Patterson, J. H. Purdy, W. W. Quiggle, T. L. Rice, O. C. Retslop, A. J. Reynolds, B. G. Reynolds, S. Rowe, Silas Richardson, J. S. Robertson, A. Robinson, J. H. Robinson, B. F. Robinson, Jas. Sherlock, W. W. Sleeper, J. Sharpe, N. D. Satterle, T. A. Sherman, N. W. Sargent, A. H. Schoonover, J. Shaffer, C. Swartwood, C. G. Slagel, F. Scholl, J. H. Sherin, H. C. Shufelt, J. W. Spaulding, J. Stauffer, G. W. Spickerman, E. Schermerhorn, J. Spencer, R. Sherrin, Wm. Smith, J. B. Tyler, Levi Turner, L. Turner, W. N. Towndrow, C. J. True, P. B. Ward, A. Whitney, J. A. White, M. T. White, Geo. Wormwood, F. Wilcox, R. M. Willson, J. H. Welch, D. P. Wasgatt, E. Wallace, F. N. Ware, J. M. Wheeler, J. J. White, S. Wright, J. S. Wallace, C. Wallace, E. Weed, J. F. Winship, B. K. Whitney, C. Weaver, N. G. West, A. H. Weed, H. S. Young.

## SOME STATISTICS.

The population of the township was 286 in 1860, 463 in 1865, 1,106 in 1870, 1,158 in 1875, 1,426 in 1880. These figures include the village.

Stock and certain other property, in the township in 1879: Horses, 525; cows, 499; other cattle, 432; mules, 7; sheep, 430; hogs, 500; sewing machines, 74; organs 23.

Assessed value of real property in 1879, \$361,113; personal property in 1879, \$89,167; total, \$450,280. Total tax assessed for 1879, \$11,460 95.

Agricultural products in 1879. (Grain in bushels). Wheat, 44,000; oats, 33,000; corn, 42,000; barley, 800; potatoes, 2,100; gallons syrup, 2,241; flax seed, 406 bushels; apple trees growing, 5,000; wool, 1,900 lbs.; butter, 3,700 lbs.; (item of butter not correctly reported); honey, 360 lbs. Acres of cultivated land in 1879, 6,000.

Up to the close of 1879 this town had furnished to the public service the following named citizens, in the several offices named: Members of the State Legislature, G. K. Cleveland, J. A. Latimer, E. H. Hutchins, F. M. Pierce and H. H. Gilman. Board of Commissioners, E. Crosby, J. L. Weir, G. H. Goodnow, C. S. Kimball, Jas. Crays, J. A. Latimer and E. H. Hutchins. Judges of Probate, G. K. Cleveland and A. F. De La Vergne. County Treasurers, Wm. Dustin and R. B. Johnson. County Superintendent of Schools, S. J. Abbott. Sheriffs, T. Foley, G. H. Goodnow, Chas. Chaple, F. F. Harlow and A. B. Davis. County Surveyors, S. A. Safford and G. A. Weir. County Attorneys, J. L. Weir and Andrew C. Dunn. Coroner, C. S. Kimball.

## CHAPTER VI.

## VERONA TOWNSHIP.

This town is "land-survey" township one hundred and three (103) north, of range twenty-eight (28) west. It is bounded on the north by Winnebago City township. On the east by Prescott township. On the south by Jo Daviess township, and on the west by the town of Center Creek, in Martin county.

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The surface of this town is quite undulating, and is cut by the main stream of the Blue Earth river, which runs by a very tortuous course, northwestwardly through the east half of the town, coming into the town at the southeast corner, and going out near the northwest corner of section three. There are also three other streams, South creek, Middle creek and Elm creek, all considerable brooks, nearly two miles apart, running from the west in an easterly direction, and emptying into the Blue Earth river.

The soil is deep and fertile. The Blue Earth river bottom-lands and bluffs are well timbered clear through the town, but the remainder of the town is rolling prairie, dotted over with fine groves, grown by the settlers.

Few, if any, towns in the county present greater natural advantages than this one, and the rural scenery here, in the summer months, especially, is unsurpassed anywhere in this region. Belts of natural timber, artificial groves, substantial farm houses and barns, and wide, cultivated fields present their attractions on every hand.

The average elevation of the town above the level of the sea, is eleven hundred feet. The depth of the drift above bed-rock, has not been determined in this town, but is doubtless considerably over one hundred feet. The valley of the Blue Earth river is from fifty to eighty feet in depth below the general level of the country.

"Indications of the existence of cretaceous beds containing lignite are reported to have been found in the southwest quarter of section 11." (Geol. Rep't., p. 460). Hopes were entertained at one time, of the existence of stove coal in this town, but such hopes are doubtless delusive.

## NAME.

It appears that at a very early day in the history of the county, it was designed to establish a mail route from Owatonna, in Steele county, in this State, to Mr. Stoddard's residence, in this town, and Mr. A. B. Cornell, of Owatonna, who it is said got the route established, gave the name of Verona to this terminus of the route.

Subsequently, when in 1858, the special commissioners were naming the towns, this name was given by them to this town. And Verona is the name of an important province in Italy, the capital city of which is named Verona, and is one of the finest and most ancient of the cities of Europe, dating back to the days of the Roman Empire. The people of this province and city are known by the name of Veronese, a name which would be just as appropriate for the good people who reside in our small province of Verona. This name seems to be quite a favorite one, as there are a dozen post-offices in the United States named Verona. And we need not forget Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona."

## FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first settler of this town was Henry T. Stoddard. He located in the town on the southeast quarter of section eleven (11), on the fourteenth day of June, 1855. This was the first tract of land claimed in the town, and the first one "proved up" upon in the county. He was accompanied by Newel Dewey. Rev. James G. Whitford took a claim in the town in June, 1855, since known as the Bassett farm. Mr. Whitford left the county, but returned in the spring of 1856, and settled here.

Mr. Furness took a claim, since known as the Nelson farm, in the summer of 1855, and moved upon it in the spring of 1856.

Henry T. Stoddard was born in Alford, Berkshire county, Mass., in 1822. In the spring of 1844 he emigrated with his parents to Wisconsin. After several years, they settled at Oakfield, Fond du Lac county, where Henry continued to reside, until he located in Minnesota. He was married in 1852 to Miss Sarah E. Dewey. The fruits of this marriage were eight children, four of whom preceded their father to the other shore.

Mr. Stoddard, in company with his father-in-law, Newel Dewey, visited Minnesota in June, 1855, as above stated, and selected lands or "claims" in this township, soon after which they returned to Wisconsin. In November of that year (1855), he brought his family to Minnesota and located upon the lands before selected. He was accompanied at this time by his father and Henry R. Walker, and Newel Dewey above named. He was the first actual settler of Verona township. Here he continued to reside for twenty-nine years, when he sold out and purchased a farm near Blue Earth City, where he resided at the time of his death. Mr. Stoddard was always a farmer by occupation. He took much interest in the early settlement of the county. He was a member of the first board of county commissioners, and one of the first three assessors of the county, and held various town and school offices during his life. He was, also, for many years, one of the vice presidents of the Old Settlers' Society. He died

April 27th, 1891, in the seventieth year of his age. His wife and four children survive him.

The following list, copied from the census rolls taken in June 1860, gives the names of all the residents, old and young, of the town at that time. and embraces all those who may be justly deemed the first settlers of this town. It should, however, be noted here that some of the persons named in this list very soon after it was taken, became residents of the town of Prescott, adjoining.

*Allen*—Patrick H., Mrs. Maria. *Brown*—Lorenzo W., Mrs. Catharine, Asaph, Nettie, Matilda. *Bartlett*—Anson, Mrs. Elizabeth, Lizzie, Amelia, Anson, Jr. *Bartlett*—Leonidas. *Bigelow*—Hartwell H., Mrs. Jane S., Jane, Frances, John. *Brassau*—Mitchel, Mrs. Margaret. *Bailey*—John. *Coolidge*—Orlando, Mrs. Mary. *Cooper*—Martin, Mrs. Chloe, Sylvester, Byron, Melissa, William, Joseph, Maria, Burton, Barney, Angeline. *Clark*—William. *Davlin*—Henry J. *Davlin*—Edward. *Dunham*—Jesse H., Mrs. Frances, Curtis, Lucy. *Drake*—Bradren E., Mrs. Sarah, Amanda. *DuGate*—Moses, Mrs. Margaret, Moses, Jr., Mitchel, Mary, Paulina, Sopha. *Eberline*—Ferdinand. *Eberline*—Edward. *Franklin*—Nathan, Mrs. Sophronia, Harrison, Sarah, Hannah, Philip. *Franklin*—Perry, Mrs. Sarah, William. *Foss*—Nathaniel, Mrs. Fanny, Jay. *Forbes*—Benj. F., Mrs. Julia, Mary, Theodore, Emma. *Forbes*—Charles H., Araisitine. *Forbes*—Benj. F., Jr., Sophronia. *Forbes*—Dudley. *Forbes*—Charles. *Fisk*—David, Mrs. Sarah. *Fuller*—Isaac, Mrs. Melissia, Albert, Sarah, Frank. *Gardinier*—Joseph. *Geiser*—Fred. *Garrison*—David, Mrs. Violet, Julia, George. *Grigg*—Benjamin. *Greenman*—William, Mrs. Charlotte. *Goldsmith*—Leonard. *Hill*—David, Mrs. Cynthia, Orpha, Earnest. *Havercroft*—Jane. *Hoyt*—Herman, Jr., Mrs. Sarah, Maria, Jannette. *Harlow*—Freeland F. *Huntington*—Eugene, Mrs. Evaline, Joseph, Flora, Ada, Henry, James. *Innman*—Ann, George, William. *Johnson*—Erastus, Mrs. Mary, Mary. *Johnson*—Rial B., Mrs. Eilen, Minnie, Don C. *Ladd*—Wm. *Lyons*—Wm. *Maiers*—James, Mrs. Charlotte, Elvia. *Maxson*—Thomas J., Mrs. Sally, William, Charles, Henry, Edgar, Cornelia. *Mason*—Allen D., Mrs. Mary, Elliot. *Moore*—John M., Mrs. Mary. *Morse*—David H., Mrs. Emma. *Marston*—Samuel, Mrs. Sarah, Lusette, Lavinia, Curtis, Pervin, Selina, Mary. *Nelson*—George R., Mrs. Sarah, Albert, Alexander, Sarah, James, Harvey, Mary, Georgiana. *Nelson*—George E., Alsaida, Anna, Henry. *Pollock*—Frederick. *Powell*—John W., Rev., Mrs. Rhoda, Sarah, Erasmus, Mary, Emma, Alice. *Pool*—Sam'l A., Mrs. Elizabeth, Cornwall. *Robertson*—William J. C., Mrs. Martha, James, Margaret, Helen Alice. *Robertson*—Charles D., Mrs. Caroline. *Robinson*—Obed, Mrs. Amyrilla, Edna, Merritt, Franklin, Fanny, Julia. *Rhoads*—Elisha, Mrs. Jerusha, Emma, Jane, Mary, Emmet. *Ring*—David, Mrs. Elizabeth, Julia, Antoinette, Jesse. *Reynolds*—Pulaski. *Sweet*—Alvin R., Mrs. Harriet, Welthy, Worth, Leland, Alice, Alvin, Charles. *Shepard*—Frank, Mrs. Mary, Frederick. *Stow*—Isaac, Mrs. Salvia, Lewis, Mary, Sarah Theodore, Isidore, Isabel, Alice. *Story*—William, Mrs. Sarah. *Smith*—Carlos, Mrs. Laura, Leslie. *Smith*—Ira, Maria, Ira, Charles. *Smith*—John D. *Sumner*—Edward, Mrs. Charlotte, Armenia, Herman. *Stoddard*—Henry T., Mrs. Sarah, Fayette, Morton, Clarancy. *Thorn*—Harrison. *Thorn*—Gilbert. *Towndrow*—Wm. N., Mrs. Harriet, George. *Torhvene*—Thomas. *Wirt*—George. *White*—Charles L., Mrs. Mary, Charles, Lousia. *Welch*—John H., Mrs. Martha, Nathan. *Walker*—Henry R., Mrs. Delia, Leander, Ada. *Wilson*—Mrs. Eliza, Mark, Georgianan, Alberta, George. *Young*—Lewis.

The "material resources" of the town, in June, 1860, are set forth in the following table, taken from the census rolls of that year:

Acres of improved land, 1,082; value of farms, \$34,500; value of farm implements and machinery, \$2,013; number of horses, 30; milch cows, 81; working oxen, 30; other cattle, 88; sheep, 23; swine, 100; value of live stock, \$7,015.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The town was organized, for civil purposes, in October, 1858. The organization has continued to this day.

The township of Prescott was, at the time, included with Verona, as it had been attached to the latter town for civil purposes, by the special commissioners. Prescott remained attached until September 3d, 1861, when it was detached, or set off, by the board of county commissioners.

The board of town officers, for the last year of this historical sketch, 1879, was composed of the following named persons: Supervisors, W. P. Spaulding, chairman, T. J. Williams and M. H. Linsley; town clerk, M. H. Oliver; assessor, H. M. Temple; treasurer, C. B. Minor; justices of the peace, A. E. Seger, L. Dwight; constable, J. F. Bassett.

#### VILLAGES.

In 1856 certain persons designed to lay off a village site, either on the southeast of section eleven, or on the southwest of section twelve, but no decision was arrived at, and nothing further was ever done about it, yet, on the old territorial maps a village is indicated at, or near, the above locality, and which, on some of the maps, is named "Dewy," on others "Verona." A portion of the village of Winnebago City was built into this town, on section two, but the territory thus used was never platted into town lots, and does not form a regular addition to the village plat, but the lands are described by metes and bounds, as fractional parts of the quarter section.

#### HUNTLEY.

The village of Huntley, on the western boundary of the town on section seven—a station on the C., M. & St. P. Railroad, was founded in August, 1879. It was at first designed to name the place Huntington, but, on inquiry, it was found that there were other places and post-offices of that name in the state, and so it was decided to cut the name short and call it Huntley. There are, however, several localities and post-offices in, the United States of that name, but only this office in this state.

#### INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

At the time of the Ink-pe-du-ta massacre, in the spring of 1857, and again at the time of the Sioux massacre, in August, 1862, this town was almost completely depopulated, for a short time, and, although no attack was made on the people of the town, at either time, yet prudence dictated the abandonment of the town for the time be-

ing, at least. The writer well remembers passing, with a small scouting party, twice through the town, west of the river, in August of that terrible year, 1862, and observing the fine fields, the many stacks of grain and fields of corn, but the dwellings were deserted, and no human being was seen, and no stock, except one poor, lone calf, in a fence corner, quietly chewing his cud, Indians or no Indians.

The first marriage in the town was that of Chas. H. Slocum to Miss Mary E. Robertson, which occurred January 7, 1858, the Rev. J. W. Powell officiating at the tying of this knot. It was a little remarkable that, at this wedding, which was a high-toned affair at that day, six of the company present were left-handed, but the host declared that he did not see but that the company had as great facility for disposing of provisions, when they came to the table, as any equal number of people he had ever seen. The first death which occurred in the town was that of a Miss Badger, and the first child born in the town was Elliot Mason, son of Allen D. Mason.

We find the following reports in an old newspaper. It may be of some interest at this day:

In 1860 there was raised in the towns of Verona and Prescott, then united, of wheat, 507 acres; oats, 198 acres; corn, 294 acres. In 1861 there was raised in the same towns, of wheat, 1,100 acres; of oats, 304 acres; of corn, 261 acres. The largest number of acres of wheat raised in said towns by any one person, in 1860, was 33. In 1861, Chas. L. White had 57 acres wheat; James M. Robertson, 54 acres; P. H. Allen had 53 acres and Chas. D. Robertson had 50 acres.

There was, for some years, a post-office in the town, on the road from Winnebago City to Blue Earth City. It was known as the Verona post-office. For a long time it was kept at the house of H. T. Stoddard, and afterwards at T. J. Maxon's. It was discontinued some years ago. The post-office at Winnebago City has always been convenient for the people of a large portion of the town.

The people of this township suffered greatly by the grasshopper devastations in 1873 and 1874, and quite a number of the inhabitants were compelled to leave the town to procure a living. In January, 1875, the town was canvassed in order to ascertain the amount of loss by grasshoppers in 1874. We cannot give the estimates in figures, and it is sufficient to say that the destruction was almost total. It was a grievous calamity.

There are a number of valuable water-powers on the Blue Earth river in this town, two of which have been for some years improved, one furnishing the power for Verona Star Mills, on the west line of section twenty-four, the other for Rising Sun Mills, on the southwest quarter of section eleven. Both are good grist mills doing custom work. A kiln of 130,000 red bricks was made on section eleven of this town in 1879.

The C. M. & St. Paul railroad was built in 1878, through this town from Winnebago City, in a southwesterly direction, giving the town a good market at Huntley. The C. M. St. P. & O. railroad was built in 1879, and passed through the northeast portion of the town. Another good railroad market is found at Winnebago City, where the latter road crosses the former.

This town, like most others in the county, voted liberal bounties to encourage enlistments in the military service, during the war of the rebellion, and paid the same in due time afterwards.

To encourage the building of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, now the C. M. & St. Paul, the town voted to grant to the company \$15,000 in interest bearing bonds, but on application of some of the citizens, an injunction was subsequently issued, enjoining the officers of the town from issuing the bonds, and they were never issued.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school house in Verona was a small frame building, about 12x16 feet in size, and one story high. It was known as the "Forbes School House" and was built by contributions. It was erected in 1861, and was situated on section nine (9). There are now seven good school houses in the town and the people have always taken a large interest in educational affairs.

#### RELIGIOUS.

Religious societies were formed at a very early day in this town, the dates of which cannot now be given. There were several ministers of the gospel who resided in the town, at its first settlement, one of whom, the Rev. J. W. Powell, of the Methodist church, was always engaged in his master's work.

#### HON. H. M. HUNTINGTON.

Henry M. Huntington one of the early settlers and large land owners of the county, was born in Yates county, New York, in 1835. Henry grew to manhood on his father's farm. He attended the common schools and Starkey seminary in his youth. Soon after becoming of full age, he came west and in 1856 visited Iowa. In 1857 he came to Faribault county. Here he pre-empted 160 acres of land in Verona township, and proceeded to improve the same, and continued farming until 1862, when he enlisted in Company D, 6th Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until September 1865, when he was mustered out.

Mr. Huntington added much to his landed property during various years. After his military services he resumed his farming operations until 1879, when he returned to his old home in New York, and remained there until 1892, when he returned to this county, residing at Winnebago City. Mr. Huntington was formerly a republican in politics, but subsequently supported the democratic party. He has at various times filled local offices, and takes much interest in local affairs. In 1871 he was elected to the lower House of our State Legislature, and attended the ensuing session of 1892.

## SOME STATISTICS.

The population of the town in 1860 was 268; in 1865, 337; in 1870, 607; in 1875, 547; and in 1880, 562.

The residents of this town are almost all Americans.

Stock, etc., in 1879: Horses, 274; cows, 353; other cattle, 603; mules, 4; sheep, 568; hogs, 499; wagons and carriages, 104; sewing machines, 32; organs, 6.

Assessed value of real estate for same year.....	\$193,458
Assessed value of personal estate for same year....	30,701

Total.....	\$234,159
------------	-----------

Total tax assessed on said property, \$4,688.81.

The agricultural products for the year 1879, as nearly as they can be estimated from the returns were: Wheat, 52,000 bushels; oats, 39,000 bushels; corn, 50,000 bushels; barley, 960 bushels; potatoes, 2,500 bushels; flax seed, 456 bushels; syrup, 2,600 gallons; apple trees growing, 5,600. The returns were very meagre, and far from being reliable, as such returns very often are.

The following list embraces the names of many persons, not already mentioned in these pages, who were residents of the town prior to the close of 1879: J. A. Armstrong, W. W. Anderson, L. Benson, A. H. Bullis, M. Barth, J. M. Brown, W. Bursau, F. Bassett, S. Boyer, J. L. Bassett, C. Bursau, C. Brabender, F. W. Cady, A. P. Collins, John Campbell, John Carpenter, T. J. Carpenter, M. Carpenter, A. H. Chase, W. C. Campbell, D. Christensen, G. W. Dibble, J. C. Daniels, L. Dwight, G. W. Doeg, C. Dimmick, J. J. Eygabroad, C. H. Foster, O. P. Foss, R. N. Fiero, W. Fletcher, J. H. Gleason, C. Garlick, C. Goutermont, F. Hill, S. Hawes, S. H. Hall, J. G. Humphrey, G. Huntington, R. V. Hesselgrave, J. F. Hill, T. Held, T. J. Jones, C. Jones, R. Johnson, W. L. Johnson, P. La Duke, M. H. Linsley, W. Larou, C. S. Linsley, F. F. Moore, A. P. McKinstry, J. P. Miner, C. B. Miner, L. Moore, H. B. Mayson, F. Miner, M. W. Nelson, A. Oathoudt, M. H. Oliver, M. F. Oliver, W. H. Oliver, C. Oliver, W. W. Potter, C. Parks, J. H. Paschke, J. G. Pace, C. Ring, C. B. Rand, A. P. Sherman, W. P. Spaulding, A. E. Seger, M. Schoolcraft, J. H. Smith, H. J. Schoolcraft, J. Spencer, H. Sumner, N. T. Smith, H. M. Temple, A. A. Williams, Henry Wisé, E. Wise, D. N. Wave, T. J. Williams.

## POLITICAL.

The town of Verona was among the first of the towns to be settled, and for many years was the third in population and wealth, and for many of the earlier years, it exercised an important influence in the politics of the county. Prior to the close of 1879, the town had furnished quite a number of members of the board of county commissioners—Stoddard, Robertson, Dunham, Potter; a sheriff, Robertson; a county auditor, Cady; a judge of probate, Robertson; three county surveyors, Welch, Patten, Seely; and a member of the legislature, H. M. Huntington.



## CHAPTER VII.

### PRESCOTT TOWNSHIP.

The town of Prescott is congressional township one hundred and three (103) north, of range twenty-seven (27) west. As the surroundings of a locality are a matter of much importance, it is well to observe that Prescott is bounded by the following townships: Delavan on the north, Barber on the east, Blue Earth City township on the south, and Verona on the west.

#### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

This township is almost entirely prairie. The surface of the country is slightly undulating, and easily drained. The elevation of Prescott above the level of the sea, is about eleven hundred feet. The drift here, to bed-rock, is between one hundred and two hundred feet, but no wells have been sunk in the town to bed-rock, by which the depth of the drift may be determined to this date. The main stream of the Blue Earth river crosses a small portion of the southwest corner of the township. There are no other water courses in the town of importance, and no lakes. The only native timber in the town is confined to the line of the river, but the western line of the town, lying so near the river, which is well timbered, fuel has always been conveniently obtained. Many of the older settlers of the town have owned small tracts of timber along the river, and the timber on the river has been almost as much benefit to a large portion of the people of this town, as though it had been located within its borders. There are many fine groves of forest trees in the town, containing from one to five, and some of ten acres, which have been grown by the residents. In fact Prescott was one of the first towns in the county to be beautified and benefitted by artificial groves.

#### THE NAME.

The town received its name from the special commissioners, when they proceeded to name the towns of the county, in 1858. The name is a familiar one. There is both a county and a village named Prescott, in Ontario, Canada, and there have been several noted men of this name. Oliver and William Prescott were distinguished patriots and soldiers of the revolution; a William Prescott

was a famous lawyer of Boston, Mass. But the most noted of the name was William H. Prescott, the historian, a man known and honored everywhere. There are, also, ten post-offices of this name in the United States. But it is not in honor of any of these distinguished men, or places, so far as the writer has been able to learn, that this town was named. The writer has been informed, by one of the special commissioners who named the town, that it was so named after a Mr. Prescott who resided in the town at the time it was named, but soon after left it. All that has been ascertained of him is, that he was a carpenter by trade, and that he was known by the name of "Old Honesty." But who he was, from whence he came, whither he has gone, or how he fares, no one seems to know.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first actual settler of Prescott, was Benjamin Gray, who took a "claim" on section thirty-one, in the fall of 1855. He settled in this town on the twenty-fifth day of September, of that year. Mr. Gray, and family, came from Warren county, Penn. He was a carpenter by trade. Some years ago, he removed to Yankton, S. D., where has since died. There were several claims taken prior to that of Mr. Gray's, but the parties did not permanently settle on them, until the next year. There were in this town quite a number of early settlers who resided here but a short time—only long enough to enter up their lands, some going away and never returning, others returning, after some time, and becoming permanent residents. The names of many of them do not appear on the census rolls of 1860. Among the earliest of such settlers, who proved up on lands in this town, prior to June, 1860, were: George Wirt, Albert Billings, Grover C. Burt, J. Ritchet, T. Hynes, D. Hynes, J. DeW. Smith, G. E. Gibbs, S. F. Morrison, G. K. Cleveland, H. J. Davlin, C. G. Wickershan, M. D. Madden, J. Marriner, Jr., D. W. Kingery, C. E. Trowbridge, E. Babcock, E. Bennett, J. Furness, P. Campbell, DeW. Paddock, J. Roberts, O. Dart, Jr., G. P. Wodell, G. S. Millard, P. G. Shinkle, J. Taylor, P. Wood, H. C. Hemanway, L. A. Crumb, G. Campbell, U. S. Karmany, W. M. Scott, J. T. Rodgers, J. Koonze, B. Davis, G. Haller, J. A. Kincaid, L. Haller.

The following list embraces the names of all persons found in the town in June, 1860, as appears from the census rolls, and the following table exhibits the possessions of the people and the improvements at that time.

*Gray*—Benjamin, Mrs. Julia, Josiah, Benjamin, Asenath, Julia, William. *Miles*—George S., Mrs. Jane, Gertrude, Ella. *Squires*—Freeman A., Mrs. Cornelia, John.

At this time when the census was taken, a number of persons who were holding claims in Prescott, were residing temporarily in Verona, and at Winnebago City

Acres of land improved, 42; cash value of farms, \$900; value of farming implements and machinery, \$90; number of horses, 1; number of milch cows, 2; number of working oxen, 4; number of other cattle, 3; number of swine, 3; value of live stock, \$325.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The town was attached for civil purposes to the town of Verona by the special commissioners in 1858, and so remained until detached by the county commissioners, September 3d, 1861.

The first election for town officers was called for September 16th, 1861, at the house of Jonathan McDowell. The organization has continued through all the subsequent years.

The town officers for 1878-9 were: Supervisors, A. Lent, chairman, and Jas. McColley and J. H. Wagner; town clerk, M. Perrizo; treasurer, S. M. Young; assessor, W. Viebahn; constable, D. W. Nichols.

#### HISTORICAL INCIDENTS.

The first school house erected in this town was built in 1863, and was known as the McDowell school house.

There are now six school houses in the town in which schools are regularly kept.

Bounties were given to encourage enlistments during the late war, and all promptly paid.

No bonuses to aid in the construction of railroads have ever been voted. Several propositions to grant aid were voted down.

The town has the benefit of a railroad market, at Delavan, near the northeast corner, and of another at Winnebago City, near the northwest corner, and at Blue Earth City, which is convenient to the southern portion of the town. The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railroad passes through the southwestern part of the town. No part of the town is over five miles from a railroad market.

There was a Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry organized in this town, when that great institution was flourishing in this county.

#### RELIGIOUS.

As in all other parts of this county, religious services were held in this town at a very early day of its settlement, and various religious denominations have long since been organized. There has, for many years, been a church building on the southeast quarter of section fifteen, erected by the Methodist Protestant society.

#### FRANK W. TEMPLE.

Mr. Temple, for many years a resident and large farmer of Prescott township, was born in Williamstown, Mass., February 19th, 1840. His father was a farmer and Frank W. has also made that his principal life occupation. There were six sons and three daughters in his father's family. Mr. Temple's school-

ing was receive during his boyhood's years, in the very good common schools of his native village.

He came west to St. Paul, in April, 1857, and on the eighth day of May, took up his residence in Chaska, Carver county, where he established a brick yard. While at that place he moulded, with his own hands, all the brick in the court house of that county, built at that time. He remained in Carver county about two years, and then removed to Winona county, where he engaged quite extensively in farming.

He was married in 1863, to Miss Cornelia Perry, of Olmstead county, Minn. They had two children who are now living, Charles E. and Mary B., now Mrs. J. W. Kamrar, of Blue Earth City. Mrs. Temple died in 1874.

In 1864, Mr. Temple sold out in Winona county, and in June, 1865, he came to this county and purchased considerable land, and since being here, he has been one of the largest farmers and sheep raisers in the county. He has, also, at times, engaged in the purchase and sale of stock.

Mr. Temple has always been a republican in political sentiment. He was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, in 1874, and held that office almost continuously, until January, 1895, being most of the time chairman of the board. It was largely through the prudent management of Mr. Temple, that the county has secured one of the finest court houses in the State without burdensome taxation, or contracting heavy indebtedness. When the structure was completed, it was practically, wholly paid for.

In January, 1883, he was appointed by Gov. W. R. Merriam, a member of the board of state prison managers, for three years, and was afterwards appointed for the full term of five years. The position is one of much importance and responsibility.

Up to the close of 1879, this town had furnished to the public service, in the office of county commissioner, Wm. M. Scott, F. W. Temple; register of deeds, Frank Lent; coroner, D. H. McDowell; county suryeyor, D. Birdsall.

#### STATISTICAL.

The population in 1860 was 14 persons; in 1865, 384; in 1870, 552; in 1875, 543; in 1880, 603. There has for some years been quite a settlement of French people in this town, but the majority of the inhabitants are American born.

By the assessors returns for 1879, there were in the town, of horses, 300; cows, 361; other cattle, 303; sheep, 1,305; hogs, 378; wagons and carriages, 83; sewing machines, 26. The assessed value of real estate for the same year was \$182,356; personal estate, \$26,487; total, \$208,843. The total tax assessed on this property for 1879 was \$2,729.79.

There was returned, as produced in 1879 of wheat, 44,000 bushels; of oats 51,000 bushels; of corn, 58,000 bushels; of barley, 4,500 bushels; of potatoes, 4,200 bushels; of sorghum syrup, 1,000 gallons; of flax seed, 1,800 bushels; of wool, 6,000 pounds; butter, 30,000 pounds. There were also 2,600 apple trees, of which 800 were bearing. Number of acres cultivated, 7,000.

Voici quelque faits historique qui interesseron-notre peuple Français et leurs descendants.

Cela est bien raisonnable qu'il ait beaucoup de residents de nationalité française dans ce pays.

Il y a cent ans, ou plus, que cette portion du Minnesota, faisant parti de l'empère de Louis quatorze, alors connu par le titre de "Grand Monarque de France," et il y a moins de cent ans, depuis que le grand Napoleon, Empereur des Français, etait le souverain regnant sur cette région, et qui avec beaucoup de sa-

gesse et de prevoiance, cécla ce territoire aux Etats Unis, afin disait il, qu'il puisse au future s'établir dans cette hemisphere occidentale une puissance qui deviendrait l'égale et la rivale de la grande Bretagne, parmi les nations du monde.

Les premiers explorateurs, les premiers commerçants, (traders) les premiers missionnaires de la croix au Minnesota étaient français. La première place de trafic (trading post) dans la vallée de la rivière Blue Earth fut établi par le français Le Sueur. Le premier missionnaire qui mit le pied sur le sol de ce comté, de qui l'on a connaissance était le Père Ravoux de Saint Paul, un français, qui pendant un voyage a une mission lointaine traversa ce comté, bien avant que l'homme blanc n'y eut établi son habitation, et en dernier, celui de qui a comte porte le nom de Jean Baptiste Faribault était un français, un homme desquel le nom et le souvenir peuvent être honoré par toute le monde.

Ce pays, pouvait avec raison avoir été nommée la Nouvelle France, et le jour viendra quand le comté sera en richesse, en beauté et par l'intelligence et la prosperité de ses habitants, le rival de n'importe quelle parti champêtre de la belle France avec ses collines de vignes.

The following list contains the names of many persons who have resided in this town prior to the close of the year 1879, not already hereinbefore named: L. W. Brown, J. Bassett, Wm. Bassett, Ch. Bassett, P. Bassett, J. H. Black, Jas. Beard, O. J. Beard, A. Blunt, T. V. Braithwait, O. Boiseclare, A. Butterfield, W. R. Cheney, W. O. Chestnut, J. Coulter, E. Clark, B. F. Clark, F. Cox, J. Davis, E. DeRusha, W. DeRusha, Elijah DeRusha, J. Dieter, H. Domes, P. Dolan, M. Dolan, O. Dolan, S. Edwards, C. Eberline, W. Eberline, E. Eberline, G. Freer, David Freer, R. Fierkey, A. Greisy, J. Galloway, C. Goyette, J. Goyette, G. Gibbs, P. Hebert, R. Hacklander, A. Hacklander, T. Hynes, C. Hager, E. Harding, H. Harding, H. O. Ives, J. B. Jones, E. Katzung, M. Kasulki, M. J. Kennedy, H. R. Keeler, J. Klawitter, C. Kube, Jacob Lent, Sam'l Lent, A. Lent, A. C. Lent, F. Lent, A. J. Lane, S. F. Lent, J. Leanny, D. H. McDowell, J. McDowell, C. Maxson, Wm. Mattin, H. Mattin, W. A. Miller, P. McCue, Jas. McColley, F. Mosher, R. Murray, H. Murray, C. Morehouse, L. Nichols, D. W. Nichols, L. Nurenberg, S. Noteman, O. S. Orr, A. Potter, W. D. Patten, M. Prescher, M. Perrizo, L. Patten, B. Perrizo, J. Perrizo, G. Perrizo, C. Plochinsky, W. Roberts, F. L. Spencer, J. M. Spencer, W. Spencer, F. Schultz, R. Schram, C. Sonnesac, N. B. Swartout, A. Swartout, R. E. Scott, A. Sweet, A. B. Sweet, C. Stroble, S. Shutteeworth, O. Tibedo, T. Tibedo, I. Tibedo, J. Terry, F. Trowbridge, W. Viebahn, J. H. Wagner, Henry R. Walker, L. C. Walker, A. Warren, G. F. Weiler, W. Wesley, O. B. Wheeler, P. Whitacker, A. Willett, Albert Willett, George Wirt, J. C. Woodruff, W. A. Woodruff, P. M. Young, E. C. Young, G. Young, D. N. Young, S. M. Young, S. Zutty.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## BARBER TOWNSHIP.

Barber is congressional township one hundred and three (103) north, of range twenty-six (26) west. It is bounded on the north by Lura, on the east by Walnut Lake, on the south by Emerald and on the west by Prescott. The average elevation of this town, above the level of the sea, is about eleven hundred feet. The depth of the drift, to bed rock, is, in the northeast portion, about one hundred feet, and in other parts of the town, probably one hundred and fifty feet. It is a prairie town. Much of the land is quite rolling. A morainic belt, or tract of hilly, or more or less rolling drift, of about three miles in width, extends from the east line through the town, in a northwesterly direction. There are no running streams in this town, except some small brooks. A part of lake Ozatonka—a fine lake, about two miles long, by one and one half miles wide—is situated in the town, on the south line, near the southeast corner. There is, also, a group of three small lakes near the center of the town, the largest of which is named Swan Lake, but which was at one time called Green lake. Another is named, on the old maps, "Kenty," but has now, probably, some other name. The third appears not to be named. The native timber is about these lakes, and a part of it has been known, for many years, as "Wesner's Grove," an old land mark on the prairie. This immediate locality is the headquarters of the town. There was, at one time, a store and post-office here, and near by is the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary, and parsonage and cemetery. There are, also, several dwelling houses. Mr. Wiesner kept here, for a number of years, a wayside inn, where the weary traveler might stop and "rest and refresh" himself and team. The building of the village of Easton, on the line of the railroad, only a few miles distant, interfered with the business and prospects of this locality. This town, like the others of this county, affords fine grain and pasturage lands. The people of Barber have also been quite industrious in setting out artificial groves of forest trees, which now thickly dot over the town. The southeast corner of section thirty-three of this town is the geographical center of the county.

## THE NAME.

The town was named Barber by the special commissioners in 1858, in honor of Mr. Chauncey Barber, who was supposed at the time to be a resident of the town, but who, in fact resided in Minnesota Lake township. The reader is referred to the history of the latter town, for a more full account of Mr. Barber.

## THE SETTLEMENT.

Andrew Woesner and John Blocher were the first actual settlers of Barber township. Mr. Woesner was born in Germany. He came to the United States in 1854, and located in Indiana. In June, 1855, he removed to Illinois, and from thence to Winona county, Minnesota, and finally settled, about the thirteenth day of June, 1857, in this town. He is a blacksmith by trade, but has for many years been engaged in farming and stock raising. The land he settled upon was a part of the north half of section twenty-two (22).

Mr. Blocher was also born in Germany. He came to the United States in 1853, and located in Ohio. From thence he removed, in 1856, to Winona county in this State, where he fell in with Mr. Woesner, and came with him to this town. He is also a blacksmith by trade. He also took a claim on section twenty-two.

The following list contains the names of all the residents of the town, in June, 1860, as they appear on the national census rolls of that year, and the table following shows something of their possessions at the time:

*Aschman*—John. *Aschman*—Henry, Mrs. Christina, John. *Lutz*—Frank. *Stevermere*—Barnard, Mrs. Henrietta, William, Mary, Henry, John, John. *Terhurner*—Henry, Mrs. Minnie, William.

At the time of the taking of the above census, A. Woesner and family and John Blocher were residing in Blue Earth City. Mr. Woesner subsequently returned to the town, but Mr. Blocher did not.

Acres of improved lands in 1860, 40; value of farms, 1,200; value of farming implements and machinery, \$170; number of milch cows, 5; number of working oxen, 4; number of other cattle, 7; number of swine, 5; value of live stock, 305.

It is not much to say that there are many individuals in the town to-day who, alone, have two or three times the aggregate value of all the above property, and a few much more.

## ORGANIZATION.

Barber was attached to Walnut Lake township for civil purposes, by the special commissioners, in 1858, and was set off by the county commissioners May 27th, 1864. The first town election was held at the house of John Koonze, June 10th, 1864, and the town organized as a separate town. The town officers for the year 1878-9 were Josephus Vial, chairman of supervisors; T. Trowbridge and J. Linder, side supervisors; town clerk, A. Scheid; treasurer, H.

Hassing; assessor, C. Horn; justice of the peace, Patrick Kelly; constable, H. Stevermere.

#### HISTORICAL INCIDENTS.

The first school house in this town was built in the spring of 1863, on section fourteen. It was a small log building. There are now (1879) six substantial school houses in the town.

A Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was organized, in this town, July 9th, 1873, of which G. H. Brown was master, and T. C. Pond, secretary. It did good work, but long since ceased to exist.

Ever since the building of the S. M. R. R. in 1870, the farmers of this town have had the benefit of two convenient railroad markets, one at Easton, near the the northeast corner, and one at Delavan, near the northwest corner. No part of the town is over eight miles from one or the other of these markets.

Up to the close of 1879 this town had furnished to the public service, a representative in the lower House of the State legislature—Mr. Pond.

#### RELIGIOUS.

In the fall of 1863, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, above referred to, was erected on section fourteen. Subsequently a parsonage was built near the place. There is a large and flourishing congregation of catholics here, and regular religious services are held. For some years a priest resided here, having charge of this and neighboring congregations, and this was the central locality, or seat of authority, for a number of years of the church in this section of country. The building of churches and establishment of priests, in the surrounding villages, have lessened the importance of this locality as a church center. Other religious societies have, also, had organizations in the town, for many years.

The following schedule embraces the names of many persons, not already named, who were residents of the town prior to the close of the year 1879: J. Abraham, L. Anderson, J. Buegler, P. Bursaw, C. Brake, Jas. Boylan, P. Corcoran, G. Claude, L. Claude, J. Domes, C. Eiselt, C. Frank, A. Feist, R. Feist, S. A. Goodrich, P. Gaffy, N. W. Galpin, M. Garlow, G. Garlow, A. Gleason, F. Horn, H. Hartman, S. G. Hendricks, J. Hassing, B. Hassing, A. Hill, G. J. Hassing, Jos. Hassing, F. Hadlick, G. Hassing, Henry Hassing, C. Horn, P. Kelly, M. Koegan, J. Koonze, Wm. Kinsley, H. Keiser, A. Kruger, J. Klucas, J. Lang, H. Lane, T. Lavelle, M. Lutz, C. Lutz, Caesar Lutz, F. Lutz, J. A. Lutz, Jacob Linder, E. Marsh, A. Meyer, L. Mesahl, C. J. Malado, G. Nagel, J. J. Pauley, W. Pipke, T. G. Pond, J. Rothans, H. Rouenhorst, F. Roske, W. Roske, M. Ronan, W. D. Roske, J. Rakow, J. C. Reynolds, W. Steinberg, S. M. Stover, H. Stevermere, H. Schroeder, R. Spencer, J. Scheid, A. Scheid, P. Sipple, Henry Schroeder, C. Thayer, T. Trowbridge, L. Tressler, A. Troska, E. Tressler, W. Terry, Josephus Vial, A. Werner, G. M. Wheeler, J. Wahl, A. Woesner, M. Whalen, C. Whalen, C. Weber, T. G. Young, F. N. Young.



SOME STATISTICS.

The population of this town was, in 1860, enumerated with the people of Walnut Lake township, to which it was then attached, in 1865, there were 244 inhabitants; in 1870, 561; in 1875, 633, and in 1880, 647.

A large majority of the inhabitants are German and Irish.

It is learned from the assessor's returns for 1879, that there were owned in the town 351 horses, 405 cows, 422 other cattle, 4 mules, 695 sheep, 502 hogs, 29 sewing machines.

The assessed value of real property for that year was..... \$164,439

The assessed value of personal property for that year was..... 33,687

Total ..... \$198,126

Total tax assessed on same, \$2,979.03.

Products, etc., for the same year were estimated as follows: Wheat, 52,000 bushels; oats, 42,000 bushels; corn, 32,000 bushels; barley, 900 bushels; potatoes, 3,000 bushels; gallons of syrup, 2,400; flax seed, 1,300 bushels; wool, 2,800 pounds; butter, 8,000 pounds; honey, 132 pounds; apple trees growing, 3,000; total acreage of plowed land, 6,500.

Barber township is centrally located in the county, and has convenient railroad markets and trading points, and is one of the most beautiful and fertile tracts of country to be found anywhere in the State.

---

CHAPTER IX.

---

WALNUT LAKE TOWNSHIP.

This is congressional township, one hundred and three (103) north, of range twenty-five, (25) west. It is bounded by the following towns: north by Minnesota Lake, east by Clark, south by Brush creek and west by Barber.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS.

This tract of land is described as high, rolling prairie, and is well adapted for all farming purposes. The average elevation of the town, above the level of the sea, is eleven hundred and twenty-five feet, but some of it is 1,150 feet and certain ridges north of Walnut Lake, 1,200 feet.

A morainic belt—a tract of hilly or rolling drift, about three miles wide, extends across the town from the southeast corner in a northwest direction. The drift ranges in depth from one hundred to one hundred and seventy-five feet, probably above the bed-rock.

There are no running streams worthy of note here. But a part of Walnut Lake is situated in this town, near the southeast corner. This is a very beautiful lake, and is about one and a half, by one and three-fourths of a mile in extent. Good well water is easily obtained.

What native timber there is in the township, is found on the banks of this lake, and several small nameless ponds or lakelets.

This locality has for many years been quite a summer resort for fishing and boating parties, and for picnics and Fourth of July celebrations. In the early days it was also a favorite resort of the Indians, during the summer, especially the Winnebagoes, whose "teepes" were then often seen upon the banks of the lake. Here, as in other towns the settlers set out numerous groves, which have long since become small forests, and which give the town the appearance of a wooded country.

#### THE NAME.

The town derives its name from Walnut Lake, and was given to it by the special commissioners in 1858. The lake was so named because of the numerous walnut trees growing upon its shores. There are a dozen post-offices and villages in the United States named "Walnut," as many by the name of "Walnut Grove," and as many by the name of "Walnut Hill," but only one by the name of "Walnut Lake." The Indian name of Walnut Lake was Te-zu-ka.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Daniel James Ackerman took up a claim on section thirty-five, on the 7th day of June, 1856, and "proved up" on the same August 7th, 1856, and was undoubtedly the first actual settler of this town. He came into the country with Mr. Abraham Ackerman, his brother, who settled at the same time at Rice Lake, in Foster township. There was a man, however, named White, who, it was said, located somewhere on the lake in 1855. But he left the country soon after, and never returned. Some further remarks in reference to Mr. White will be found in the history of the year 1855.

Dr. R. R. Foster was one of the earliest settlers of this town. He located here in the summer of 1856, but Ackerman had then, he says, taken his claim. A fuller notice of Dr. Foster will be found in the history of Foster township.

The following named persons were residents of the town at a very early day, and "proved up" on lands therein prior to 1860, but their names do not appear on the census rolls of that year: Robert Steward, Herbert Robinson, Barton Robinson, John H Brown, John Colman. The following is a list of the inhabitants of the town in June, 1860, according to the national census, taken that year.

*Burney*—James. *Cusic*—Francis, Mrs. Mary, Jane, Thomas, Rosa. *Duffy*—Barnard, James, Catharine, Mary. *Foster*—Horatio, Mrs. Sarah, Aurelia, Ida. (Dr. Foster and wife were residents of Blue Earth City at the time of the census, and hence their names do not appear here.) *Grinnolds*—John, Mrs. Laura, George, Frank. *Hanlin*—Michael, Mrs. Mary, Catharine, Julia, Sarah. *Merry*—Lorenzo, Mrs. Julia, Edwin, John, Julia, LaFitte, William. *Wilcox*—Absalom, Mrs. Margaret.

This table exhibits the wealth of the town at the time of the census of 1860.

Acres of improved lands, 90; value of farms, \$2,800; value of farming implements and machinery, \$230; number of horses, 5; milch cows, 7; working oxen, 2; other cattle, 4; swine, 7; value of live stock, \$775.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The towns of Lura and Barber were attached to Walnut Lake township, for civil purposes, by the special commissioners, in 1858, and the first town meeting was called for October 20th, 1858, for the election of town officers, but no meeting was held. In fact, much difficulty was experienced in getting organized. We find, by certain records, that on May 30th, 1859, there were no town officers, and the county board appointed L. Merry, chairman; M. Hanlin and H. Harrington, supervisors; John Chase, town clerk; O. C. Healy, assessor; H. Welch and John Brown, justices, and O. C. Healy, collector. Some of these persons resided in Lura. They all failed to qualify, and on the sixteenth of June, 1860, there were still no officers, and the county board appointed John Aschman, chairman; H. Foster, supervisor; L. Merry, treasurer; B. Duffy, assessor. But it seems that these last appointments failed also, and on June 24th, 1861, the county board appointed A. Wilcox, chairman; A. Woesner and M. Hanlin, supervisors; R. Foster, town clerk; H. Turherner, assessor; A. Wilcox, justice of the peace, and R. Foster, constable. Some of the above appointees were residents of Barber. The town of Lura had then been set off, which event occurred March 5th, 1860, and Cobb township now Clark, was on the same day attached to Walnut Lake township by the county commissioners. By the same authority, Barber was detached from Walnut Lake, May 27th, 1864, and Clark was detached September 7th, 1869, and became a separate town.

The roster of town officers, for the closing year of this sketch, was composed of the following named gentlemen: Supervisors, Wm. Zimmerman, chairman, C. E. Ford and G. C. Sheldon; town clerk, W. R. Haskins; assessor, C. S. Bates; treasurer, C. B. Weston; justices of the peace, M. M. Sheldon and H. Copley; constable C. Zimmerman.

#### INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

At a very early day certain persons proceeded to survey and lay off a town site on the lake shore, and a plat of the village site was made and sent to the register of deeds of the county for record, as required by law, but the plat not being duly executed and certified, was returned to the proprietors for correction, and has never been heard from since. The project was evidently abandoned. This village was named "Marengo."

On October 22d, 1863, occurred the Crapau homicide, an account of which will be found in the history of that year. Along about the years 1864 to 1868, quite a hamlet grew up on section 27, which became the headquarters of the town and a center of business. There were here, at the time, several hotels, a post-office, school house, several stores, blacksmith shop and several dwellings. The hotels were patronized, mainly, by persons traveling the country in quest of lands. The trade came from the surrounding country, and reached even to the Cobb river and to Clayton, in Seely, and into the towns of Barber and Emerald. No grounds were, indeed, laid off into lots, and the locality was not formally named, but it was known from the name of the post-office, as Walnut Lake. But the place has long since ceased to be a trading point, and the men of that period, interested in the business of the locality, as Louis Sherman, Dr. Fellows, L. Merry, W. Robinson, Geo. Newcomb, H. P. Edwards and Lewis and Cottrell, and others, are no longer residents of the town, and the few remaining structures are occupied as dwellings.

Since 1870 this town has had convenient railroad markets at Wells and Easton.

The town has contributed to the public civil service, two county commissioners, L. Merry and W. J. Robinson, and a county auditor, W. W. White, the latter having held the office for many terms.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school house was erected on section 27, in 1865. The first school taught in the town, was kept in a small frame house belonging to Joel Underwood, on the banks of the lake, in the summer of 1864, and Miss Eliza Underwood, it is said, taught the first school. There are now (1879) seven substantial school houses in the town, and the district schools are regularly kept and well attended.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The Baptists organized a church society here, it is reported, in 1864, or about that year. Other religious denominations were also early represented here, and Sunday schools instituted.

#### STATISTICAL.

The population of the town in 1860 was 46, including Cobb (now Clark) and Barber. In 1865 there were 283 inhabitants, including Cobb. In 1870 the number was 500 in this town alone, and in 1875, 376. At the latter date many had left the town. In 1880 there were 487. The cause of the decrease of population from 1870 to 1875, a loss which was not regained even up to 1880, was hard times and financial distress.

The heavy hand of the usurer rested, for many years, on much of this town, and large mortgages, drawing heavy interest, drained the town of moneys which should have been used in improvements, and the energies of the people were withered, and many of them left the town, and many once fruitful fields became thickets of weeds. One could point in almost any direction and say "there is a mort-

gage wreck." Thus speaks a number of the most honored residents of the town. But the town will at no distant day, become one of the most populous and wealthy.

The assessor's returns for 1879 present the following summary of personal property:

Horses, 279; cows, 323; other cattle, 427; mules, 11; sheep, 566; hogs, 204; wagons and carriages, 63; organs, 5.	
Assessed value of real estate, 1879.....	\$140,697
Assessed value of personal estate, 1879.....	21,567
Total .....	<u>\$162,264</u>

Total tax assessed on said property for the same year was \$2,643.62.

Agricultural products, etc., for 1879, were estimated as follows: Wheat, 27,000 bushels; oats, 32,000 bushels; corn, 18,000 bushels; barley, 2,700 bushels; potatoes, 2,200 bushels; flax seed, 1,500 bushels; butter, 26,000 pounds; wool, 3,000 pounds; apple trees growing, 2,000; trees bearing, 700; honey, 150 pounds; sorghum syrup, 1,100 gallons; total number of acres of cultivated land, 4,300.

Among the persons who have resided in this town, prior to the close of 1879, whose names are not mentioned in the census roll of 1860, there were the following:

A. Adams, J. D. Ackerman, J. M. Baker, H. W. Babcock, C. S. Bates, Patrick Coughlin, H. Copley, J. W. M. Cook, D. Cook, E. R. Cook, A. B. Chase, C. A. Cottrell, M. Duffy, J. Duffy, Jas. Duffy, J. W. Daniels, J. P. Damp, S. L. Ducan, C. Damp, H. P. Edwards, A. M. Eldred, L. O'Farrell, L. D. Fay, T. O'Farrell, W. Ford, F. W. Ford, C. E. Ford, G. B. Grinnells, W. Haight, B. Harper, M. F. Higgins, W. R. Haskins, D. Herring, S. D. Hober, M. O. Hallock, J. D. Holmes, James Kelley, J. Kleine, J. Kelley, W. Kelley, S. Kelley, C. Kelsey, G. Kewes, W. Kewes, L. K. Lock, Wm. Laws, H. Laws, P. O'Leary, J. Lamphire, L. F. Loomis, F. B. Loomis, W. A. Loomis, P. Morse, Thomas Mullen, John Mullen, J. Mullen, J. Mathews, B. Maricle, T. Mathews, G. Morgan, A. Odell, O. Odell, N. Odell, Robt. Parks, T. Roundhorst, E. Ryel, I. Russell, O. B. Robbins, J. Shaw, W. H. Scott, M. Shaw, O. C. Sheldon, M. M. Sheldon, O. Shepardson, A. Shepardson, A. A. Simpson, G. Scott, P. H. Spillany, T. Shimmen, W. Thompson, A. Thompson, N. A. Thompson, J. Underwood, W. B. Underwood, R. P. Vroman, J. Whites, O. Wait, C. B. Weston, H. Wing, V. Wing, W. W. White, M. White, S. H. Wing, S. F. Welker, J. Weleer, C. S. Weston, Patrick Whalan, C. Zimmerman, O. Zimmerman, W. Zimmerman.

## CHAPTER X.

## CLARK TOWNSHIP.

This town is designated on the maps of the United States surveys, as town one hundred and three (103) north, of range twenty-four (24) west. Its surroundings are as follows: On the north is Dunbar, east is the town of Carlston, in Freeborn county, south is the township of Foster, and west is Walnut Lake township.

The average elevation of the town above sea level is 1,170 feet, the depth of drift to bed-rock is about 110 to 120 feet, and the bed rock is grey sandstone. The surface of this town has a slightly undulating, or often nearly flat surface, but with some slight elevations in the southwest corner. There are a good many shallow depressions or sloughs, from five to fifteen feet lower than the general surface, the descent being by long slopes. There is one small stream, or water course, which is near the south line of the town, and is named Foster creek. There are also several small slough runs, or rivulets. This is a prairie township, there being no native timber whatever, in the town, but the residents are, every year, setting out trees in the village, and groves in the country, many of which have already reached a large growth.

The soil is black, deep, rich and productive, growing the most nutritious grasses, and is better adapted, perhaps, to grazing, than grain raising, though the amount of grain raised here averages about the same as that in many other towns, according to the acreage cultivated. Should the improbable event ever occur, that the lands in other parts of this county should become arid or worn out, it may reasonably be expected that most of the lands in Clark township will still be productive. Good water is easily obtained by digging or boring, and there are in this town many artesian, or flowing wells, especially in the village of Wells. These flowing wells, or fountains, are obtained in any part of the town, and are very valuable. The water is very good. These wells are usually two inches in diameter, and from 100 to 160 feet in depth. There are some indications from these flowing wells and some of their discharges and other considerations, that the locality embracing a part of this town and perhaps Dunbar, and other adjoining territory, has a subter-





CLARK W. THOMPSON.



ranean lake or lakes of some miles in extent, and which lie at a varying depth of perhaps of 125 to 160 feet beneath the surface.

#### THE NAME.

This town was named Cobb by the special commissioners in 1858, they supposing that the Cobb river ran through the town. This was a mistake however. On September 7th, 1869, the name of the town was changed by the county commissioners to Thompson, but it appearing that there was another town in the state of this name, the commissioners on the twenty-fourth day of March, 1870, gave it the name of Clark. It was named Clark, and previously Thompson, in honor of Clark W. Thompson, the original proprietor of the village site of Wells, and the largest land owner of the town and county.

#### CLARK W. THOMPSON.

Clark W. Thompson was born on the twenty-third day of July, 1825. He removed with his father to Rockford, Ill., in 1839, and went to California in 1849, where he remained until 1853. In the latter year, he returned to the "States," and settled at Hokah, Houston county, Minn., where he at once took a prominent part in political and business affairs. Here he built a flouring mill.

He was married to Miss Rebecca Wells. The fruits of the marriage were four sons. He was a member of the 6th Territorial Legislature—1855—and of the Territorial Council in 1856 and 1857, and a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1857. He was a presidential elector on the republican ticket of 1860.

In 1861 he was appointed superintendent of Indian affairs in the northwest, which office he held until 1865, when he resigned it to take charge of the construction of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, and became president and general manager for some years. The great work of building this road is to be credited, largely, to Mr. Thompson. He was a member of the State Senate in 1871, from this county, and was president of the State Agricultural Society at one time.

There are many other references to Mr. Thompson in this history. He died in the year 1885.

It is not inappropriate to add here, that the name of Clark is one of distinction. There are five counties of the name in the United States, and there have been many noted men of this name in America and Europe, and by the addition of the letter e, to the name, the list of counties and of distinguished persons, of this name, is greatly extended. There are also many villages and post-offices of the name of Clark, and Clarke, in the United States.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

From the best information obtainable, it appears that one Alfred Holland, was the first settler of Clark township. He located upon the northeast quarter of section one (1), in June, 1862. Mr. Holland was an Englishman by birth. He enlisted in the military service of the United States in 1863, and served until the close of the war, in 1865. He subsequently sold out and removed to Nevada.

The next settler was James Glendening, a Scotchman, who took a claim in July, 1862. He left the county during the Indian excitement, which occurred soon after.

The next person, who located here, was Augustus Powers, who selected a claim in the winter of 1862-3, and commenced permanent improvements, in building and breaking up the sod, in the spring of 1863, and to him, in fact, belongs the honor of being the first permanent settler. He remained, while the others, after but a short stay, left the town.

Zachariah Lovell was another of the early settlers. He made a claim during the summer of 1863. C. R. Lord selected lands in the town in June, 1863, and brought in his family in the fall. Simeon Morrill also took a claim in 1863, and brought in his family the following year. Henry Johnston was one of the first settlers of the town. In July, 1864, he settled upon the lands formerly held by Glendening. And here, while referring to those who were among the first settlers of the town, or interested in it, it should be stated that the public lands in range twenty-four, in this county, came into market at an early day, that is, it could be purchased from the government, without settlement or residence upon it. In all the ranges west of twenty-four, in this county, to obtain lands from the government, residence upon them and certain improvements were necessary, under either the pre-emption or the homestead laws, except certain tracts granted to the State for railroad and other purposes. And there may be found, among those who either settled in the town, or had purchased lands therein prior to July, 1865, the names of G. H. Sell, C. Kendall, G. Bouse, J. Battles, Jr., A. L. Richardson, W. S. Keel, W. Damman, D. B. Smith, S. Cusick, M. A. Smith, W. McCullough, T. Cartwright, H. G. Abbott, W. Snyder, J. Sawyer, M. McGarme, J. C. Easton, G. M. Barnard, J. Moyer, T. Pond, but especially Clark W. Thompson, who purchased of the general government, in this town, over nine thousand acres, which is the largest body of land ever owned in this county, by one individual.

#### ORGANIZATION.

This town was attached to Marples (now Minnesota Lake) for civil purposes, by the special commissioners, in 1858, and on March 5th, 1860, was detached from Marples and attached to Walnut Lake township, by the county commissioners, and so remained until Sept. 7th, 1869, when, by the same authority, it was detached from Walnut Lake township and organized as a separate town. The organization has continued from that time. The township officers, in 1879, the closing year of this sketch, were as follows: Supervisors, M. J. Myers, chairman, J. Penny and H. Gilbertson; town clerk, F. B.

Southwick; assessor, E. S. Leavitt; treasurer, Dr. Daniel Straw, justices of the peace, W. B. Dunn and F. E. Watson; constable, Wm. Billings.

#### INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

The first school house was erected in the fall of 1867. It is upon the southeast quarter of section 27, and is a substantial frame building, twenty by twenty-four feet in size, and cost about \$800.

The first school in the town was taught by Miss Mary Thomas, in a temporary building, erected on the site of the new house above mentioned.

For many years there has been a very fine graded school at Wells, in this town, and there are now in the township four substantial school houses. The interest manifested in education, has always been very commendable.

The first marriage, so far as we have been able to learn, solemnized in this town, was that of Henry Randall to Miss Jane Gilmore, March 12th, 1868, and the ceremony was performed by C. R. Lord, justice of the peace.

The following account of a very sad incident is taken from the *Wells Advocate* of May 8th, 1890.

#### IN EARLY DAYS

"Three soldiers were frozen to death in a blizzard which swept over this part of the country during the winter of 1864, and their bodies were not found until spring. When found one was identified as the body of Mr. Daramas, of Minnesota Lake, and the others as the remains of two comrades named Price, who accompanied him to his home in this county on a furlough. They were on their way from Minnesota Lake to visit a friend living west of this village when overtaken by the storm. The body of Deramas was taken to Minnesota Lake for burial, but his comrades, being strangers, their remains were interred on the spot where they were found, which is near Mr. Wm. Laws' farm about two miles west of town. Trees were afterwards set out to mark their graves, but about two years ago they were cut down by some person unknown. The members of Ransom Post, G. A. R., have been interesting themselves in these lonely graves, which would soon become obliterated, and have decided to remove the remains to lots in the cemetery in this village, and began the work of disintering the bodies this morning. This action of the Post is very commendable, as the members have no interest in the fate of the graves of the deceased, other than that of common humanity.'

#### WELLS.

The village of Wells, situate on section nine (9), in this township, was laid off in July, 1869. It appears, however, from the following statement, taken from the *Free Homestead*, of July 7th, 1869, and which is valuable for several facts, that it was the original design to locate this village on section five (5).

## THE NEW TOWN IN FARIBAULT COUNTY.

"On the first day of July, 1869, a few 'pioneers' rode out to the southeast quarter of section 5, town 103, range 24, and staked out one hundred and sixty acres as a town site. There was bare prairie, nothing more; but the town must have a name. The hat was passed, H. W. Holley, of Winnebago City, M. Conant, of La Crosse, and all others present, voting, except Thompson, general manager, who thought it was hard to be debarred from a voice in naming *his own town*. The result of the ballot was WELLS, and alludes to the maiden name of Mrs. Clark W. Thompson.

Last Tuesday Mr. C. C. Cottrell, of Walnut Lake, put up the first building in this embryo town, and within three months there will be upon that quarter section of prairie, a town rivaling any other in the county. Such is life in the West."

The following very spirited and interesting account of the early days of Wells, is taken from the *Wells Advocate*, of December 20th, 1877.

"The first invaders and settlers of the sacred soil, whereupon the village of Wells now stands, were Col. C. W. Thompson, Capt. J. C. Day, C. L. Chase, J. P. Burke, Frank Hall, H. W. Holley and M. Conant. After considerable meandering about over a large extent of prairie and swamp land, they finally found the spot that has become since so conspicuous in the annals of history and the minds of men."

"It was toward the close of a bright June day, in 1869, that the above mentioned party stuck their stakes and reared the first covering over our green sward, built the first fire, cooked the first beefsteak, and scared away the cranes for the first time since the noble red men sojourned toward the setting sun. It was a happy family that slept that first night upon the spot that was soon to be made memorable for great achievements. At this time the town site was laid out (upon paper) and many conjectures, as to its future growth, were indulged in. All their plans were rose-colored and fraught with the highest hopes. The second visit of these gentlemen, accompanied by others, to this new city, was made about a month later, when the town site was transferred from paper to the reality, and the erection of permanent buildings was commenced. Here the trials and difficulties of these pioneers began. The railroad was forty miles distant. The nearest point for lumber was Owatonna, and the only mode of transit was by teams, which, with innumerable sloughs and unbridged streams to cross, made it conspicuously expensive, as well as discouraging. But, like the martyrs of old, they knew not discouragement or defeat, and time, the great alleviator, brought their arduous and difficult duties to a terminus, and success over every obstacle crowned their labors with glory, as they witnessed the first frame building rise up, phoenix-like in the midst of the boundless prairie. Capt. J. C. Day occupied the first building, as a general store, that same fall, and many amusing incidents are connected with that building, in its early day. The half dozen old stagers that were here, made it a daily practice to ascend to the roof and gaze long and earnestly across the sea of level prairie to catch the first glimpse of a passing traveler. After days of anxious watching, one of the party discovered a small black speck against the horizon, apparently approaching them, and when the object came near enough for discernment, and they discovered it to be a woman on horseback, trepidation seized the entire party, and an appalling scene occurred, for the poor fellows had not seen a woman for many a week, and, all being bashful by nature, it required the best of generalship to induce any of them to assist the heroic lady from her horse. This was the first house and the first customer; but the tide

of emigration had begun to flow into the new Eldorado, and new buildings began to dot the laid out lots, and a general scene of activity began to be observed."

"In the month of September, of the same year, we had quite a rush of settlers, who were willing to accept of all the discomforts appertaining to the establishing of a new town, upon a boundless, treeless and uninhabited prairie. Where the Wells House now stands, water then stood nearly three feet deep, and required the active services of men, night and day, to keep the raging torrent from completely submerging the basement."

"The Wells House was erected in the winter of '69, also the store building of Robert Andrews and H. A. Parks. The spring of 1870 came, and new enterprises were started. Burke endeavored to start a brick yard, and while on his way to Austin, to get his material, he met Capt. Day, with a load of goods for his new store, completely stalled, in a little ravine, near where Alden stands, and unable to extricate himself. The ravine was then filled with a rushing stream of water, about three feet deep and forty rods wide, which the Captain was rather dilatory about crossing, except in his wagon. But the precariousness of the situation soon became apparent, when the Captain shouldered his chest and gently lowered himself into the water, waded ashore. The chilly winds howled dismally around his nether parts until they were nearly paralyzed with cold, and Burke was obliged to swing the end board of the wagon in close proximity to the Captain's chilly parts, to bring back a renewal of life. The Captain was three days getting through from Austin. O. D. Hall left Austin with four teams, loaded with household goods, and was four days on his journey, and finally came into Wells with fourteen teams, hauling what four teams started with at first."

"We had but little sickness in our midst, and those who were unfortunate, laid their claims upon the cooking of Q. J. Adams, who was only a natural born citizen, and did not fully understand the *modus operandi* of always making bread that wouldn't stick to a fellow's teeth; but in general, Adams made good bread. Daniel Carpenter was our physician, and his great experience and knowledge of medicine saved us many times from borrowing a spade to dig a neighbor's last resting place."

Wells was the first railroad town in this county, and for a time its growth was very rapid. It was in January, 1870, that the Southern Minnesota Railroad was completed to Wells, and the first train of cars reached the village. For a year following it was the railroad grain market of the county. Some years after (1874) the Minnesota Central Railroad, running from Mankato to Wells, was completed, and afterwards became a branch of the Southern Minnesota Railroad. This branch gives the village important connections. Wells has, from the first, been much indebted to the public spirit and energy of Mr. Thompson, who, at an early day, secured the location here of the railroad machine shops, and finally, for a time, the general offices of the company. Other great enterprises of Mr. Thompson were the erection of an immense cheese factory, one of the best in the United States, subsequently changed to a creamery. During subsequent years, he also erected a barrel factory, the barrels being manufactured by an invention of his own. He erected a vinegar factory, at an expense of forty thousand dollars, which was

in operation when destroyed by fire. And not least of his enterprises was the breaking up, in 1871, of many hundreds of acres of land, near the village, and the erection of some twenty brick farm houses and barns thereon, which farms he let out, stocked with cows. A newspaper named *The Prairie Bugle* (democratic), purporting to be issued at Wells in August and September, 1869, started out with a great demonstration, but it was really printed, half in Milwaukee and half in Austin, Minn., and soon failed. On or about the 20th day of January, 1870, the first issue of the *Wells Atlas* appeared, being the first newspaper really printed and published in the village. A newspaper has been published at this place during most of the past years, a full history of which will be found in the various years of the general history of the county.

The village was first incorporated by act approved March 6th, 1871, as "The Village of Wells," and embraced the following territory: The south half of section four and the north half of section nine. Mr. J. K. Brown was the first village president. Many amendments to this original act have been made, from time to time, which are noted in the legislative history of the county. Of an early school teacher in Wells, a writer in the *Advocate* says:

"Alsip's brick yard furnished us with a school teacher, called "Dixie," Chas. Dixon, who had a peculiar way of dismissing his pupils, by first filling his inch and a-half clay pipe, and standing ready with a match in one hand, and while slowly drawing it across his knee, would sing out, "Attention, grub time, git!"

It is stated that this teacher, having no great reverence for religious ceremonies, frequently opened his school by singing the famous classic song known as "Paddy and the Bear."

Miss Abby Parks was the first regular school teacher of the village. The first village school house, a frame building, was erected in 1870.

As to the early hotels, it appears that Q. J. Adams, erected, in August, 1869, a frame building to be used as a hotel. As Mrs. Adams had not yet arrived when he opened his hotel, Mr. Adams himself did the housework for some time. Two hotels were erected in 1871, the Wells House and the American House.

The first child born in the village was Wells Lounsberry, son of the editor of the *Atlas*. He was born in February, 1870.

George Keeler, Esq., was the first lawyer to locate in the village. He subsequently removed to Montana, where he died.

The first bank in Wells was established in 1873, by J. C. Easton, of Chatfield, Minn.

#### RELIGIOUS AND OTHER SOCIETIES.

The first sermon delivered in the village of Wells, was preached by the Rev. R. B. Abbott, of Albert Lea, Minn., on the evening of the first day of April, 1870. Quite a large audience was in attendance, and the sermon was a deeply interesting one.

The same writer for the *Advocate*, further says:

"Up to 1871 no church spires were observed in our town. Services were held in passenger coaches and private houses. Albert Lea supplied us with ministers."

Before the closing year of this sketch, 1879, several religious denominations had organized societies and Sunday schools, and several church buildings had been erected. The Episcopal church was erected in 1874, during the rectorship of the Rev. Burleson. Within the same period, also, Doric Lodge, No. 89, A. F. A. M., Mechanics Lodge, No. 19, I. O. of O. F., and Rescue Lodge, No. 66, I. O. of G. T., and Wells Lodge, No. 39, A. O. U. W., had been instituted.

This township, since the founding of Wells, and up to the close of 1879, has furnished a number of public officers. Robt. Andrews was several times county commissioner, and as state senators we have had C. W. Thompson and J. P. West, and as representative, J. P. West several terms. Of our county attorneys, two, to this date, have been from this town, M. W. Green several terms, and M. S. Wilkinson. And as county surveyor, E. S. Leavitt, a number of terms.

#### HON. J. P. WEST.

Mr. West was born in Waterbury, Vermont, in 1839. He received an academic education, studied law, and was admitted to the bar at twenty-one years of age. In 1861 he emigrated to Wisconsin, and settled at Wausau, where he practiced his profession for ten years. He was district attorney of Marathon county, Wis., two terms, and postmaster of Wausau, three years. He came to Minnesota in 1871, and located at Wells, where he engaged in the practice of the law and other business.

Mr. West held various local offices during his residence in Wells, and was for a time editor of the local newspaper. He was elected to the State Legislature, lower House, in 1873, and again in 1874, and to the State Senate in 1875, and was again elected to the lower House in 1877 and in 1878. He was subsequently appointed Deputy State Examiner, and removed to Hastings. Mr. West is a republican in politics.

#### STATISTICAL.

The population of this township, in 1870, was 347, this being the first census of the town taken after it had become a separate and independent township organization. In 1875 the population was 623, and in 1880, 892, including the village of Wells at both enumerations. The following statistics are taken from the assessor's returns for the year 1879, and include property in the village of Wells.

Horses, 178; cows, 357; other cattle, 115; mules, 9; sheep, 62; hogs, 83; wagons and carriages, 74; sewing machines, 61; organs, 19; assessed value of real estate for same year, \$230,675; personal, \$43,011; total, \$273,686. Total tax assessed on said property for 1879, \$10,368.79; Products, etc., for 1879—wheat, 10,000 bu.; oats, 13,000 bu.; corn, 6,000 bu.; potatoes, 1,300 bu.; gallons syrup, 900; apples trees growing, 117; wool, 730 lbs.; butter, 37,000 lbs.; cheese, 4,000 lbs; total acreage cultivated, 2,100.

But there were many residents of this township, prior to the close of 1879, whose names have not yet been mentioned. Here are many of them: Robt.

Andrews, C. N. Andrews, Wm. Allen, E. Anthony, L. W. Allen, J. Anderson, J. Adamson, B. D. Babcock, E. A. Baldwin, G. A. Barnes, Sr., G. A. Barnes, Jr., C. B. Billings, W. H. Barron, J. S. Brewster, H. Blodgett, N. D. Barrows, J. P. Burk, J. W. Bangs, J. E. Bunnell, C. W. Carttick, M. V. Cartwright, G. M. Chapman, W. Clark, G. C. Campbell, W. E. Crosby, E. Cole, S. Calkins, W. J. Crandall, B. Chase, John Elmore, J. Elmore, A. F. Eckenbreck, A. Eaton, C. Elliot, C. O. Esse, C. W. Elliot, A. Fay, T. S. Fellows, G. W. Fellows, J. A. Flinn, L. Fay, M. W. Green, E. Gallop, O. A. Gilbert, G. A. Gilbert, C. Guyen, H. Gilbertson, J. M. Hober, J. A. Hall, R. Huston, H. Hagumen, M. Hanlin, P. Hagen, H. G. Haugan, A. D. Hall, E. R. Johnson, J. W. Kelley, E. D. Little, C. R. Lord, C. A. Lounsberry, S. C. Leland, M. N. Leland, H. J. Merriman, J. W. Merriman, J. D. Morris, S. Merrill, M. J. Myers, J. Mengelt, J. M. Nye, J. Olson, W. T. Ogden, M. Olson, L. L. Olson, J. W. Polleys, J. Penny, Jas. Penny, C. W. Porter, A. Pratt, H. A. Park, J. Perrine, A. M. Roberts, D. Reed, W. F. Randolph, F. B. Robbins, E. D. Rogers, O. F. Southwick, F. A. Smith, A. Shillen, C. Seibert, Basil Smout, S. S. Sutton, G. W. Slade, B. F. Smith, S. A. Smith, J. R. Smith, J. Shrader, F. Shrader, M. Saxon, J. S. Stearns, Dr. Daniel Straw, A. P. Thombs, A. L. Taylor, C. L. Taylor, W. B. Wood, T. W. Woodard, W. W. Woodard, N. Wise, W. H. Wells, C. F. Wise, F. E. Watson, M. S. Wilkinson, J. P. West, H. A. Wells.

---

## CHAPTER XI.

---

### FOSTER TOWNSHIP.

#### LOCATION.

This township embraces that portion of the territory of Fari-bault county, which is described in the government surveys as town one hundred and two (102) north, of range twenty-four (24) west.

It is bounded on the north by Clark township, on the east by the township of Alden, in Freeborn county, on the south by Kiester township, and on the west by the township of Brush Creek.

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.

The average elevation of the town, above the level of the sea is about twelve hundred feet, but there is one point on the south line of the town which is about thirteen hundred feet. The drift here is from 110 to 150 feet, probably, in depth to bed-rock. A morainic belt of "boldly rolling hills of from fifty feet to seventy-five feet high, extend from section 28 to the north and northwest, by Rice Lake, where they occupy a width from one-half to one mile on each side of the lake," and thence tend northwest to west and north line of the town. The general surface of the land may be designated as rolling prairie, and affords a fair proportion of hay, pasture and tillable lands. The soil is deep and fertile.



There are several small streams, one named Jones' Creek, and several slough runs in the town, which are the heads of the east branch of the Blue Earth river. There is also a very beautiful lake in the town known as Rice Lake, which is about a mile and a half long, and half a mile wide. What native timber there is in the town is found on the margin of this lake, and some of it is very good. This vicinity was in times long gone by, a great resort of the Indians for hunting, fishing and gathering wild rice, which grain once grew in abundance here. There is a wild Indian legend of love and abduction, romantic and tragic, connected with this lake, but we have not the space to record it here.

The people of this town have not been indifferent to the importance of setting out groves of forest trees, many of which are found in the town. And here it should not be forgotten, that there are in this town some fifteen very fine living springs, and that water, pure and good, is easily found by digging, or boring, in any part of the town.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first settlers of this township were Abraham Ackerman and J. O. Jones, who located in the town June 7th, 1856. Mr. Ackerman settled upon the N  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and S  $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section eight. Mr. Jones took a claim on the same section. Ackerman said that their principal occupation during the summer was killing mosquitoes and muskrats.

Daniel J. Ackerman came into the country at the same time, but took a claim in Walnut Lake township.

The Messrs. Ackerman and Jones, were, originally, residents of the state of Illinois. They removed from that state to Iowa, where they remained a short time and then came to Minnesota.

Abraham Ackerman was for many years one of the most prominent and enterprising men of the town. He was married, and had four children. He became the owner of much land, and made many valuable improvements. He died in 1832. Daniel J. Ackerman died in December, 1864.

The following list copied from the census rolls, of the national census, taken in June, 1860, exhibits the names of all persons residing in the town at that time.

*Ackerman*—Abraham, Mrs. Elmira, James. (The names of Abraham, and his wife, do not appear on the census roll, as they were temporarily absent at the time.) *Burmester*—Henry, Mrs. Eliza, Henry. *Douglass*—William, Mrs. Lorancy, Martha, William, Laura. *Goldy*—Stephen. *Miller*—Henry, Jr., Mrs. Mary, Henry. *Miller*—Henry, Sr., Mrs. Laura, John, Frederick. *Seaton*—L. C., Mrs. Mary, Wallace, Frank. *Wilcox*—James, Mrs. Susanna, James, Louisa. *Walter*—William.

## THE NAME.

This town was named Foster, by the special commissioners, in 1858, in honor of Dr. Reuben R. Foster, one of the earliest settlers of the county, but never a resident of this town.

Dr. Foster was born in Jefferson county, state of New York, in 1808. He removed, with his parents, in 1815, to the city of Bangor, state of Maine. In 1831 he was married, and soon after commenced the study of medicine. In 1846 he emigrated to Janesville, Wisconsin, and from thence, in 1848, to Rockford, Illinois. During these years he was extensively engaged in the sale of drugs and in the practice of medicine. From Rockford he removed to Monona, Iowa, and from thence, in 1856, to Walnut Lake township, in this county. His design was to quit the practice of medicine and go largely into the business of stock raising, for which his new location afforded great facilities, but meeting with some severe losses, he removed, in the spring of 1858, to Blue Earth City, in this county, where he resided for some nine or ten years, busily engaged in the practice of medicine. He was the first resident physician of the village. The doctor holds one of those dressed sheep skins, which physicians, more than all other professional men, seem to covet, on which is inscribed, in medical Latin, a certificate of proficiency, and is known by the name of diploma.

He removed from Blue Earth City to Jackson, Minn., in 1869, and from thence to Heron Lake, Minn., and, in 1876, returned to his old home in Blue Earth City, to spend the last years of an active and eventful life. After residing at Blue Earth City for some years, he removed to St. Paul, where he since died.

It may be well to note here, incidentally, that there are six or eight post-offices in the United States, and a county in Dakota, named Foster. There have also been several quite distinguished men of this name, notably, Bishop Foster, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the United States.

## ORGANIZATION.

This town was attached by the special commissioners in 1858, to Brush Creek township, for civil purposes, and was set off by the county commissioners on the sixth day of September, 1864. An election for town officers was held September 24th, 1864, at the house of A. Ackerman, when the town commenced its career as a separate and independent township.

The several town offices were filled in 1879, the last year of this sketch, by the following persons: Supervisors, A. Ackerman, chairman, H. Steinhauer and G. Martin; town clerk, J. H. Burmester; treasurer, F. Miller; assessor, W. O. Payne; justices of the peace, C. S. Dunbar and A. Joyner; constables, A. Robinson and W. Reichenberg.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The headquarters of the town, so to speak, is on Rice Lake, where there is a post-office named Banks, a store, hotel, blacksmith shop, school house and several dwellings. This hamlet has been

known by the name of "Banks," "Rice Lake," "Paynsburg," after Mr. Payne, the landlord of the place.

The first school house erected in Foster was built in May, 1863, on section eight. It was a log building.

There are now (1879) four substantial school houses in the town, and the schools here average well with those in other towns of the county.

Religious services were held here at an early day. The Evangelical Association has a very strong congregation in this town, and a church building at Banks.

The railroad markets of this town are at Wells and Alden.

This town has furnished to the public service a county commissioner, L. C. Seaton; and a representative in the State Legislature, C. S. Dunbar, prior to the close of this history, 1879.

#### HON. C. S. DUNBAR.

Mr. Dunbar is a native of New York. He was born May 16, 1831, at Seneca, Ontario county. He came West with his father in 1846, to Rock county, Wisconsin. He remained in Wisconsin until 1850, when he went to California, where he remained four years. He then returned to his home in Wisconsin, and was married, in 1854, to Miss Helen M. Thomas. They have had ten children. He came to Freeborn county, Minnesota, in 1858. In 1861 he became a resident of this county, locating in Foster township, where he has ever since lived, engaged in farming. In 1863 he enlisted in Company K, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and served until May, 1866, when he was honorably discharged and returned home. He held various local offices, among which was that of justice of the peace, which he has held since 1868. He was elected a member of the lower House of the State legislature, in 1875, and served in the Centennial session of 1876. His political views are in harmony with the principles of the republican party.

#### SOME STATISTICS.

The population of the town was 28, in 1860; 166 in 1865; 304 in 1870; 346 in 1875; and 425 in 1880. A large proportion of the residents are German.

From the assessor's returns in 1879, it appears that there were in the town, horses, 239; cows, 306; other cattle, 347; mules, 3; sheep, 333; hogs, 222; wagons and carriages, 71; sewing machines, 17; organs, 5.

Assessed value of real estate for 1879, \$152,081; personal, \$27,896; total, \$179,977; total tax assessed on said property, \$2,562.86.

Agricultural products, etc., for same year: wheat, 34,000 bushels; oats, 24,000 bushels; corn, 25,000 bushels; barley, 1,900 bushels; potatoes, 3,000 bushels; syrup, 600 gals.; flax seed, 400 bushels; apple trees, growing, 1,200; wool, 1,200 lbs; butter, 14,000 lbs; cheese, 15,00.

Number of acres of improved land, 3,900.

Bezug nehmend auf Geschichtliches, um einer großen Klasse unseres Volkes Gerechtigkeit wiederfahren zu lassen, sollte beigefügt werden, wie das Vaterland — „Deutschland“ — aus der frühen Zeit unserer Geschichte als Nation, einen bedeutenden Beitrag durch Emigration, in die hunderttausende zählende Menschen, zur Ansiedelung Amerikas geliefert. Und, eine lange Erfahrung, im Hinblick auf die Nation im Allgemeinen, sowohl wie auf Staat und County, hat gelehrt, daß keine Klasse ausländischer Nationen, sich wünschenswerther erwiesen hat in der Ansiedelung neuer Gegenden als gerade diese bessere Klasse von Deutschen. Sowohl als Bürger der verschiedenen Townships, als auch Inhaber ländlicher Districte.

Durchweg, erhielten diese Leute, eine zwar einfache, dennoch gute Schulbildung. Trotzdem darf ihre Betriebsamkeit, ihr Fleiß, nicht unterschätzt werden.

Ferner, ihr Gehorsam, im Befolgen der Landes-Gesetze. Ihre oeconomische, sparsame, ehrliche Art, usw.

Aus oben gemachten Angaben erklärt sich denn auch ihre Ausdauer eingerechnet, wie sie oft erfolgreich sind, selbst da, wo Leute anderer Nationen, (gelegentlich) die Ähre in's Korn warfen, und davon liefen. Zudem werden sie durchweg, sehr bald amerikanisirt.

Das deutsche Element, mit Rücksicht auf Einwohnerzahl im Staate Minnesota, ist — groß — Thatsächlich größer denn irgend eine andere, einzelne genommene, ausländischer Nation. Sie waren unter den ersten Ansiedlern dieses Counties, und sie wie ihre Nachkommenschaft, bilden ein bedeutendes Theil ihrer Einwohner, sowie Bürger.

Wir treffen sie unter unsern höchst energischen, gedeithlichen sowie wohlhabenden Farmern dieser Landschaft. Doch auch nicht minder erfolgreich auf dem geschäftlichen Gebiete in Städten und Dörfern.

Ihre kirchliche, moral und sociale Organisationen, sowie Kirchenbauten, überragen in Zahlen wie am Werth alle anderen, einzeln dastehenden ausländische Körperlichkeiten.

Die erste Kirche in diesem County, war das Werk der Deutschen. Das ihnen daher gebührende Theil der Ehre darf und sollte nicht geschälert werden, da sie kräftig mithalfen, unser County zu dem zu machen was es gegenwärtig ist.

Der Verfasser dieser Angaben, leugnet zwar nicht, selbst deutscher Abkunft zu sein, dennoch stehen die Dinge auf unleugbare Thatsachen begründet.

Ferner sei hier bemerkt, daß Schreiber diese Angaben, aus Hochachtung gegen die Deutschen und als einer, der ihren Werth als Bürger dieses Landes erkennt, gegenüber des Englisch redenden Theiles, nieder geschrieben hat.

Dieser Theil unserer Geschichte, ist deßhalb in deutscher Sprache gedruckt, damit er von den guten alten deutschen Bürgern, in ihrer trefflichen Muttersprache gelesen werden kann.

The following list embraces the names of many persons, who were residents of this town prior to the close of 1879, most of whom have not already been mentioned:

S. Acken, P. Butler, E. D. Brooks, Henry Burmester, J. L. Bliss, H. C. Buendorf, Henry Buendorf, M. Butler, Wm Billings, C. B. Billings, C. S. Courtwright, D. C. Cady, C. S. Dunbar, A. Dinsmore, W. Dinsmore, J. M. Drake, R. F. Drake, W. H. Fish, G. Ganes, J. Guber, W. Heitzig, M. Heinou-sky, H. A. House, F. Hage, G. Hanks, Oliver W Jones, N. E. Joyner, A. Joyner, O. Kinney, B. Lischesske, W. T. Lyon, Geo. Martin, H. W. G. Meyer, Dewey McKinster, D. D. McKinster, H. Miller, W. F. Mason, F. Morris, Joseph Morris, J. Meyer, D. C. Meyers, Fred Miller, S. Nelson, Wm. O. Payne, J. Pa-ser, Sr., August Passer, J. Passer, Jr., C. Quantz, W. Reconburgh, C. Reconbu gh, A. F. Robinson, J. Routke, A. Rusho, N. B. Schow, F. Schow, H. G. Steinhour, J. Shequin, H. Steckleburg, H. Steinhour, L. C. Seaton, G. W. Strong, C. Sauers, A. U. Thomas, H. W. Thomas, R. D. Taylor, L. Whipple, J. A. Waldreff, A. Waldreff, A. A. Williams, Albert Williams, Wm. Walter, A. White, C. A. Wicks, C. Yonkie.

## CHAPTER XII.

## BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP.

The town bearing the above name, is congressional township one hundred and two (102) north, of range twenty-five (25) west. It is bounded on the north by the town of Walnut Lake, on the east is Foster township, south is the town of Seely, and west is the township of Emerald.

The estimated average height of this town above sea level is 1,125 feet. The depth of the drift to bed-rock has not been ascertained in this town, but it is probably that of the surrounding country, varying from 100 to 150 feet. The surface of the land is rolling prairie, easily drained. On section twenty-three are certain short "ridges, and round, or conical knolls, steep sided, about twenty feet high, composed of coarse gravel and sand, and form a series, three-fourths of a mile long."

Nearly half of Walnut lake, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the county, is in this town, near the northeast corner. There are, also, two other small lakes in the town, known as Swan Lake and Goose Lake. The east branch of the Blue Earth river runs from the northeast corner, in a southerly and southwesterly direction through the town, and a small stream, known as Brush Creek, enters the town about a mile from the southeast corner and empties into the Blue Earth river.

There is considerable native timber in the town, which is confined to the banks of the lakes and the river. Many fine groves of forest trees, the result of the labor and foresight of the people, are scattered throughout the town. The soil is deep and fertile—the wild grasses luxuriant and nutritious.

Such a fine tract of land should have attracted settlers at an early day, and such was the fact.

## FIRST SETTLEMENT.

James Prior was the first permanent settler of this town. He located on the southeast quarter of section thirty-three, on the twenty-sixth day of May, 1856. Mr. Prior was born in 1814, in England, and came to the United States in 1850, and stopped for awhile in Massachusetts. In April, 1854, he emigrated to Miama county,

Ohio, but the country not being healthy, he returned to Massachusetts in November following. In 1855, he emigrated to Iowa, and from thence to this town at the time above stated.

He has always been a farmer by occupation. Since living here, and at an early day, he was twice burned out of house and home and household goods. Both fires occurred within one year, and both were undoubtedly the work of an incendiary. For a number of years he acted as town treasurer. He was married July 6th, 1869, to Mrs. Fannie M. Whitney. He died in 1887.

The following list embraces the names of all the residents of the town in June, 1860, and is taken from the census rolls of that year.

*Fletcher*—Charles, Mrs. Mary, Clara, Amanda, Mary, Castara, Rebecca. *Murray*—Wm. *Mallory*—David. *Nelson*—Ole. *Oleson*—Nels, Mrs. Mary, Peter. *Prior*—James. *Phillips*—Wm. D., Mrs. Faustina, Harriet, DeWitt, Alice. *Raymond*—Lucius S., Mrs. Melissa. *Rugg*—Sam'l L., Mrs. Maria, Abby, David, Elizabeth. *Whitney*—L. J., Mrs. Fanny, Marian, Arthur, Eugene.

The following table, made up from the census reports of 1860, shows the possessions of the people at that time, in the aggregate:

Acres of land, improved, 222; value of farms \$6,900; value of farm implements and machinery, \$558; number of horses, 10; milch cows, 26; working cattle, 24; other cattle, 36; swine, 55; value of live stock, \$2,107.

#### THE NAME.

The town was named Brush Creek by the special commissioners in 1858, after the small stream of that name in the town, and the stream received this name because of the thick growth of small trees, thickets and brush along its banks. The name is not a common one, yet there are some six or eight post-offices and villages in the United States, bearing the name of Brush Creek.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The township of Foster was attached to this town for civil purposes, by the special commissioners, in 1858, and an election for town officers was noticed to be held on the twentieth day of October, 1858.

It appears from the county records, that on the sixth of March, 1860, the county commissioners consolidated into one town district, the two town districts of Brush Creek and Foster, and Seely and Kiester, for town purposes. The town of Foster was detached from Brush Creek township by the county commissioners, September 6th, 1864. In separating these towns, the strange circumstance happened, that Brush Creek, the principal town, became disorganized, as all the officers of the town district resided at the time, in Foster, the attached, or ancillary town, and the commissioners, therefore, ordered an election for town officers to be held at the house of Lucius S. Raymond, on the twenty-fifth day of October, 1864.

The board of town officers for the year 1878-9, was composed of the following named persons: Supervisors, Geo. Thompson, chairman, H. Johnson and G. Susher; town clerk, C. Ellert; treasurer, J. Amundson; assessor, J. Emerson; justices of the peace, John Emerson and C. Ellert; constable, J. D. Seely.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

About the years 1863-4-5, a locality of some importance grew up on section one, where one, Milton Morey had a saw mill in the timber on the banks of Walnut lake. He had also a small store here, which did quite a business, being patronized by the people of the surrounding country for many miles.

There was a post-office established in this town, on section 25, and named Alton.

Military bounty bonds were voted during the war, to encourage enlistments, and were afterwards duly paid.

About the year 1869, Charles Fletcher erected a small grist mill (water power), on the Blue Earth, on section 33. The mill was subsequently purchased by Hiram Raymond, and greatly improved, and for some time did a good business, but was finally abandoned.

This town has furnished to the public service a county commissioner, S. L. Rugg, in the early years of the county.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

Schools were held in the town as early as 1861, but it was several years before a school house was erected. There are now (1879) three very good school houses in this town, and schools are regularly kept.

#### RELIGIOUS.

Public religious services were held here soon after the first settlement, the people assembling in private houses for some years, until the erection of school houses. It appears that the Baptists were the first to have regular services. Other religious denominations have held services here also, especially the Lutherans.

#### STATISTICAL.

The population in the town in 1860 was, in fact, 31, though reported 48. In 1865 there were 223 souls, in 1870, 422; in 1875, 541; in 1880, 525.

A large majority of the inhabitants are Norwegians.

The assessor's reports for 1879, show that there were in the town at that time, 268 horses, 425 cows, 501 other cattle, 5 mules, 474 sheep, 196 hogs, 14 sewing machines, etc.

The assessed value of real property was \$118,334; personal, \$23,440; total, \$141,774. Total tax levied thereon was \$1,799.67.

Of products for 1879 there was reported, wheat, 99,000 bushels; oats, 125,000 bushels; corn, 37,000 bushels; barley, 500 bushels; potatoes, 800 bushels, syrup, 400 gallons; apple trees growing, 109; wool, 3,900 pounds; butter, 4,800 pounds.

The total acreage cultivated is reported at over 12,000.

There are evidently some errors in the above statements, as to the amount of products and acreage, but they are given as they are found.

We should have but an imperfect idea of the importance of this town, without a statement of the names of a number more of the people who were residents of the town prior to the close of this sketch, and helped in the work of building up the town. Here are some of them.

H. Alson, Ole Anderson, O. C. Anderson, L. Anderson, Geo. Armstrong, Jeff Amundson, Pat Boyle, E. J. Babcock, W. Babcock, A. Bergsetter, C. F. Bassett, Thos. Brown, Gustav Buscho, J. Conrad, C. Cheffy, A. Clementson, M. Christoperson, F. Creger, H. Cline, E. S. Dahl, J. Dickens, Wm. Errikson, O. O. Eldeguard, W. E. Everett, Chas. Ellert, John Emerson, P. Engelbrighthson, E. Francis, B. Francis, I. Francis, G. Gilbertson, H. Gutormson, S. Gilbertson, O. Hollman, G. Hendrickson, Nils Hanson, H. Haverson, C. Haut, I. Iverson, H. H. Johnson, A. Johnson, P. Johnson, F. Johnson, Hans Johnson, J. M. Jones, Jas. Jones, O. Johnson, L. O. Legrid, T. H. Legrid, M. Lange, A. H. Lathrop, S. Lange, A. Larson, T. Larson, Thos. Lewis, L. Merrit, S. E. Merrit, M. M. Monson, N. S. Marklebust, S. T. Natvig, P. Nilson, J. J. Northness, C. Narveson, E. Nelson, Jas. Noakes, J. E. Odden, S. E. Odden, H. Olson, H. L. Olson, G. Olson, T. Pederson, Reginald Pederson, E. Pederson, O. Pederson, P. Pace, J. Pankonin, James Prior, F. Radman, M. Radman, J. W. Robinson, L. H. Robinson, L. S. Raymond, N. Stockkelbo, J. D. Seely, J. J. Saben, O. O. Svangster, N. L. Satre, J. Schultz, J. Shjurson, F. W. Sibel, L. Sohn, H. Sohn, Geo. Thompson, B. Thompson, J. Thompson, P. Thompson, J. Tellefson, S. E. Voldahl, L. J. Whitney, A. Whitney, E. Whitney, E. Wolf, H. A. Waldruff, Arz. Yocum.



## CHAPTER XIII.

## THE TOWNSHIP OF EMERALD.

The town having the appropriate name written above, is bounded on the north by the township of Barber, on the east by Brush Creek township, on the south, not by the ancient city of Rome, but by Rome township, and on the west by Blue Earth City township. On the government surveys this town is numbered one hundred and two (102) north, of range twenty-six (26) west.

The surface of the land is properly described as quite undulating prairie and natural meadows. The town is drained by the east branch of the Blue Earth river, which enters the town near the southeast corner, and passes through it, quite centrally, running in a north-west and westerly direction, and by a small stream, which is the outlet of the lake and several slough runs. Lake Ozahtonka, one of the largest and most attractive lakes in the county, lies mainly in this town, on the north boundary. A number of valuable springs of cool, clear water, are also found here, and good water is easily to be had by digging or boring in any part of the town.

The soil is deep, dark-colored and productive. The average elevation of the town is about 1,125 feet above sea level. The depth of the drift is unascertained as yet, but is doubtless that of the county generally, probably exceeding one hundred feet.

There is considerable native timber in the town, which is found along the river bottoms and the margin of the lake. Many "artificial" groves of forest trees, set out by the residents of the town, give the town a wooded aspect, and adds much to the beauty of the landscape.

The reader is now invited to pass from this description of location and physical characteristics of the town, to a brief setting forth of what is known of its history.

In relation to the first settlements made here, we present the substance of a letter, received from Ezra M. Ellis, for many years a prominent resident of the town. He says: "I moved into the town on the first day of June, 1857. John Cook, and two sons, Henry Weber, Charles Castle and one Jones, were then settled in the town. Jones was at that time, however, away from home. Either Cook or Jones was the first settler, but I never learned which one."

Henry Weber, above named, George Middlesdorf, Fred Middlesdorf and Herman Priester located in the town in June, 1856, and Mr. Weber says that John Cook was then, and for some time previous, had been settled here. From the above, and other information in regard to the matter, Mr. Cook is doubtless entitled to be deemed the first permanent settler of this township. He left the town, however, many years ago, but whither he has gone, who he was, or from whence he came, the writer has been unable to learn.

Looking further for the names of the early settlers of the town, we turn to the rolls of the census, taken in June, 1860, and find the following list of residents, at that time:

*Amundson*—Erick, Mrs. Agaata, Ann, Ammond, Iver. *Anderson*—Gist. *Cook*—John. *Cook*—George. *Errickson*—Lars. *Ellis*—Ezra M., Mrs. Lydia, Henry, Edwin, Elva, Ezra, William, George, Elizabeth. *Fondra*—Wm., Mrs. Louisa, August, Julius, Augusta. *Griffin*—Julius, Mrs. Mary, Julius, Lucius, Harriet, Lydia. *Gilbertson*—Ole, Mrs. Gertrude, Gilbert, Ole. *Johnson*—Hans, Mrs. Embric, John, Christie, Knut, Gertrude, John, Mons. *Knutson*—Christopher, Mrs. Agaata. *Larson*—Henry E., Mrs. Betsy, Erick, Ole. *Lodwic*—Henry, Mrs. Signe, Christie, Alexander, Lodwic. *Middlesdorff*—Fred, Mrs. Dora, Bertha, George. *Nelson*—Ole, Mrs. Ingeborg, Ann, Nilse, Caroline, Christina, Elsie, Ole 2d, Ann, Annie, Mary. *Priester*—Herman. *Welk*—August. *Weber*—Henry, Sr., Mrs. Johanna, Henry, Frederick, Louisa, William, Wilhelmina.

And here is a summary of the material resources of the people, in the aggregate, at that time.

Acres of land improved, 125; value of farms, \$2,100; value of farm implements and machinery, \$750; number of horses, 3; number of working oxen, 22; number of milch cows, 18; number of other cattle, 21; number of swine, 19; value of live stock, \$1,625.

The name Emerald, was given to this town by the special commissioners in 1858, they supposing that the town was settled mainly by Irishmen, at the time, and, as one of the commissioners said, "Old Ireland was known as the Emerald Isle, and the national colors of Ireland are green, so this town should be named Emerald."

But, strange to say, not an Irishman resided in the town at that time, nor ever since that day, for that matter. The name, however, is a beautiful and appropriate one. There are several villages and post-offices in the United States named Emerald, and it is well known, perhaps, that Emerald is the name given to a species of gems or precious stones possessing rich green colors; transparent and very beautiful, and very costly, and the people of this town have long claimed that their town is the gem among the towns of this county.

Relative to the organization of this town for civil purposes, it is found that it was originally attached by the special commissioners in 1858, to Blue Earth City township, and so remained until March 19th, 1866, when it was detached by the county board. On the third day of April, following, the first town election was held, and town

officers elected, and from that time forward it has been a separate and independent township. The first town officers were Henry Sellen, chairman of town board, and August Haase and Knut Olson; Andrew Hanson, town clerk; Knut Anderson, assessor; H. Priester, treasurer; Andrew Hanson, justice of the peace and H. E. Larson, constable. In view of the contemplated separation of the two towns and preceding joint liability on certain military bounty bonds, previously voted by the town district, an act was passed by the legislature of 1866, which provided that when the town of Emerald should be detached from the town of Blue Earth City, the former town should remain liable for its proportionate share of the amount of the bounties to be paid. This proportion was subsequently determined and promptly paid.

Turning again to the letter, above referred to, Mr. Ellis says: "In 1858, I built the first bridge in the town, at my own expense. As to the first school and school house in the town, I will say that in the summer of 1860, I hired Mrs. C. M. Butler to teach a free school at my house, and this was the first school taught in the town, and she the first teacher. In 1863 I hired Mr. S. Peabody to teach a free school. Free to all who choose to come. The first district school house was erected in 1864." This school house was known as the "Frandall School House." It was a log building and served the purpose very well for many years, for schools, town elections, general elections and religious meetings. The stump speaker was also heard within its walls, occasionally. There are, at this time (1879), six good frame school houses in the town; schools are regularly kept, and the people, generally, have been interested in the cause of education. Nor have the spiritual interests of the people of this town been neglected, as will appear from the following interesting statement furnished the writer by the Rev. Dahl.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CONGREGATION IN EMERALD AND ADJOINING TOWNS,  
FARIBAULT COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

Said congregation was organized A. D. 1864, the seventeenth of October, by Rev. Th. Johnson, from Nicollet county. In 1867 the congregation received a local pastor, namely: T. H. Dahl, who still is the pastor of the congregation. In the fall of 1869, the congregation built a parsonage, near what is known as the Ellis bridge, in the town of Emerald, and, in the fall of 1871, a church edifice was commenced near the parsonage, which is not yet finished, but has for some time been used for worship. About a year ago (in the summer of '72) a church was commenced six miles southeast from the church in Emerald (in the western part of the town of Seely). It is not yet finished, but is used by the congregation for public worship. The cost of the church in Emerald is about \$1,500.00, and of that in Seely about \$400.00. The whole congregation numbers about 140 families. The name of the congregation is, The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Blue Earth Congregation.

Respectfully yours,

Emerald, August 25th, 1873.

T. H. DAHL, Pastor.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in March, 1871, by the Rev. G. E. Ahner. This congregation has also a church building, situated on section six, which was erected about that year, and they have, also, a parsonage near by the church.

And now, here is a handful of historical items of interest:

For many years a post-office was established on section thirty (30), known as Ewald post-office, but this office has now been discontinued for several years. There is now an office, named Emerald, on section eleven, and one, named Dell, on section twenty-three. Dell seems to be the headquarters of the town at present, as there is here the church, a parsonage, school house, post-office, blacksmith shop, several dwellings and a general store.

The town has voted on the question of granting bounties, or bonuses, to aid in the construction of railroads, several times, but the vote was always adverse, but once.

The township organization has been kept up from the first to the present time. The board of town officers in 1879, the closing year of this sketch, was composed of the following named citizens: Supervisors, J. Levenick, chairman, J. Courier and G. Frandall; town clerk, O. C. Veam; assessor, J. J. Frandall; treasurer, O. J. Sebben; justices of the peace, F. Dreblow and H. C. Weber; constable, J. Underdall.

Prior to the close of 1879, this town had contributed to the public service two members of the board of county commissioners, E. M. Ellis and Henry Sellen, the latter of whom was chairman of the board for some years.

#### STATISTICS.

The population of the town in 1860 was 76. In 1865 the people were enumerated with those of Blue Earth City township. In 1870 there were 748 inhabitants; in 1875, 825; in 1880, 860. It will be observed that this is one of the most populous towns in the county. With the exception of a few Germans and Americans, the population is almost exclusively Norwegian, and the town has often been called Norway.

From the assessor's reports for the year 1879, there were in the town, of horses, 453; cows, 685; other cattle, 736; mules, 8; sheep, 681; hogs, 542, wagons and carriages, 111; sewing machines, 54; organs, 2. Assessed value of real estate, \$182,340; personal property, \$48,906; total, \$231,246. Total amount of tax assessed in same year, \$2,000.

The agricultural productions, etc., for same year, were estimated as follows: Wheat, 31,000 bu.; oats, 45,000 bu.; corn, 19,000 bu.; barley, 2,100 bu.; potatoes, 1,700 bu.; syrup, 1,400 gals.; timothy seed, 54 bu.; apple trees growing, 784; wool, 3,000 lbs.; butter, 39,000 lbs; flax seed, 120 bu. Number of acres of cultivated land, 6,500.

Here is an interesting muster roll of settlers in Emerald township, prior to the close of 1879, in addition to those already named:

Jeff Anderson, K. Anderson, M. Anderson, Axel Axelson, J. Amley, O. Anderson, R. C. Alborn, A. Absolemson, A. O. Anderson, O. C. Anderson, N. Bottleson, O. Bottleson, C. Bottleson, A. Balke, W. Botcher, H. Burndt, J. Chilson, M. Chilson, L. Chilson, J. Conrad, J. Courrier, F. Dreblow, H. T. Dahl, G. Dagner, L. Doege, L. Errickson, R. Elingson, C. Eckhart, H. Errickson, A. Endahl, A. Enarson, E. Errickson, K. Errickson, E. Enarson, J. J. Frandall, P. Frandall, J. S. Frandall, Geo. Frandall, L. I. Floe, Aug. Fondry, Wm. Fondry, J. C. Fenske, A. Fosness, K. O. Groue, Ole Gulbrandson, O. O. Gilbertson, G. Gesche, S. S. Grove, J. Grove, C. C. Hamre, And Hanson, Ole Holverson, E. C. Hamre, T. Holverson, J. B. Henjum, Wm. Haase, A. Haase, Ole Iverson, M. Johnson, O. E. Johnson, P. E. Johnson, Iver Johnson, K. Johnson, J. K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Anfin Johnson, Wm. King, J. M. King, H. E. Larson, F. Levenick, J. Levenick, Hans Larson, Ed. Larson, S. Marquardt, Geo. Mittlestdorf, J. B. Maland, J. J. Maland, M. Monson, S. Mikleson, John Miller, N. Madson, J. Mathews, Iver Nelson, J. Nelson, O. Nelson, N. Nelson, Ole Nelson, A. Nelson, P. H. Nederberg, Robt. Newman, A. Odett, P. Olson, C. Oleson, H. Oleson, J. Oleson, A. Pederson, G. Pederson, J. Pederson, K. Pederson, R. Rasmusson, E. Rakow, G. Rakow, T. Simpson, Ole Sebben, L. Sivertson, Henry Sellen, E. Sasse, O. Samuelson, O. S. Thompson, A. Tollefson, H. Thompson, L. O. Underdahl, G. Ulrickson, H. L. Underdahl, J. G. Ulrickson, J. Underdahl, S. O. Veum, Henry Weber, F. Weber, H. J. C. Weber, Aug. Weber, Aug. Welk, C. Werner, Paul Wise, W. White, G. Zupp.

---

## CHAPTER XIV.

---

### BLUE EARTH CITY TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.

We have now reached, in the order of these historical sketches, that portion of the territory of the county, known as congressional township number one hundred and two (102) north, of range twenty-seven (27) west.

The average elevation of this township, above sea level, is 1,120 feet. The depth of the drift, to bed-rock, has not been determined here, but probably exceeds one hundred feet. The surface of the land is well designated as rolling prairie, and is everywhere easy of drainage. The streams of water, in this town, are the branches of the Blue Earth river, Coon creek and several small nameless rivulets.

The east branch of the river, rises in the eastern part of the county, and flows in a general westerly course, through the town, to its confluence with the west branch of the river, on section eight, about half a mile north of the village of Blue Earth City.

The west branch of the river rises in a large swamp, just south of the State line, and runs northward to the point of confluence above stated. These united branches form the main stream of the Blue Earth river.

Coon creek rises near the south line of the county, and flows into the town, from the southeast, and empties into the west branch about a mile south of the village of Blue Earth City.

The bottom lands and bluffs bordering these streams are well timbered. Such timber is mainly oak, walnut, basswood, elm and maple, and much of it, within the limits of this town was of superior quality. Groves of native wood are also found scattered in various localities, throughout the town, and to all this, we must add the many fine groves of forest trees, throughout the town, which have been planted and cultivated by the people, since the settlement of the county. In fact, the natural advantages of streams, timber, fertile rolling prairie, rich soil, presented here, constituted the attractions which influenced the first settler of the county, who had previously viewed most of the territory of the county, to finally locate in this town.

But something further of an historical character should here be said of the Blue Earth river, which is the principal water course of this region, and from which is derived the name of a large region of country—the Blue Earth Valley—a county, a township and a village. The length of this stream is about fifty miles, by direct line, but if estimated to include its many curves and angles, its length would be very much greater. The general course of the river is due north, and it empties into the Minnesota river in Blue Earth county. It is not a navigable stream. Owing to the tortuous character of the stream, protection has been afforded for the growth of much valuable timber along its borders, bottom lands and bluffs, from prairie fires. The bottom lands, bordering the river, vary in width from about a quarter of a mile to about half a mile, and are bordered by steep bluffs. At Blue Earth City the bottom of the the river is about fifty feet below the general level of the country, and northward, through Verona and Winnebago City townships, its depth increases from fifty to ninety or one hundred feet, below the general surface of the land.

It appears evident to the careful observer, that this river and its two main branches in Faribault county, were, at one time, much larger streams than they now are. It is not improbable that they once covered, entirely, the bottomlands through which they now have but a small channel (except in times of high water), and that what are now known as the river bluffs, were once the true banks of the river. There are many valuable water powers on this stream, some of which have been put to good use for mill purposes. The adjacent country drained by the Blue Earth river and its tributaries is known as the Blue Earth river basin and “the Blue Earth Valley,” and is undoubtedly one of the most healthful and fertile districts of country in the State, and destined to become one of the

most populous and wealthy. In an article published by the writer of this history, many years ago, descriptive of the Blue Earth Valley, we find the following reference to the river:

“The ‘Bold Mankato,’ or Blue Earth river, has its many attractions to the lovers of nature. It is a clear, pure stream, sometimes noiseless in its passage, and placid as a mirror, pursuing its way through fertile lowlands, sometimes rushing through deep forests and dark glens, breaking over rocky cataracts, sometimes rising in its might and like a savage warrior, breasting its way through steep bluffs and primeval rocks, and goes rushing on its course to the Minnesota. Here, too, bordering the river are wide-spreading landscapes, picturesque and beautiful as the eye wishes to rest upon, and deep, dark, old forests, penetrated, until lately, only by the red man, whose camp fires have scarcely yet gone out.”

On several maps of Minnesota, made by the early French explorers, this river is named the St. Henry’s river, but—The Sioux Indian and original name of the river was Ma-ka-to (Blue Earth), or Makatoose—the Mankato river. It was sometimes called the “Bold Mankato.” It is said this name, “Blue Earth was given on account of beds of blue clay along its banks, which give a bluish tinge to the water.” The clay was long used by the Indians for paint. (See Collections, Minnesota Historical Society). But it has also been said that the river derived its name from certain mines of bluish or greenish earths, of a peculiar character, found near the mouth of the river, as appears from the following bit of ancient history, for this river was well known, in the very earliest history of the region, now known as Minnesota.

In the year 1700, M. Le Sueur, a Frenchman, with a felucca (a small boat), two canoes and nineteen men, ascended the Mississippi river from a post on the Gulf of Mexico, on a tour of exploration in Minnesota, and with the further intention of establishing a fort and fur trading post, and work certain mines of blue earth, near the mouth of the stream known as the Blue Earth river. This peculiar earth had been discovered by Le Sueur, on an exploring expedition, several years before, and was thought, by him and others, to possess some great intrinsic value. About the first of October, of that year, after passing through many dangers in this, then, savage region, he entered the river and ascended a short distance, and, by the fourteenth of the month, he had completed the erection of a rude, but strong fort, and named it Fort Le Huillier, in honor of the farmer-general of Paris, France, who had encouraged him in his projects. On the twenty-fifth of the same month, Le Sueur went up the river a short distance to inspect the character of the green and blue earth. It seems that the exact locality of this colored earth was on a branch of the Blue Earth river, called, subsequently, by Nicollet,

the Le Sueur river, and about a mile above the fort. The exact spot where the fort was built cannot now be determined. Le Sueur and his men spent the winter in this fort, trading with the Indians, and in the following April he obtained about thirty thousand pounds of the colored earth, from which he selected some four thousand pounds, and he, with six of his men, left for his southern post. He subsequently sent his earth to France for analysis. It proved to have no particular value. The thirteen men whom he left in charge of the fort remained until the spring of 1702, when they, also, left the country.

But here is another view, as to the derivation of the word Mankato.

*To the Editor of the Pioneer Press:*—In the report of the valuable address delivered by General Baker at the reunion of the old settlers at Le Sueur, I see that in speaking of the Blue Earth river, he says, Mahkotah is the Indian name for Blue Earth. The Indian name was subsequently given to the city, with a simpler orthography, viz., Mankato. Some years ago, J. C. Wise, of Mankato, wrote to the editor of the *Minnesota Monthly*, then printed at St. Paul, asking for information upon the derivation of the word Mankato. The said editor proposed a plan for the survey of the town, and also the name, Mankato, both of which were accepted by the original proprietors. He further says, in his answer, that the name is not of Indian origin. It is derived from the report of the survey of Minnesota, by J. N. Nicollet, published in 1843, and was the source whence was derived the name of the flourishing town referred to. Among these (the regions of country adjoining the Coteau des Prairies), that which seemed to me the most favorable is the one watered by the bold Mankato, or Blue Earth river, and to which I have given the name of Undine region." "It was on a visit to lakes Okamanipadan and Tchanhassan (Little Heron and Maple Wood lakes) that it occurred to me to give it the name I have adopted, derived from that interesting and Romantic German tale, the heroine of which belonged to the extensive race of water sprites, living in the brooks and rivers and lakes, whose father was a mighty prince. She was, moreover, the niece of a great brook—the Mankato—who lived in the forests, and who was beloved by all the great streams of the surrounding country." Nicollet fancied an analogy between the ideal country described in the tale and the region before him, and involuntarily adopted the name. I have not seen the name Mankato in the translation of the German tale *Undine*, and the name *Mahkotah*, certainly resembles Mankato. But Nicollet could not have made an error, and the very resemblance of the words may have led others to suppose an Indian derivation. Can any one throw any further light upon the question?

T. E. ROWEN.

It is extremely probable that Le Sueur, or some of his men, visited the region now comprising this county, during their stay at Fort L'Huillier. A great part of their business was trading with the Indians, and exploration. Soon after Le Sueur arrived, he sent two of his men, probably overland, to invite the Ayavois (Iowas) and Otoctatas (Ottoes), who possessed the country about the upper waters of the Blue Earth, to come and establish a village near the fort, giving as a reason for this, that these Indians were reputed to be industrious, and accustomed to cultivate the soil, and he hoped to



get provisions from them, and have them work in the mines. The messengers returned, however, after several days, having failed to find the way that led to the locality of the Indians. This could not well have happened had they gone by boat.

The principal method of travel and transportation, in that day, used by explorers and voyagers, was by boats. The streams were, doubtless, much larger then than they now are. But we cannot pursue these subjects further here. A fine volume might be written of the explorations, the Indian history, legends and traditions of the Blue Earth valley. It is a region of romantic and of startling events occurring in the long ago, and of which the people of this time know but little.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Moses Sailor, who, with his family, settled in the town May 25th, 1855, was the first settler of the town, as he was, also, the first settler in the county, and this was, consequently, the first town in the county, in which settlement was made.

For a full account of Mr. Sailor, and his settlement here, the reader is referred to chapter first, Part First, of this history, comprising the events of the year 1855.

#### THE VILLAGE OF BLUE EARTH CITY.

Following events in their order, we now record the fact that Blue Earth City, the only village in the township, and the oldest in the county, was surveyed and platted in July, 1856, and the first buildings were erected in that year. The founding of the village preceded the organization and naming of the township. The original proprietors and founders of the village were James B. Wakefield, Henry P. Constans, Samuel V. Hibler and Spier Spencer.

The original town site embraces three hundred and twenty acres, being the north half of section seventeen. Three additions, Dow & Bowen's and Young's, of forty acres each, and McArthur's, were subsequently laid out. It is located upon a circular prairie, of about one mile in diameter, and is surrounded, almost entirely, by streams of water and timber. The town site is high, rolling prairie, dotted over with small groves of oak, popple, cottonwood and other trees.

The village derives its name from the river. There have been two occasions, widely separated by years, when there was considerable serious talk of changing the name of the village for various reasons given, but no official action was had, and it is not probable that the name will ever be changed.

By the act organizing the county, the county seat was located at Blue Earth City, and the question of location was voted upon at the next general election, which was held in October, 1856, and was decided unanimously in favor of Blue Earth City. The question of

removal of the county seat from Blue Earth City to Winnebago City was voted upon at the general election of 1861, and a large majority of the votes proved to be against removal, and the capital of the county has remained, from the first, at this village. But our general history of the county will show that many subsequent attempts have been made to remove the county seat.

By act of the legislature, approved March 1st, 1872, the village of Blue Earth City was incorporated, subject, however, to ratification or rejection by the voters of the township, at the next ensuing town meeting, which was held in March. The act was ratified, but remained inoperative, until an election of village officers. The first election for village officers, under this charter, was held April 1st, 1874, when the following officers were elected: J. H. Sprout, president; S. S. Burleson, H. P. Constans and S. Pfeffer, trustees; Alex. Anderson, recorder, and D. F. Goodrich, justice of the peace.

The act of incorporation, or "village charter" of 1872, proving very defective in many particulars, the village was re-incorporated by act of the legislature, approved January 27th, 1879. The latter act was much more extensive, and much more complete in its provisions than the former one. The limits of the territory included in the corporation were greatly extended, by this act, beyond the former boundaries. The first election, under the latter act, was held on the first Tuesday of April, 1879.

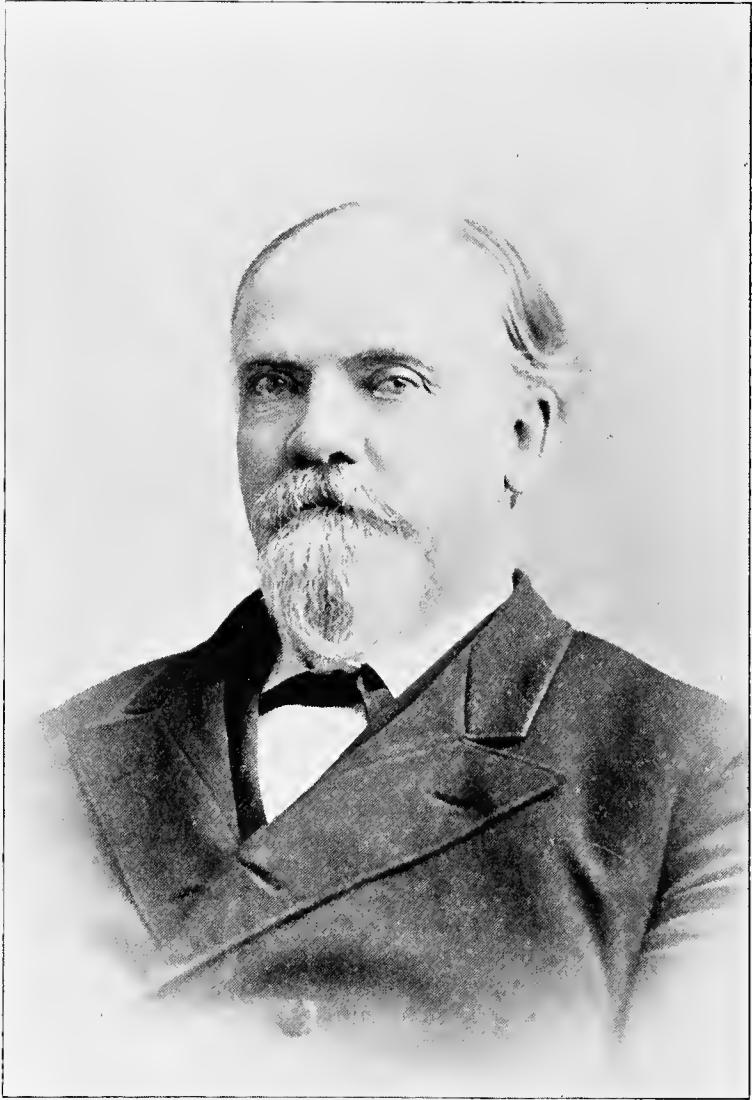
As the history of the village of Blue Earth City is largely incorporated in the general history of the county, from year to year, the reader is referred to that record, and especially for an account of the events attending the founding of the village, which will be found in the history of the year 1856. Many items of historical interest, relating to the village, will also be found in this historical sketch of the township of Blue Earth City proper. The village having been the county seat since the organization of the county, and, being the oldest village in the county, and having had, from the beginning, a law-abiding, industrious, public spirited class of inhabitants, its people have always taken a leading and prominent part in all the principal political, religious, reformatory and other projects, associations and public enterprises of the county.

#### HON. JAMES B. WAKEFIELD.

It is quite proper, that in connection with an historical sketch of Blue Earth City, there should be given a biographical notice of Mr. Wakefield, one of the first settlers of the county, and one of the original town site proprietors, and a resident of the village from its founding, to the close of his life, with the exception of a few short periods when absent on official duty.

Mr. Wakefield was born at Winsted, Conn., on the twenty-first day of March, 1828. His father, Dr. Luman Wakefield, was a distinguished physician, of that state. James received his preparatory education at Westfield, Mass.,





J. B. WAKEFIELD.

and Jonesville, N. Y., and, in 1843, he entered Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., as a sophomore, and graduated in 1846. He read law at Painsville, Ohio, under the direction of Judge E. T. Wilder, his brother-in-law, and was admitted to the bar, at Delphi, Indiana, in 1851, where he engaged in the practice of law for two years.

In April, 1854, Mr. Wakefield came to Minnesota and located at Shakopee, where he engaged in the business of the profession, with Judge L. M. Brown.

In February, 1856, he, in company with several other persons, came to this county and founded Blue Earth City, as is more fully detailed in our general history of the year 1856.

Mr. Wakefield was the principal actor in the work of securing the organization of the county, and was the first chairman of the first board of county commissioners, of the county, and was, again, a member of the board in 1859. He was, also, the first judge of probate, of the county, and also held the office of register of deeds some time. He was county attorney in 1857, and again in 1860-61, and was twice elected, subsequently, to that office, but declined to serve further. He was elected, in 1857, a member of the House of Representatives, in the last Territorial and first State legislature. In 1861 he was appointed deputy agent, at the lower Sioux Indian agency, in Minnesota, but returned to Blue Earth City at the time of the outbreak of the Indians, in August, 1862. In 1863 he was again a member of the lower House of our State legislature.

Mr. Wakefield was married, at Blue Earth City, in 1864

He was again, in 1866, a member of the House, and was elected speaker of the House, during the session of that year. He was State senator, for this district, in 1867, 1868 and 1869, but resigned the office of State senator about the middle of his second term, to accept the appointment of receiver of the United States land office, Winnebago City district, to which office he was appointed by President Grant, in 1869. He held this office six years, when he resigned it. In 1875, Mr. Wakefield was elected lieutenant governor of this State, and, in 1877, was again elected, serving in that office two terms, and presided in the State Senate, at the sessions of 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1879. In the fall of 1882, he was elected representative in congress, for this district, and was again elected, in 1884, for a second term, both of which he served. He was not a candidate for re-election in 1886.

In 1886, old Trinity College conferred upon him the very honorable degree of Doctor of Laws. Mr. Wakefield has been a republican since the organization of the party, and has, for many years, taken an active part in the politics of the State. He was chairman, of the Minnesota delegation, in the national convention in 1868, which nominated General Grant for the presidency, and was a member of the Minnesota delegation in the national convention of 1876, which nominated General Hayes as the republican candidate for the presidency. Mr. Wakefield's name, it will be observed, appears very often in the course of this history, he having been so closely identified with the progress, improvements and important events of the county, from the beginning.

#### OTHER EARLY SETTLERS.

The names of other early residents of this township will be found in the following lists, which is a copy of the roll of inhabitants, in June, 1860, according to the census taken at that time.

*Ahrens*—George, Mrs. Louisa, George, Frank, Alvira. *Andrews*—Alfred D. *Arnot*—John. *Bonwell*—Arthur. *Bloehner*—John. *Bowen*—Theo. *Burgess*—Geo. *Barker*—Fred. *Butler*—Zimri C., Mrs. Caroline, Delia. *Beidle*—John, Mrs. Mary, Joseph, John, Mary. *Beebe*—Alonzo, Mrs. Lucretia, Mary Edward.

*Blanchard*—Chas. *Blanchard*—Wm. *Billings*—Levi Sr., Mrs. Mary, Levi Jr., Albert, Oliver. *Beaumont*—John B., Mrs. Eugenia, Ernest. *Bertram*—Jas. *Betts*—Almira. *Constans*—Henry P., Mrs. Barbara, Charles, Edward, Theodore. *Converse*—Geo. S., Mrs. Julia, Cynthia, Frederick, Frank, Clara. *Christopherson*—Christopher, Mrs. Anna, Solvi, Erick, Gitlog. *Coutier*—John B., Mrs. Elizabeth, Leon, Lucien, Anestine, Adalaid. *Cate*—Jos. B., Mrs. Sarah. *Decker*—James, Mrs. Catherine, Artemus, Gustavus, Eugene. *Davy*—Peter B., Mrs. Calista, Frank. *Dobson*—James, Mrs. Adeline. *Ewald*—John C., Mrs. Louisa, Frederick, Henry, Sophia, Johanna, Matilda. *Foster*—Reuben R., Mrs. Rebecca Viran, Ethmer, Girsham, Reuben. *Faunce*—Horace A. *Farlow*—Leander, Mrs. Frances, Frank. *Fockler*—Alzina, Calista. *Gaylord*—Edmund. *Gardner*—Orlando N., Mrs. Helen, Jennie, Henry. *Gillit*—J. B., Mrs. Maranda, Pamela, Baldwin. *Gillit*—William, Mrs. Eliza, Mary, Orrin. *Hill*—Wesley. *Harmon*—Leonard, Mrs. Frances. *Harris*—Wm., Mrs. Emily, Peter, Mary, Hannah, Clarissa. *Hamilton*—Saml. B., Mrs. Elizabeth, Minnesota, Emma. *Hadley*—J. W., Mrs. Nancy, James, Edwin, Helen, Benjamin, Cecil, Charles, Ella. *Hill*—Onslow G., Mrs. Cynthia, Minnie. *Harrington*—Catharine. *Howland*—John C., Mrs. Melinda, Fay, Lefaver, Hallet, Hannah, Lydia. *Johnson*—John, Mrs. Annetta, Josephine. *Johnson*—Alexander, Mrs. Esther, Emma. *Johnson*—James. *Johnson*—Albin, Mrs. Nancy, Lois, William. *Johnson*—Josiah G. Mrs. Leonora. *Johnson*—Addison, Sophia. *Kingsley*—Geo. B. *Kiester*—Jacob A., Mrs. Caroline. *Kisby*—Joseph, Mrs. Mary. *Koonze*—John, Mrs. Elizabeth, Antoin, Frederick, Charles. *Kobs*—August, Mrs. Anestine, William, Frederick. *Keester*—Peter J., Mrs. Margaret, Mary, Elizabeth, Matilda, Henry. *Leslie*—Saml., Mrs. Jane, Samuel, John, Mary. *Lutz*—Hopkins, Mrs. Mary, Mary. *Lake*—John D. *Mann*—Christian H. *Mead*—Israel S., Mrs. Maria, James, Frederick, Stephen, Phebe, Abigail, Alice, Sarah. *Mount*—John E., Mrs. Sarah Humphrey, Emma. *Melvin*—Wm. A. *Manthie*—Wm. *Manthie*—Julius. *Mudge*—Aaron, Mrs. Lydia, Charles, William, Richard. *Mead*—Solomon. *Monahan*—John A., Mrs. Margaret, Clara. *McVrea*—Matthew. *Mullen*—John. *Neal*—Henry J., Mrs. Esther. *Newman*—Lewis. *Pratt*—John K., Mrs. Hannah, Victoria. *Parish*—Peter, Mrs. Harriet, George, Olive. *Proper*—Carlos. *Ream*—Robt. A. *Rose*—Aaron J., Mrs. Catharine, Irene, Jacob, Charles, William. *Raymond*—Ebenezer, Mrs. Sarah, Charles. *Reinhart*—Nanette. *Sly*—Chester M., Mrs. Loriza, Ella. *Sargent*—Gilbert. *Scott*—Wm. M., Mrs. Melvina, Mary, *Sortor*—Albert. *Siliman*—Wayne B. *South*—Eveline, Elias, Peter, John, Margaret, Frank, Christopher. *South*—William G, Mrs. Mary, Ambrosia, Alferetta, Laurie. *Sailor*—Moses, Amanda, Roxana, Daniel, William, Manuel. *Sailor*—Jacob M., Mrs. Sarah, Hattie. *Sailor*—Martin, Mrs. Louisa, Martha. *Sailor*—Jacob, Mrs. Susanna, George, Mary, Letitia. *Sailor*—Able. *Shirk*—David E. *Sellen*—Henry, Mrs. Sarah. *Smith*—George, Mrs. Adelaide, Gilbert. *Shidler*—Josephus, Mrs. Martha, Jane E. *Schroeder*—Servertz, Mrs. Mary, William, Hubert, Peter. *Stanley*—George. *Schneider*—Marcus A. *Schneider*—John. *Woensner*—Andrew, Mrs. Wilhelmena. *Wade*—Samuel, Mrs. Margaret, John, George, Rosalie. *Wakefield*—Jas. B. *Wilmert*—John, Mrs. Amelia, Mary, Henry. *Willmert*—August, Mrs. Louisa, Amelia, John, Frederick. *Webster*—Charlotte. *Williams*—William, Mrs. Louisa. *Way*—Wm. A., Mrs. Harriet, Melona, Emma, Clarence. *West*—David, Mrs. Elizabeth, Mary, Francis. *Young*—Enoch C., Mrs. Mary, Andrew. *York*—James.

But there were quite a number of persons who resided, for longer or shorter periods, in the township, who had left prior to the taking of this census, or were absent temporarily at the time, and who must not be forgotten. Among such we find the names of the following persons: Perry Lamphere, Jno. M

Love, Ed. Woods, Simon Dow, W. W. Knapp, J. A. J. Bird, Orville Kimball, Isaac E. Grout, Lewis P. Grout, Joe Durgin, Cornelius Garretson, Samuel V. Hibler, Dan Sherwood, A. Shaw, Jonas Tennesen, Geo. Merriam, J. D. Sparks.

The following table, made up from the census reports of that year, exhibits the aggregate numbers of stock, value of farms, etc., in the township at that date. It is interesting, as a matter for comparison with later years.

Acres of improved land, 773; value of farms, \$31,100; value of farm implements and machinery, \$2,270; number of horses, 46; number of milch cows, 59; number of working oxen, 58; number of other cattle, 67; number of sheep, 5; number of swine, 212; value of live stock, \$9,012.

#### THE NAME.

The township was named Blue Earth City by the special commissioners in 1858, in compliance with the request of citizens of the village of this name. Thus the name of the township is derived from the village, and the name of the village is derived from the river, and the name of the river is derived from the Indians, or possibly from a German romance.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The town was organized for civil purposes on the twentieth day of October, 1858, on which day a town meeting was held and the first town officers were elected. Their names will be found in the table appended hereto. At this town meeting a curious resolution was adopted, which reads: "Resolved, that after the first day of November, next, it shall be unlawful for *hogs* and *swine* to run at large." The vote cast at this meeting was fifty-eight. The first meeting of the town board was held on the thirtieth day of October. The town of Emerald had been attached to Blue Earth City township, for town purposes, and was included in this organization of the town. Emerald remained attached to Blue Earth City township until March 19th, 1866, when it was detached by the county commissioners.

The following named citizens were elected the first town officers: Supervisors, James B. Wakefield, chairman, A. Johnson and W. A. Way; town clerk, A. Bonwell; assessor, O. N. Gardner; treasurer, R. English; justices of the peace, G. S. Converse, W. A. Melvin; constables, R. English and J. Johnson.

The officers for the year 1879, the last year of this historical sketch, were as follows: Supervisors, Geo. B. Kingsley, chairman, Geo. Strong and A. Kobs; town clerk, C. A. Pinkham; assessor, W. M. Scott; treasurer, A. Anderson; justices of the peace, Geo. B. Kingsley and S. W. Graham; constables, G. D. Moore and J. H. Mead.

#### RELIGIOUS AND OTHER SOCIETIES.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was first organized, in this township, at Blue Earth City, in December, 1857, Rev. J. W. Powell, pastor, and was the first denominational organization in the town.

This society, in November, 1872, erected a neat chapel at Blue Earth City. Some years later (1887) a large and handsome church edifice was erected by this denomination.

The Presbyterian Church was organized at Blue Earth City, on the seventh day of March, 1859, Rev. J. E. Conrad, pastor. This denomination has a commodious church building, erected in November, 1866, at a cost of about \$4,000. It was greatly repaired and improved in 1880.

A lodge of Good Templars was instituted, in the village, in September, 1860, but soon ceased to exist. The Order has been re-organized here many times since the first lodge was instituted.

A congregation of the Roman Catholic Church was partially organized, at Blue Earth City, prior to 1863, but it was on the second day of March, of that year, that the first meeting was called to consider the question of erecting a church edifice. A number of meetings were subsequently held for the purpose of collecting money and making the necessary arrangements, until, finally, in July, 1866, the building was erected. This structure was but a small one, being only eighteen by twenty-five feet, but the size was subsequently increased, by an addition in the rear, of thirty feet. This was the first church building in the village. Some years afterwards, a parsonage was also erected, near the church, but was subsequently sold and removed. These buildings served the purposes of the parish until 1880, when, under the pastorate of Rev. Father Theodore Venn, who took charge of the parish in 1873, a large, brick church building was erected, forty-four by one hundred feet, and of excellent style and workmanship.

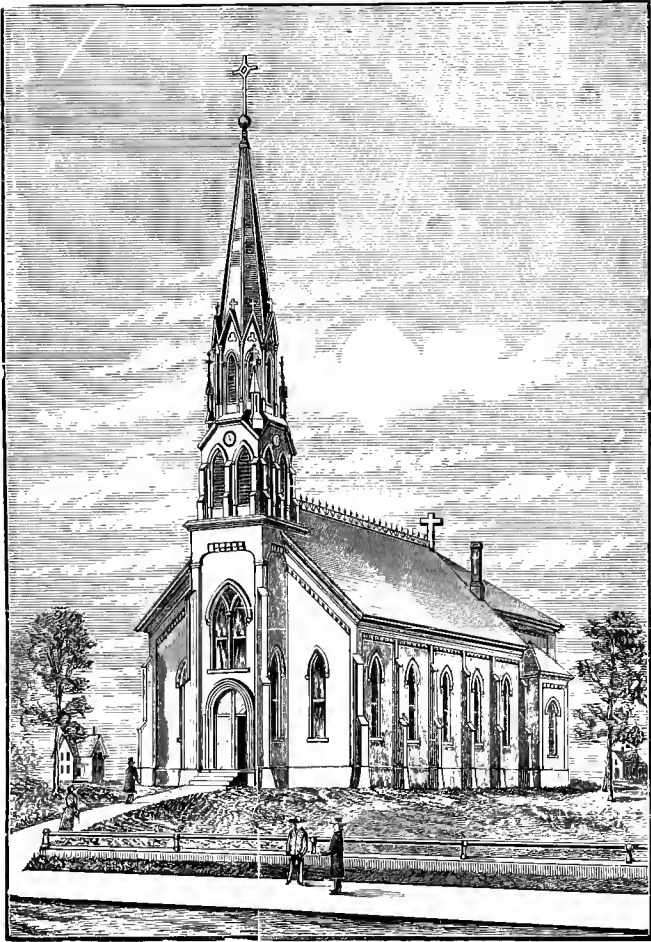
Father Venn had already won the honorable title of "The Church Builder," owing to the great number of church edifices he had caused to be erected before coming here, and this building, one of the finest church structures in this portion of the State, but added to his well earned fame.

The dedication of the new church occurred on Sunday, May 21st, 1882. The non-resident clergy, who took part in the ceremonies, were: Rt. Rev. John Ireland, bishop of St. Paul; Rev. A. Ravoux, Vicar-General; Rev. P. Hanley, of Chatfield, Minn.; Rev. P. Schnitzler, of Mankato, Minn.

A large concourse of people were in attendance, some coming from St. Paul, many from Mankato and other towns along the lines of the railroads, and from the surrounding country. The ceremonies of dedication were highly appropriate, solemn and impressive.

Emmanuel church of the German Evangelical Association, was organized in December, 1864, Rev. Joseph Rahscopp, pastor, and in August and September, 1865, the society erected a large frame church edifice on section thirteen. The society has since built a





CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL.



parsonage near the church. This was the first church erected in the county. This congregation had, however, an informal organization prior to the above date. The church structure, above referred to, has since been succeeded by one of the largest and most costly church buildings in the county.

Blue Earth City Lodge, No. Fifty-seven(57), Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, U. D., was organized at Blue Earth City, June 19th, 1866, T. H. White, W. M.

The Protestant Episcopal church established a mission at Blue Earth City in January, 1871, and erected a church building in November, following. A rectory was also built near the church, all under the superintendence of Rev. S. S. Burleson, pastor.

On March 15th, 1873, a Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was instituted at Blue Earth City, L. W. Brown, master; T. V. Braithwait, secretary; F. W. Temple, treasurer. This Grange became a large and flourishing one, and continued to exist longer than other granges established in this part of the State.

A lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen was instituted at Blue Earth City, November 8th, 1877, N. L. Heffron, master workman; C. H. Slocum, recorder; Samuel Schuler, receiver.

Salem Congregation, of the German Evangelical Association, was organized at Blue Earth City prior to the closing year of this history. This congregation erected a church building in 1881, which was sold in 1895, and in that year the society built a new church edifice, large, and elegantly finished and furnished.

Many minor societies and associations, literary, educational and social, and such as are found in all enlightened communities, have been established here from time to time, but which, being mainly of an ephemeral character, need not be named here.

#### THE FIRST BANK.

The first banking institution established at Blue Earth City was a private bank, founded in 1866, by Messrs. H. D. Baldwin and S. P. Child, under the firm name of Baldwin & Child.

A "Board of Trade and Public Improvements," was organized at Blue Earth City, in January, 1875, C. H. Dearborn, president; R. C. Tremain, secretary; S. Teskey, treasurer. The board embraced in its membership, most of the active business men of the village, and for several years it served a good purpose in promoting the interests of the locality.

#### THE GOSPEL.

There are two persons who should be named in any history of Blue Earth City, because they were the pioneers of the ministry in this county, and long identified with the county, and especially with Blue Earth City, in church and all reformatory societies. They

were the Rev. James W. Powell and Rev. J. E. Conrad, of whom brief biographical sketches are here presented. Mr. Powell was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, on the fifteenth day of August, 1822. His opportunities for getting an education were limited to the common winter schools of the locality, until he had reached the age of eighteen years, when he attended Shelby County Seminary for a short time. He returned to this school when he was twenty-two years old, and remained some months. He took his theological course, of four years, while he was in the active ministry, and has always been a student. He was raised a farmer by occupation. He, in 1845, entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, joining the Indiana Conference, and continued in the work during his life. He was married, in 1847, to Miss Rhoda B. Gray. They have had eleven children, five of whom are now (1887) dead. He came, with his family, in 1855, to Mankato, and was the first regular pastor of the church at that city. In his service in the ministry, he first preached in this county in the winter of 1856-7, being then located at Shelbyville, in Blue Earth county. In the spring of 1857, Blue Earth City was added to his work. The Blue Earth City Class was not organized until the winter of 1857-8. In 1859 he moved his family to Blue Earth City, where he remained until he became a resident of Verona, where he was living in June, 1860, but he still had charge of the Blue Earth City mission until the fall of that year. He was engaged in various charges in the State until 1871, when he returned to Blue Earth City and remained two years. In 1872 he built the chapel at that place, and in the fall of 1873 he left Blue Earth City and served on various charges for some twelve years, when, in 1885, he again returned to Blue Earth City, and, in 1887, erected the Methodist Episcopal Church at that place, one of the largest and finest church buildings in the county. He then left Blue Earth City and has since been serving in various localities in the State. Mr. Powell's early affiliations were with the whig party, afterwards with the republican, and of late years, he has been an active prohibitionist.

REV. J. E. CONRAD.

The Rev. J. E. Conrad was a native of the state of North Carolina, where he was born in 1814. The family removed to Missouri in 1821, and engaged in farming. Mr. Conrad resided on the farm until 1836. Up to this time he had received some eighteen month's schooling in the common schools of that section of the country.

In November, 1836, being then twenty-two years old, he entered Dr. Nelson's Mission Institute, near Quincy, Ill., where he remained a number of years and graduated. He then took a year of theological study. He was licensed to preach by Schuyler Presbytery, in April, 1845. In September, of that year, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and attended Lane Seminary for one year.

In 1846 he was married to Miss Therina Brockway, and they removed, in November, of that year, to Warsaw, Ind. He was ordained by the Presbytery,





REV. J. W. POWELL.



REV. J. E. CONRAD.





of Logansport, Ind., in April, 1847. He remained in Warsaw, and vicinity, preaching nearly ten years. During this time his wife and two children died.

In August, 1854, he was married to Miss Margaret Slagle. They came to Minnesota in November, 1856, and located at Sterling, in Blue Earth county, and commenced farming. But Mr. Conrad continued to preach at various places. He soon after commenced the work of the ministry in this county. He organized the Presbyterian Church, at Winnebago City, Blue Earth City and Minnesota Lake, and preached to them from two to ten years each, and preached, also, to the congregation at Wells, in this county, five years. He resided at Blue Earth City in the winters of 1863-4 and 1871-2, and at Wells in the winters of 1874-5, but, aside from the above short absences, he resided on his farm at Sterling, in Blue Earth county, for thirty-one years, to 1887.

He also organized the church at Mapleton and Amboy, in Blue Earth county, at which latter place he ministered during eighteen years, one-half the time, while the other half was devoted to other localities. His wife died in November, 1882. At this date (1887) six children are living, three boys and three girls. Two of his sons are now ministers in the Presbyterian church.

Politically Mr. Conrad was brought up a Jackson democrat, but in 1840 he went over to the anti-slavery party, but afterwards became a republican, and so remained until 1889, when he became a prohibitionist. He never held any political office.

The above sketch may now be supplemented by the statement, that Father Conrad (since 1890) passed his declining years with one of his sons, who is the pastor of the church at Blue Earth City. Though too old to have the care of a parish, he still preached, quite frequently, up to near the time of his death, which occurred May 6th, 1896.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school, kept in this township, was a subscription and contribution school, taught in the winter of 1857-8, by W. W. Knapp, Esq., at Blue Earth City. There were but few children at the time, to send to school, and in order to have the school, it was necessary that quite a number of the citizens, who had no children to send to the school, should contribute, somewhat, for its support.

After the organization of the first school district, in 1859, the schools, at Blue Earth City, were the ordinary district schools, and were kept in hired rooms, until the erection of the first district school house, which was completed about the first of November, 1861, at Blue Earth City. This was quite a large frame structure, twenty-four by thirty feet, and one story in height. For a long time it was the best school house in the county. Some years after its erection, the house was doubled in size, by an addition. This building was situated on "The Court House Square." It was subsequently sold and removed.

In April, 1872, the old district, which numbered fourteen (14), was changed to Blue Earth City independent school district, and was fully organized, as an independent district, by the election of a board of education, in May, of that year. In the course of years, this first school building became too small, and additional rooms had to be hired, for the use of different departments of the school.

In 1874 the district erected a large two story brick school house on block seventy-seven, in this village, at a cost of about six thousand dollars. A large addition, costing about three thousand dollars, was built in 1882, and the entire building now constitutes one of the largest, most convenient and most substantial school houses in the county. The school is known as a "graded school" of six departments, and is ordinarily, attended by many scholars who reside out of the district, in addition to resident pupils, thus attesting to the standing of the school. In the mean time, the people in other parts of the township have organized their school districts and erected school houses and have had good schools, there being now four school houses outside of the village, situated respectively, on sections ten, twelve, twenty-six and twenty-eight, all of which are substantial structures, well finished, well furnished and well filled.

#### THE FIRST BRICK.

The first manufacturing industry in the county was, probably, that of making brick. Captain J. B. Gillit, in August and September, of 1856, made a small kiln of excellent brick on lands adjoining the village site of Blue Earth City,

The first child born in the *township* was Mary Frances Gillit, daughter of W. C. Gillit. She was born on the 20th day of February, 1857. The first female child born in the *village* of Blue Earth City was Emma Way, daughter of W. A. Way. She was born in April, 1857, and the first male child born in the village was Chas. W. Constans, son of Henry P. Constans, born in November, 1857. The first frame house that was erected in the village was built by Jas. B. Wakefield, in 1857, on lot 5, block 94. It was sixteen by twenty-four feet, and one and a-half story in height, and painted white.

#### WAR BOUNTIES.

During the war of the rebellion, the town gave certain bounties for the purpose of encouraging enlistments in the military service, as follows: The town board, on the twelfth of December, 1863, offered a bounty of \$50 to any volunteers who should enlist prior to January 5th, 1864. On the eighth of August, 1864, the bounty was raised to \$100 to all volunteers enlisting to the credit of the town, and on the fourteenth of January, 1865, a special town meeting was held, at which it was voted to give \$500 to such volunteer, and the action of the town meeting was indorsed by resolution of the town board January 30th, 1865. The aggregate amount of the bounties given was large, but was paid to the last dollar.

## AN INDIAN POW-WOW.

Early in the summer of 1862, there came to Blue Earth City a company of Sioux and Winnebago Indians, with their ponies, carts and dogs, and camped on the court house block, where the court house now stands. In the afternoon they put up a large enclosure, under the trees, made of brush, old canvass and carpet, and in the evening they gave a number of performances, to see which they required the payment of a small admittance fee. Their lights were some sort of smoking, flaring pitch lamps and torches. They were a dirty and hard looking company. The performances consisted of the corn dance, hunting dance, wedding dance, scalp dance, war dances, and the monotonous, melancholy Indian songs, dirges and chants, sung to the beating of the tom-tom. Among their songs was the death song. When these savages, almost naked, and hideously painted and armed with clubs, hatchets and large knives, went through their gyrations, jumpings, dancing, flourishing their weapons and uttering their wild, piercing war-whoops, they appeared and acted more like incarnate fiends than human beings. The scenes were startling, wild, weird and impressive, and not desirable to be seen a second time. Some people had suspicions at the time that this visit had some serious significance, and it was said, when in August the great massacre occurred, that these Indians were spies, who came to see the condition of the country, but as this county was not attacked during the outbreak, the supposition was doubtless erroneous.

The first newspaper published at Blue Earth City, and the first in the county, was issued in April, 1861, as will be seen by reference to the general history of that year. A paper has been published at that place, continuously, from that time to the present, with the exception of a period of less than two years, extending from about October, 1862, to March, 1864. There have been as many as four papers published at that place at the same time. The newspapers published at Blue Earth City at the close of this history—1879—were *The Bee* and *The Blue Earth City Post*. Carr Huntington was the proprietor and editor of the *Bee*, and C. H. Slocum of the *Post*.

## CARR HUNTINGTON.

Mr. Huntington was the oldest editor in the business, in the county, and one of the oldest editors in the northwest. He was born September 29th, 1815, in Addison county, Vermont. He was a descendant of the Huntington's of revolutionary fame. He learned the printing trade and worked as a journeyman printer in most of the States of the Union, at that time, but especially in the southern states, where he spent many years. For some time he was employed in the office of a paper published in Kentucky, by a Mr. Gibbon. Mr. Gibbon was killed by an assassin, and Mr. Huntington, at the request of the widow of the deceased, continued the publication of the paper. In 1846 Mr. Huntington was

married to Mrs. Sarah Gibbon, the widow of the murdered man. At various periods of his life, Mr. Huntington published newspapers in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and latterly in Minnesota. Some of the papers which he published were dailies, of considerable prominence. He came to this county from, it is believed, Portage City, Wisconsin, in 1863, and established "*The Whig of '76*," at Winnebago City. This was the first paper published at Winnebago City. He sold his press here and located at Blue Earth City, where in March, 1864, he established the "*Blue Earth City Advocate*." He remained at Blue Earth City, publishing a paper, under various names, until September, 1871, when he sold out. Up to that time he had been in the business of publishing newspapers for twenty-seven years. Of his experience he said in his last issue at Blue Earth City, that, "In that long period we have passed through all the scenes, oppositions and hardships of this life, without taking down our sign, or quailing before the fierce blasts that have sometimes crossed our path." Some of those blasts must have been quite severe, for in a paper which he subsequently published, he says: "The best printing office we ever owned, lies, like John Brown, mouldering at the bottom of the Ohio river—two burned at Beaver Dam, Wis., and one pretty well bricked up at Blue Earth City (Minn.), besides having suffered in our person, in repeated instances, from the direct attack of the armed assassin."

Mr. Huntington removed to Delavan, in this county, and in June, 1872, commenced the publication there of "*The Delavan Bee*." And this was the first paper published at Delavan. He remained there until early in December, 1874, when he returned to Blue Earth City, with his press, and began the publication of "*The Bee*." Here he continued to live until the time of his death. Mr. Huntington was a democrat in politics, until his arrival in this county, when he became a strong Union supporter, and thereafter, the papers which he published were largely republican in political sentiment, but still quite independent. Mrs. Huntington died at the home of her daughter, in Iowa, September 11th, 1888, and Mr. Huntington died January 6th, 1889, and was interred in the Blue Earth City cemetery.

On the twelfth day of July, 1872, a special town meeting was held, for the purpose of appropriating, on behalf of the town, the sum of twenty-three hundred dollars, toward assisting the county in erecting county buildings, at Blue Earth City. The vote was carried almost unanimously in favor of the proposition, and a court house was erected in the autumn, of that year.

#### THE FIGHT FOR A RAILROAD.

Well knowing the absolute necessity of railroads, in the rapid and profitable development of the county, and especially the building of the villages, the citizens of Blue Earth City commenced, at an early day, the labor of securing a railroad.

First. They first turned to the south. The Keokuk, Fort Des Moines and Minnesota Railroad Company had been organized in Iowa, and commenced the work of building a road from Keokuk, on the Mississippi, up the Des Moines river, and looking in the direction, it was alleged, of Mankato, in this State. A direct line would pass through Blue Earth City. This was away back in 1857. The company had a large land grant in Iowa. Much correspondence

was had, with the officers of the company, in relation to the building of the road in this direction. The country was fully described, and the importance and feasibility of the route fully set forth. The prospect was bright, indeed, and the building of the road, into this county, seemed to be only a question of time. For years we worked and waited, filled with this glowing prospect. The project failed.

Second. Then we turned to the east. The Southern Minnesota Railroad Company was organized to build a road through the southern tier of counties, in this State. This was a great and hopeful project. This was also a land grant company. As the grant was made in trust to the State, to be disposed of by the legislature, to that or some other company, the matter got into politics. Blue Earth City, and the south half of the county, as well as other localities, wanted the line of the road located through the several county seats of the counties, through which the road was to be built, and the company wished to be free to locate their route where they pleased. The result was some three or four political struggles of great intensity. Blue Earth City won the fight, so far as the political aspects of the contest were concerned, after the expenditure of much time and labor and money, but the victory was bootless, as the road was built on a more northern line. And this ended the second effort. This occurred in the years 1866, 1867 and 1868.

Third. More than a year elapsed of comparative inaction, but still correspondence was kept up with railroad men in all directions, and especially with a company in Iowa, then building a road to Fort Dodge. At length, near the close of 1869, the star of hope arose in the north. The St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Company proposed to build a road from Mankato to the Iowa State line, via Blue Earth City, if aid should be voted by the townships along the line of the road, in the form of town bonds, to the amount of \$200,000. Blue Earth City township, in January, 1870, voted \$40,000, and the adjoining towns, various amounts, but a great deal of work was required in canvassing the towns, calling meetings and publishing information on the subject. No time, labor or expense were spared. The aid, or bonds, asked were voted. All necessary arrangements were made, and it was thought a railroad was now certain. But alas! this effort, also, in the very hour of success, was blasted, and the effort added one more to the failures of the past.

Fourth. Correspondence was still, however, kept up with companies building roads in this state and Iowa, with the hope of inducing some one of them to come this way, when at last, in the summer of 1870, hope dawned again in the southeast. The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & M. R. R. Co. came with a proposition to extend their road to Blue Earth City if aid in town bonds to the amount of \$85,000 should be voted, forty acres of land for depot grounds se-

cured, and the right of way through the county. Again there was a calling of town meetings, canvassing of voters, publication of various documents, a vast amount of writing—in short, much time, labor and money expended. The aid was again voted, the depot grounds secured, and all things arranged. Now, indeed, a road was certain at last. Not quite. Just at this time a petty judge at St. Paul, decides, in relation to similar town bonds voted there, that towns cannot constitutionally vote such aid. The case is carried to the Supreme Court, where a year may elapse before a decision can be had, and our railroad company gives up the project of building the road. And now what? Every effort has but resulted in failure.

Fifth. A year passes away without any definite hope or prospect, when, in the spring of 1873, cheering words again came from the north. The St. Paul and Sioux City R. R. Co. having made more certain arrangements, again proposed to build a road from Mankato, *via* Blue Earth City, to the Iowa State line, if \$150,000 aid should be voted by the towns on the route. Often beaten, but not wholly disheartened, the citizens of Blue Earth City went again to work, calling town meetings in the adjoining towns, canvassing, talking, arguing and distributing documents. It was in April, the mud was deep and roads almost impassable. It rained and snowed, people were suspicious and obstinate, and the prospects gloomy, but through all difficulties, the few who had charge of the matter at Blue Earth City worked on, and at last the aid was voted. All details were again arranged, and we had every reason to believe that we should now get the road. But the reader may add number five to the failures that went before.

Sixth. Time passes on, and in the year 1877 a new project is broached. A railroad company is formed in Martin county. A scheme of this company was to build a road from St. James, Watonwan county, *via* Blue Earth City, to Ft. Dodge, in Iowa, on condition of receiving aid similar to that so often voted before. The project was laid before the people of Blue Earth City and adjoining towns. A great deal of work had again to be done. The several towns approved, and contracts were entered into with the company. Work on the line of road was commenced. Some seven miles of road, from Blue Earth City northwestward, in the direction of St. James, were graded. Here, now was something tangible, substantial, certain. But alas, it proved but "the baseless fabric of a vision."

Besides all these greater efforts, other and minor projects for securing a road, engaged the attention of at least a portion of the people. Votes were taken, increasing or diminishing the amount of bonds already voted—time of building of road extended, railroad companies formed, various propositions submitted, and much writ-

ing done from time to time, not necessary to record here, until at last we arrived at the seventh and last great effort.

Seventh. It was in 1878, that the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company came with their third proposition. It was accepted, town bonds were again voted, Blue Earth City giving \$36,000. A part of the road was graded in that year. In 1879 the road was completed from Lake Crystal in Blue Earth county, a point on the main line of the road, to Blue Earth City. *The battle was won.* We were connected with the great world by a railroad. A great jubilee was held at Blue Earth City in October, of the latter year, an account of which is given elsewhere in this work. It was on the thirtieth day of September, at four o'clock, p. m., just before the road was completed to Blue Earth City, that the engine whistle was first heard on the streets of Blue Earth City, and was greeted with loud cheers and clapping of hands and the projection of hats into the air. And on the thirteenth day of October, at one o'clock, p.m., the first locomotive and cars entered upon the sacred soil of the village of Blue Earth City, and was received by a multitude of cheering and rejoicing people. And here we rest.

Some six men, residing at Blue Earth City, three of whom from the beginning, and the others uniting with them some years later, were the leading workers in all these efforts to secure a railroad for Blue Earth City. It would be invidious to mention their names, as they were always ably seconded by citizens in all the towns. But these more than any others, especially three of them labored on, through all discouragements, often reviled, suspicioned and belied, always giving their time and money, braving all opposition and defeats, holding steadily on until the end was at last reached. The work they did, the money they gave and the perseverance they exercised will never be fully known to those, who to-day enjoy the the fruit of their labors.

#### POLITICAL AND OFFICIAL.

Prior to the close of 1879, the last year of this sketch, Blue Earth City township, including the village, furnished to the public, legislative and county service, quite a number of servants.

On the Board of County Commissioners, Wakefield, Sailor, Kiester, Johnson (Albin), Scott, Neal, Bonwell and Cary; Auditor, Bonwell; Register of Deeds, Hibler, Wakefield, Kiester, Bonwell and Brown; Treasurers, Grout, Johnson (Albin), Kaupp; Superintendent of Schools, A. H. Pelsey; Clerks of Court, Jackson, Kingsley, J. K. Pratt, James C. Pratt, Neal; Judges of Probate, Wakefield, Knapp, Kiester; Coroners, Gillit, Rose, Young and Balcome; County Surveyors, Kimball and Kiester; County Attorneys, Wakefield, Knapp, Hyatt, Kiester and Sprout; Sheriffs, Constans, Pratt (M. B.), Cummings; Representatives in State Legislature, Wakefield, Kingsley, Kiester and Childs; State senators, Wakefield, Childs, Goodrich and Johnson (R. B.)

## STATISTICAL.

The population of the township was: In 1860, 317; in 1865, 807; in 1870, 1121, in 1875, 1178; in 1880, 1686. These figures include the village.

Of stock and certain other property, in the town, in 1879, we find that of horses there were 513; cows, 536; other cattle, 630; mules, 6; sheep, 1158; hogs, 613; wagons and carriages, 206; sewing machines, 74; organs, 28; pianos, 4.

Agricultural productions for 1879, (estimated), in bushels: Wheat, 54,500; oats, 38,000; corn, 22,500; barley, 3,040; potatoes, 3,200; syrup, 1,100 gals.; wild hay, 2,000 tons; apple trees, 2,100; apple trees, bearing, 800; butter, 28,500 lbs.

The assessed value of real estate for 1879, was \$323,486; personal estate \$101,389; total, \$424,875; the total tax assessed thereon, for that year, \$10,031.86.

The following list contains the names of many persons, not hereinbefore named, who were residents of the township or village prior to the close of 1879. Alex. Anderson, John Anderson, W. Ackerman, A. W. Ackerman, Geo. Bates, Wm. H. Bates, E. Beaumont, G. W. Buswell, R. R. Bartholemew, Z. C. Butler, L. Botcher, F. P. Brown, L. W. Brown, Fred. Bemus, S. Clark, F. E. Cary, C. H. Cary, Frank Cole, H. Cole, J. Cole, J. Conklin, C. W. Constans, J. H. Couper, S. Cummings, W. Clark, J. Casten, N. Chadbourn, S. P. Child, J. B. Coutier, H. C. Cheadle, F. Claude, F. W. Cady, C. Craig, L. Craig, S. Dutton, Wm. Dustin, J. D. Dayton, H. Doege, C. H. Dearborn, J. Dobson, G. S. Dobner, F. Dendon, J. A. Dean, N. Dustin, A. F. Eastman, E. D. Evans, J. Emerson, Paul Fleckenstein, M. Fierky, J. Franklin, A. J. Franklin, B. Franklin, G. B. Franklin, D. F. Goodrich, H. Geise, A. Gartzke, G. Gartzke, Thos. Guckeen, C. C. Goodnow, J. Guckeen, Geo. Griffith, S. W. Graham, D. Garrison, M. Hoffman, C. Haase, G. Henke, E. J. Holley, J. Heintz, C. W. Hillebert, N. L. Heffron, Carr Huntington, C. F. Haynes, W. T. Ives, G. W. Johnson, H. G. Jones, R. B. Johnson, A. R. Johnson, Jud. Kellogg, O. Knapp, Wm. Krinke, Paul Krinke, Fred. Krinke, Aug. Krinke, M. Krinke, C. A. Kopplin, L. Krum, H. Kamrar, J. C. Kirschner, C. Klatt, G. Klatt, A. Kenitz, T. Kabe, E. Kuester, J. H. Lewis, W. B. Larrabee, S. Larrabee, G. D. Lake, A. B. Lind, Wm. H. Miller, F. W. Miller, F. D. Miller, A. Meyers, H. Meyers, S. T. McKnight, J. D. Moore, J. Manning, R. G. Merrill, C. Manske, R. McGinnis, J. D. Maxwell, Wm. McGinnis, E. Morse, F. McGuire, L. N. Nichols, J. L. Ordway, Wm. Oelke, S. Pfeffer, W. H. Pfeffer, L. Potter, Aug. Potter, Wm. Paschke, C. Paschke, H. Paschke, T. W. Pettit, M. B. Parker, W. E. Page, C. Pinkham, E. Pulver, J. Pulver, J. C. Pratt, M. B. Pratt, C. Persick, B. Pinkham, H. Raymond, W. J. C. Robertson, W. Rosenau, J. Rosenau, J. W. Rosenberg, R. W. Richards, F. A. Squires, J. W. Squires, F. Steffen, C. H. Slocum, Geo. Strong, M. A. Strong, Sam. Sailor, C. Stockman, J. D. Stanton, D. Stanton, Cady Stanton, H. N. Saxton, W. S. H. Smith, Fred. Schmidt, Jas. Shaanon, J. Shuttleworth, M. Seivert, Peter Seivert, H. Summerfield, Cor. Sullivan, Wm. Sinter, Jos. Schemek, S. Schuler, E. D. South, E. Schimmel, J. Summerfield, J. M. Sutherland, John H. Sprout, Aug. Sasse, C. A. Sanger, G. A. Taylor, S. Teskey, Wm. Teskey, J. Tilia, D. B. Thurston, R. W. Teeter, W. Trumbell, R. C. Tremain, G. W. Whallon, W. W. White, S. Warner, J. H. Warner, J. W. Warner, R. Waite, E. Willmert, L. Willmert, J. Werner, C. W. Weaver, F. Wilschnock, J. Weise, A. Weise, Ed. Wakefield, T. H. Webb, B. K. Whitney, J. C. Woodruff, Geo. D. Winch, W. A. Way, H. A. Young, F. D. Yendis, H. D. Yendis.



## CHAPTER XV.

## JO DAVIESS TOWNSHIP.

This town is congressional, or land survey township number one hundred and two (102) north, of range twenty-eight (28) west.

It is bounded by the following townships in Faribault county: Verona on the north, Blue Earth City on the east, Pilot Grove on the south, and by Pleasant Prairie township, in Martin county, on the west.

## GENERAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The mean elevation of this town above tide water is eleven hundred and fifty feet, and the depth of the drift here, to bed rock, probably, exceeds one hundred feet. The surface is correctly designated as rolling prairie. The only streams of living water are the Badger Creek, and its tributaries. There are several small clear water lakes in this town, one known as Gorman lake, on sections seventeen and twenty, and Pilot Grove lake, which lies partly in this town on the south boundary, and also one or two others not named. Good water is easily obtained by digging or boring anywhere, at moderate depths. There is no native timber in this township, except what is found at Pilot Grove, on the south side of the town, but there are many fine artificial groves found in all parts of the township. The soil is very fertile and well adapted to all farming and grazing purposes.

It is proper here to state, that there is in this township, a large nursery of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubbery of all kinds, on the farm of John A. Dean, Esq., which nursery was started in 1865, and enlarged from time to time, and always carefully attended. This was the first nursery of fruit trees started in the county.

## THE NAME.

Having given this hurried description of the general physical aspects of this township, we now pass to a sketch of its history, and first, a few words as to the name. The town was first named Johnson, by the special commissioners, in 1858, in honor of James and Alexander Johnson, two of the earliest settlers of the county, but not at that time residents of this town. It appearing, however, that

there was another township in the state of this name, the name was changed by the county board on the fourth day of January, 1859, to Jo Daviess, on the suggestion of James L. McCrery, a member of the board, and resident of the town. And who was Jo Daviess, after whom this town was named?

Joseph Hamilton Daviess, familiarly named "Jo Daviess," was a bold and brave soldier, an able lawyer and an eloquent orator, who, in the early days of Kentucky, ranked with her most gifted and honored names. He was born in Virginia, in 1774. When he was about five years old, his parents removed to the wilds of Kentucky. Subsequently, while still in his early youth, he was placed under the care of competent tutors, and obtained a classical education. He studied law under the direction of one of the ablest jurists of his day—Geo. Nicholas—and became associated in the profession with such men as Felix Grundy, Bledsoe, Talbot, Pope—all men eminent in their time. In 1801 he appeared before the Supreme Court of the United States, though then but twenty-eight years of age, and argued a great cause before that able tribunal, with marvelous ability and eloquence, and won his case. In 1803 he was married to the sister of Chief Justice John Marshall. He was subsequently appointed United States District Attorney for the State of Kentucky. But Daviess was also a soldier, and as such, took an active part in the border wars of his time, with the Indians. He was in a great number of famous fights, and finally fell in the bloody and wonderful battle of Tippecanoe. The memory of Jo Daviess is still treasured in Kentucky, as that of one of her noblest and bravest sons. He was somewhat eccentric in his habits, and usually wore the style of clothing common among the western hunters—a coonskin cap, homespun frock coat and belt, buckskin breeches and moccasins, but all of the best materials, and neatly fitting. There is a county in Indiana, one in Illinois, one in Missouri, and one in Kentucky named Jo Daviess.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first actual or permanent settler of this township was James L. McCrery.

Mr. McCrery came to this county in 1855, and took a claim. But this claim was "jumped," using the elegant language of that day, or in other words, the land was settled upon and claimed by another person, as Mr. McCrery had left the land and returned to Iowa temporarily. In the spring of 1856 he returned with his family to this county, and on or about the tenth day of May of that year, located in this town.

Mr. McCrery was born in Kentucky, emigrated at an early day to Indiana, from thence to Franklin county, Iowa, and from the latter place to this town. He was quite a prominent and influential man in the earlier years of the county. He held various town offices, and was for some time a member of the county board. In politics he was a democrat. He held the office of justice of the peace for a number of years, during which time he did most of the justice court business in the south half of the county. He removed to the state of Nebraska some years ago, where he has since died.

The following table presents the names of all the residents of the town in June, 1860, as appears from the rolls of the national census of that year:

*Belding*—Walter D., Mrs. Sarah, Clara, Eva, Aretas, Henry. *Chute*—Burton, Mrs. Harriet, Melissa, Alonzo, Eusley, Isaac, Peresa, Oliver, Lavinia, William. *Greer*—Thomas F., Mrs. Sarah, Mark, Margaret, Laura, John. *Gorman*—Patrick, Mrs. Mary, Edward, Ann, Sarah. *Hudson*—Ransom. *Little*—David, Mrs. Mary. *McCreery*—James L., Mrs. Marine, Robert, James, Aaron, Elizabeth, Martha, William, Cynthia, Joseph. *Smith*—Aretas, Mrs. Mercy, Josiah. *Tylin*—John.

None of these persons are now residents of the town, except Burton Chute and a part of his family, the others having died or removed, and Mr. Chute is entitled to the honorable designation of the patriarch of Jo Daviess.

#### ORGANIZATION.

This town was attached, for civil purposes, to the township of Pilot Grove, by the special commissioners, in 1858, and so remained until January 7th, 1864, when it was detached by the county commissioners. The first town meeting was held at the house of W. B. Belding, January 26th, 1864, when officers were elected, and the town organized.

The board of town officers for the year 1879, was composed of the following named residents of the town: Supervisors, C. C. Briggs, chairman, L. Y. Robbins and W. R. Winn; town clerk, L. L. Coutier. Mr. Coutier had been clerk for nine previous years. Assessor, W. H. Behse; treasurer, E. Nash; justices of the peace, L. L. Coutier and W. H. Behse; constables, G. Rockwell and J. Neitzal.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school-house erected in this town was built in the fall of 1859. It was a very small, cheap log house, and was known as the "Belding School-house." Sometime afterwards it was superseded by a very cheap frame building, near the same site, and this was succeeded, in 1867, by a good frame house, on the same location. Another school-house was erected, at an early day, in the north part of the town, and was known as the "Fezler School-house." Miss Melissa Chute, it is said, was the first school teacher in this township. She taught a school here in 1859. There are now four good school-houses in the town, all well finished and well furnished.

#### RELIGIOUS.

On June 14th, 1868, a society of Seventh Day Adventists was organized in the town by Elders Ingraham and Pierce. Other religious societies were formed here also, at an early day, and held public worship in the school-houses. The Belding school-house was for a number of years quite a noted place for the assembling of religious bodies.

## SUNDRY INCIDENTS.

As to bounties given to encourage enlistments during the war of the rebellion, the reader is referred to the historical sketch of Pilot Grove township, for both towns then constituted the town district.

The town voted bonuses many times to aid in the building of railroads, none of which proved of any use, until the last vote.

Prior to the closing year of this sketch, this township had furnished to the public service, two county commissioners, J. L. McCrery and J. A. Dean, and a county surveyor, J. A. Dean.

In the years 1873 and 1874, the crops in this town were almost entirely destroyed by grasshoppers, which caused much distress and discouragement, and compelled many of the people to remove from the town to procure a living, and this fact accounts for the great decrease in population between the years 1870 and 1875.

As illustrating the terrible destruction of crops here in 1874, we quote the following statement from the *Blue Earth City Post* of January 9th, 1875. The whole town was carefully canvassed, and the following result was obtained.

Number of acres sown to wheat, 1,467; number of bushels of wheat sown, 2,460; number of bushels harvested, 601; number of acres sown to oats, 560; number of bushels of oats sown, 1,563; number of bushels of oats harvested, 3,482; number of acres planted to corn, 535; number of bushels gathered, 3,020; average yield of wheat per acre in pounds, 25; average yield of oats per acre in bushels, a fraction over 6; average yield of corn per acre in bushels about 5½.

Add to this the destruction of other crops, in about the same proportion, and some idea may be formed of the damages done.

Blue Earth City is the principal railroad and trading point for this town, but for the northern portion of the town, Huntley and Winnebago City are also convenient.

## SOME FIGURES.

The population of the town in 1860 was 44; in 1865, 241; in 1870, 477; in 1875, 316; in 1880, 373. The population is mainly American and Irish.

The assessor's returns for 1879 show that there were in the town in that year, 217 horses, 306 cows, 295 other cattle, 5 mules, 524 sheep, 271 hogs, 59 wagons and carriages, 21 sewing machines and 4 organs. The assessed value of real estate for that year was \$140,157; personal property, \$17,625; total, \$157,782. The total amount of tax assessed for the same year, \$2,517. There was produced in the town in 1879, of wheat, 13,000 bu.; of oats, 37,000 bu.; of corn, 31,000 bu.; of potatoes, 2,300 bu.; of barley, 1,500 bu.; sorghum syrup, 2,400 gallons; flax seed, 166 bu.; apple trees growing, 1,630; wool, 2,600 pounds; butter, 30,000 pounds; total acreage cultivated, 3,200.

Now here is a second roll of honor, embracing the names of many residents of the town, prior to the close of 1879, many of whom have not yet been named in this sketch.

G. W. Adair, P. Allen, W. D. Belding, A. Bork, C. C. Barber, E. G. Barnes, F. Barnes, C. C. Briggs, A. R. Brockett, R. H. Barker, Jonathan Burgess, A. Bonwell, J. Burgess, W. H. Behse, Jas. Brownlee, T. Corbett, W. Cummings, Wm.

Child, S. Cook, L. L. Coutier, A. W. Childs, Burton Chute, A. C. Champney, T. Collings, M. Corcoran, P. Driscoll, G. W. Dunn, J. D. Dayton, J. A. Dean, Geo. Ellis, R. M. Esseltyne, P. B. Fezzler, Benoni Fortner, E. R. Gorman, P. Gorman, Ed. Gorman, John Gorman, Jas. Gorman, T. W. Getchell, I. F. Green, Patrick Guckeen, B. Hall, S. M. Hawes, L. Harmon, J. Hope, M. J. Haddeman, W. T. Ives, A. Jennings, Fred. Jennings, R. James, C. W. Jones, Matthew Kelley, Jud. Kellogg, J. Kennedy, Cor. J. Kennedy, John Merrick, H. McDonald, A. McDonald, F. H. McNerny, J. H. Mackey, P. McDermott, Jas. McDonald, P. Murphy, Wm. Murphy, R. A. Merrill, Elbert Nash, Henry Nutter, W. W. Nutter, J. S. Nutter, H. H. Nutter, J. A. Neitzel, E. M. Owen, A. Peterson, Thos. Pettit, E. Pettingill, V. Perham, D. E. Perrine, John Russell, Geo. Rector, L. Y. Robbins, Geo. Rockwell, H. Robinson, E. Sailor, Daniel Sailor, W. G. South, H. Snyder, G. L. Skinner, Wm. Smith, Geo. Saunders, Fred. Swingdorf, F. J. Swingdorf, Wm. Underhill, S. Wagner, Wm. R. Winn, H. D. Wise, C. Wallace, Samuel Yetter, H. D. Yendis.

The town is now being rapidly settled up, and its fertile lands improved, and at no distant day it will rank with the best townships of the county.

---

## CHAPTER XVI.

---

### PILOT GROVE TOWNSHIP.

This is congressional township one hundred and one (101) north, of range twenty-eight (28) west. It is the southwest township of the county, and is bounded on the north by the town of Jo Daviess; east, by Elmore township; south, by the State line; west, by the Martin county line.

#### PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The surface of this township averages eleven hundred and eighty feet above sea level, but there is one locality, in the town, which is twelve hundred and fifty feet, being among the highest lands in the county. Morainic hills appear along the southern boundary of the town.

The drift here is probably considerably over one hundred feet in depth, to bed rock. The flowing artesian well, on the Winch farm, on section eight, reported to be one hundred feet in depth, did not reach bed rock. The Winch well flowed for some four years, and ceased in 1879. A well sunk on section twenty, in 1880, to a depth of seventy feet, proved, also, a flowing well. It is quite evident, from these facts, that these valuable flowing fountains may easily be obtained in this township.

The general surface of the land is rolling prairie. The heads of Badger creek, in the north part of the town, and Otter creek, in the south half, and a small branch of the Blue Earth, are the only run-

ning waters in the town. These streams are tributaries of the west branch of the Blue Earth river. There are, however, several small slough runs, which are considerable streams during parts of the year. There are, also, several small, but beautiful, silvery lakes in the town, known as Big lake, Pilot Grove lake, Weazel lake and Farlow lake, the latter named after one L. Farlow, a trapper, who, in the early years, trapped about these lake, for furs.

The timber, of which there is but little, is confined to the margins of these lakes. The grove known as Pilot Grove is the principal body of timber. The farmers of this town, also, have done a good work, in setting out many groves of forest trees, and the landscape presents much the appearance of a wooded country, and the people are every year adding to the number of these beautiful groves. The whole township should, and doubtless some day will be, in fact, as well as in name, largely a grove. The lands are well divided into tillable and pasturage, and the soil is as good as any in the State. The surface is easily drained. Good well water is found anywhere at moderate depth.

#### THE NAME.

The town was named Pilot Grove by the special commissioners in 1858, and was so named because of the fine grove of native timber on the northern boundary of the town, and this grove was named Pilot Grove, because in the early days, before roads were established, this grove was a sort of land mark, on the wide prairies, by which the immigrant was piloted on his way westward. It may be added, too, that this grove, with its fine lake of sparkling waters and rich grasses surrounding it, was, in the days of the immigrants, a sort of capacious inn, or caravansary, or camping ground. There are five post offices in the United States which bear the name of Pilot Grove.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Gilbert McClure was the first settler of Pilot Grove township. He located here in June, 1856, upon the west half of the northwest quarter of section two, and lots one and two in section three. Mr. McClure was born in Scotland. He came to the United States in 1852, and settled in the state of New York. From thence he removed to Lake county, Indiana, and from the latter place he came to this county. Mr. McClure is by occupation a brickmaker and farmer. During the summer of 1857, he and his brother Hugh, who is also an old resident, made some thirty thousand excellent brick in the town.

On the eighteenth day of June, 1858, there came into this town a company of immigrants, all Scotch people, consisting of twenty-three persons, with their ox teams, covered wagons and a small drove

of cattle. These immigrants were Archibald Cardell, David Ogilvie, Andrew R. More and James Ogilvie and their respective families. They had come from the state of Wisconsin, through many tribulations of mud and high waters, to this new land to find homes. They camped on the banks of Weasel lake, and on the next day, the men went with a Mr. Hinckly to Chain Lakes, in Martin county, to inspect the country, but they returned here in three or four days and determined to locate in this town, and accordingly proceeded to select their lands. In a few days they removed their wagons and stock to the point of Tarr's Grove, near by, and here established a permanent camp.

Owing to the want of roads to the timber, the high waters of that year (that was the wet year) and the impassable sloughs, they did not get up a cabin to live in, until about September, but in the mean time, lived in their wagons and tents, as best they could. While yet living in this patriarchal way and only four days after their arrival, to-wit: June 22d, the first children were born in the town. On that day was born to David and Mary Ogilvie, a pair of twins. They were named Alexander and Mary. Alexander died, when about two years old. Mr. Ogilvie and his companions had come to a new country, the great demand of which was settlers. To multiply and replenish the earth, was one of the ways to supply the demand. It may be remarked that these people do not now live in covered wagons, or even tents, but that long since large and comfortable farm houses and barns, wide spreading cultivated fields, large herds and droves of improved stock, and an abundance of all the comforts and conveniences of life are the rewards of their labor and thrift, while their descendants are numerous, and have taken up and improved much of the lands in the vicinity of the old homesteads. Having mentioned the first births in the town we may also speak of the first death, being in the order of dates. The first death occurred in October, 1858, when Mrs. McClure, the mother of Gilbert McClure died, at the advanced age of seventy-three. She had come from her native Scotland, and the home and friends of her youth to lay her bones in this new and strange land. But the promise is, that in the blessed home of the hereafter, there are no boundaries of nations, or distances of separation, and the well grounded hope is, that all the redeemed shall be united, to part no more forever. Though dying so far from her native land, it is still true, that it is no farther from the earthly home in Pilot Grove, to the gates of paradise, than it is from the lowlands, or highlands of Scotland, or any other land under the sun.

The following list presents the names of all the residents of the town in June, 1860, according to the census rolls, with the exception of two or three persons, who were absent at the time.

*Cardell*—Archibald, Mrs. Anna, James, John. *McClure*—Gilbert. *McClure*—Margaret. *More*—Andrew R., Mrs. Janette, Robert, Janette, Christina, Andrew, James, Marlan, Thomas. *Ogilvie*—James, Mrs. Ellen, David, Robert, Isabel, Mary. *Ogilvie*—David, Sr., Mrs. Mary, Agnes, Julia, Mary, Alexander.

And these are they to whom history must accord the honor of being the old settlers of Pilot Grove.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The township of Jo Daviess was attached to the town of Pilot Grove, for town purposes, by the special commissioners, in 1858. The first town meeting of the joint towns was held at the house of Jas. L. McCrery, on the twentieth day of October, 1858, at which time the town district was organized by the election of officers. Mr. McCrery was elected chairman, and A. R. More and James Ogilvie, side supervisors, and A. Cardell, clerk. The two towns were separated by the county commissioners, on the seventh day of January, 1864, and each started on an independent career. The official town records of this township, covering the period from the organization to the year 1865, inclusive, are lost. It appears that the records of these earlier years were kept on separate sheets of paper, and not in a bound book, as should have been the fact, and they have now disappeared forever. This fact is much to be regretted by the historian, as these records would have, at least, given the action of the town on various subjects—military bounties, for instance, and the names of town officials.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school-house in the town was a small log building, erected about the year 1859, on lands of James Ogilvie, and was known as the "Ogilvie School-house." This building was used for several years, when a new and better structure was erected, known as the "More School-house." There are now four substantial frame school-houses in the town. Mrs. Jennette Silliman (then Miss More), daughter of A. R. More, taught the first school in the town, in the summer of 1859.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The Presbyterians have for many years had a flourishing society here, and regular services. The society was organized in 1860 or 1861. The Free Will Baptists organized a congregation here in May, 1869. There was a Sabbath school organized in this town as early as the spring of 1859, which still continues, and is probably the oldest Sunday school in the county. It appears that there was a Sunday school instituted in Winnebago City township a little earlier than the Pilot Grove school, but did not long survive.



## SUNDRY INTERESTING FACTS.

The first marriage in the town was that of Silas B. Howland to Margaret McClure, which occurred on the fourteenth day of October, 1858.

The people of this town, like all others residing on the frontiers, became greatly apprehensive of an attack by the Indians, at the time of the great massacre in 1862. They held a number of meetings, when plans of defense were discussed. A military company was formed, of which James Ogilvie was commissioned first lieutenant, and the company was drilled by Sergeant Shepard Young, the only old soldier in the company.

The roster of this company was made up of the following names: Henry Everson, Archibald Cardell, David Ogilvie, James Ogilvie, Shepard Young, John Young, J. L. McCrery, R. R. McCrery, James McCrery, Aaron McCrery, Thos. Wilson, Sr., and John Wilson, Sr., and perhaps several others. But on the fifth day of September, it was resolved to leave the country, and on the next day the Pilot Grove settlement was deserted.

The people went to Blue Earth City, where preparations were made for defense in the erection of a fort, and here they remained for about a week, when they returned to their homes. Still it was a long time before they felt much confidence in their safety.

This township has also endeavored to encourage the building of railroads, into the county, by voting of aid, in form of bonds. None of the "bonuses" voted were of any avail, except those last given, in 1878.

During the war of the Rebellion, liberal bounties were granted to soldiers who should enlist and be credited to the town district—this town and Jo Daviess being then attached. It appears, from the town records of Jo Daviess, that on the twenty-third day of December, 1863, the board of the joint towns resolved to give a bounty of \$50, and that on August 17th, 1864, though the towns were then separate, the boards of the two towns had a joint meeting, and resolved to give a bounty of \$500 to each soldier enlisting, as above stated. We find also that subsequent to this, but the date is not given, the joint boards resolved to levy a tax of \$2,900, and on the sixth of May, 1865, they resolved to levy a tax of \$3,025 to pay volunteer bounties. On September 22d, 1866, they resolved to levy a tax of \$206. to pay expenses of exempts (as see general history of the year 1865), and also resolved to raise \$1,912 to pay off the balance of bounty bonds, issued in 1864. A number of joint meetings were held, during the following years, in relation to the payment of the bounty bonds, but the details are of no interest at this day.

The grasshopper ravages in this town, during the years 1873 and 1874, were very serious, amounting, in the latter year, to an almost total destruction of the crops. An inspection of the statement, as to the losses from this cause, given in the sketch of Jo Daviess, will give the reader some idea of the destruction wrought in this town.

Many of the people were considerably in debt, and their situation, for some years, very distressing. Some were compelled to remove, temporarily, from the town, to procure a living, and this fact accounts for the decrease of the population, for a short period, as appears by the census.

There has, for some years, been a post-office in this town, named Pilot Grove, but no village, and the principal trading point of the town has always been at Blue Earth City, but since the building of the North and South railroad, another convenient shipping and market town, especially for the people of the southern portion of this township, is found at the village of Elmore.

Prior to the close of this sketch, 1879, this township had furnished to the public service, a member of the Board of County Commissioners, A. R. More, Sr., for six years, three of which he was chairman, and a member of the State legislature, also Mr. More.

#### HON. ANDREW R. MORE, SR.

Mr. More was born on the twenty-first day of June, 1813, in the town of Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland. His father was a cambric weaver by trade. Mr. More received his education in the common and grammar schools of his district. He learned the trade of lace printer, and worked at the same for about fifteen years.

He connected himself with the Presbyterian church at the age of eighteen, and has remained a member of that denomination all his life, and in later years, since coming to this country, has often been one of the representatives of his congregation in the presbyteries and synods of the church, and in 1873 attended the national assembly which was held in Baltimore, Md. He was one of those who assisted in the organization of the church at Blue Earth City, and was chosen an elder. He also assisted in instituting the church society and Sunday school at Pilot Grove.

Mr. More was married in October, 1838, to Miss Jeanette A. Weir, of the town of Hamilton, Scotland. They have had seven children, four sons and three daughters.

He came to America in the year 1850, and located in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, where he remained two years, and then removed to Jefferson county, in the same state, where he remained five years. During his residence in Wisconsin, he was engaged in farming, but did not buy any land. In the spring of 1858 he came to this county, and located in this town with the company above spoken of. His location here was with the design of getting a permanent home for himself and family, and lands for his children. He has always been engaged in farming since residing here. Among other farming operations, he has always taken a great interest in bees, and was one of the organizers of our Bee Keepers' society. He has also been greatly interested in the planting and growth of fruit trees.



A. R. MORE, SR.



Mr. More, since being a resident of this county, has been a republican in politics. He has held the office of town clerk, was often chairman of the town board, and frequently town treasurer, and was justice of the peace five terms. He was also a member of the board of county commissioners, and of the state legislature, as above stated.

As illustrating the emoluments received by officers in the early days of the county, it may be stated that while Mr. More was justice of the peace, he married one couple, and was to receive for his fee, the services of the gentleman married, in taking a grist to the mill for Mr. More. This agreement was carried out. In another case the fee was to be a bag of "taters," but the "taters" were never delivered. In the matter of law suits, Mr. More, instead of encouraging litigation, spent much time in trying to settle the disputes of his neighbors, without fee or reward, and generally succeeded.

#### A PAGE OF FIGURES.

By the census of 1860, there were twenty-seven inhabitants in the town all told. In 1865, 175; in 1870, 390; in 1875, 329; in 1880, 324. The Scotch and Irish are the predominating nationalities.

There was in the town in 1879, the following stock, etc.: horses, 167; cows, 315; other cattle, 333; mules, 5; sheep, 152; hogs, 378; wagons and carriages, 37; sewing machines, 20. Assessed value of real estate in 1879, \$125,431; assessed value of personal estate in 1879, \$15,678. Total, \$141,109. Total tax assessed thereon for the year, \$2,740.74.

It was estimated, but how accurately, the writer will not venture to say, that there was produced in the town in 1879, of wheat, 18,000 bushels; oats, 40,000 bushels; corn, 36,000 bushels; potatoes, 2,500 bushels; barley, 1,600 bushels; sorghum syrup, 2,800 gallons; flax seed, 190 bushels, wool, 2,100 pounds; butter, 35,000 pounds.

#### TOWN OFFICERS.

The following named citizens of the town, were the township officers for 1879. Supervisor, W. P. Strong, chairman, A. Hanson and C. Johnson; town clerk, D. McLeod, who had held the office during four previous years; treasurer, E. Howley; assessor, J. Wilson, Jr.; justices, M. Donovan and D. Buggy.

A list of residents of the town prior to the closing year of this sketch, 1879, some of whom have not been named heretofore in this record of the town. All cannot now be given.

R. J. Atkins, H. Baldwin, Wm. Baldwin, Denis Buggy, A. Cardell, Jas. Cardell, Jas. Cardell, Jr., J. Connor, Patrick Carr, Jno. Carr, J. Cook, S. Cory, S. M. Demaree, Dan. Donovan, Dennis Donovan, M. Donovan, J. H. Deline, W. T. Deline, Wm. Dunn, Dan. Dunn, Thos. Dunn, C. Decker, M. Dullard, S. Everson, B. Everson, J. Gee, Ed. Howley, Pat. Hamil, M. Hanson, Wm. Hunter, J. C. Hill, C. Jenson, Chris. S. Johnson, A. R. More, Robt. More, Jas. More, G. D. Moore, R. Mackey, Ed. Moon, O. McLaughlin, Daniel McLeod, Gilbert McClure, Hugh McClure, A. Nelson, David Ogilvie, James Ogilvie, R. A. Ogilvie, G. W. Pugsley, David Pugsley, Jasper Pugsley, Hans. Peterson, Levi Shabins, P. Simser, L. Stiles, F. Schilling, Wm. F. Strong, Hugh Scott, Jackson Scott, Wm. Scott, W. B. Silliman, Justus Sawvain, W. Shaver, P. Shaver, P. Wickwire, Thomas Wilson, Wm. Wilson, Robt. Wilson, John Wilson, C. F. Wallace, Pitt Wilson, L. F. Wingett, Norm. Woolery, Milo Woolery, Jas Wilson, T. R. Wilson, J. N. Woolery, M. Woolery.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## ELMORE TOWNSHIP.

This township is comprised of congressional town one hundred and one (101) north, of range twenty-seven (27) west. It is bounded on the north by Blue Earth City township, on the east by Rome township, on the south by the state of Iowa, and on the west by the town of Pilot Grove.

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The mean elevation of this town above sea level, is eleven hundred and sixty feet, but there is a rise of ground near the south line of the town which is twelve hundred and fifty feet. The depth of the drift here to bed rock, is doubtless considerably over one hundred feet. A well of eighty-one feet in depth, showed soil, two feet; yellow till, eighteen feet; harder blue till, sixty feet; coarse gravel, one foot, from which water rose eighty feet, reaching to within one foot of the surface. Along the south side of the town, a width of territory from one to one and a half miles, is hilly, or prominently rolling drift. The general surface of the town is rolling prairie, easily drained. Its water courses are the west branch of the Blue Earth river, the middle branch of Coon creek and Otter creek, and these streams are mainly well timbered, and owing to the peculiar distribution of the streams, living water and timber are convenient to most parts of the town. Most of the lands are tillable and of the best quality, for general cultivation. Good water is easily obtained everywhere by digging or boring to a very moderate depth. This town, in its general physical features, is a highly favored one, and it is becoming still better from year to year, as the fine groves and lines of forest trees planted by the people and appearing everywhere, grow to maturity.

## THE EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Crawford W. Wilson, was the first actual settler of this town. He first came to this county in August, 1855. In November of that year, he brought in his family, and on the seventeenth of the month settled upon and claimed the northwest quarter of section eight. Mr. Wilson was born in Wayne county, Ohio, July 27th, 1835. In

the spring of 1850 he emigrated to Iowa, and from thence to Minnesota, as above stated. He was a farmer by occupation, but engaged at various times in merchandising, dealing in cattle and other occupations. He was for many years quite a prominent citizen of the county, and at one time one of its wealthiest. For a considerable time he was a justice of the peace, and was one of our county commissioners in the early years of the county. In 1872 he removed with his family into Iowa.

The following list comprises the names of all the residents of this town in June, 1860, when the national census was taken. A hasty glance over the list, reveals the fact that but few of those who were inhabitants of the town at that time, are to be found there now. "Dead, or removed," are the words echoed back to the question, "where are they now?"

*Adams*—Alonzo, Mrs. Irene and Amanda, Emily, Lucy. *Bowen*—Abijah, Mrs. Ruth. *Chesley*—Philip, Mrs. Eudoxsia and Esther, Hiram, William, Amanda, Milton, Mrs. Magdalene. *Cowing*—William. *Cowing*—Thomas. *Campbell*—James, Mrs. Catharine and William. *Hill*—Uri, Mrs. Renette and Idella. *Haggin*—Greenberry, Mrs. Sarah and Richard, Elvira, Greenberry. *Harrington*—Phebe. *Harrington*—Charles. *Little*—Alonzo, Mrs. Jane and Albert, Emeline. *Lampman*—Casper, Mrs. Caroline and David, Freeland, Elizabeth, Foster, Jordan. *McArthur*—Geo. D., Mrs. Anna. *McIntyre*—John. *Morris*—Archibald, Mrs. Electa and William, Charles, Robert, Lewis, Harriet, Mary, George. *Preston*—Amos, Mrs. Maria and Sheridan, Alida, Cleora, Wayland, Augustus, Augusta. *Schneider*—Sarah, Mrs. Freeman, Lorenzo, Rhoda, Mary, Franklin, Harriet. *Shultis*—Allen, Mrs. Elizabeth and Alida. *Way*—Marshall, Mrs. Georgiana and Hugh, Norwood, Charles. *Woolery*—Henry, Mrs. Mary and Reuben, Robert, Lucinda, Sarah. *Wickwire*—Philander. *Wheeler*—Michael. *Webster*—Orlow, Mrs. Leanner and Monroe, Inez, Izora, William, John. *Wilson*—Crawford W., Mrs. Susan and Mary, Elizabeth.

There were several other old settlers, of this town, who, although their names do not appear on the foregoing lists, should not be forgotten. Among those are the names of Jacob L. Schneider, John Haggin, Zac Haggin, Dubois Tooker.

The following table exhibits the wealth of the town, as appears by the census of 1860. It has vastly improved since that day.

Acres of improved land, 377; value of farms, \$10,100; value of farm implements and machinery, \$890; number of horses, 34; milch cows, 34; working oxen, 20; other cattle, 40; swine, 49; value of live stock, \$5,203.

#### THE NAME.

This town was first named "Dobson," in honor of one James Dobson, by the special commissioners, in 1858.

Mr. Dobson was born in Indiana, emigrated to Iowa in 1855, and from thence to Minnesota, in April, 1856, and took his "claim" in this town, a few days afterward. He was a farmer by occupation, and continued to reside in the town for many years, but lately removed from the town to a new locality.

The name of the town was changed to "Elmore" by act of the legislature of 1862. The town was so named in honor of Andrew E. Elmore, a distinguished citizen of the state of Wisconsin, and a life long friend of several early settlers and prominent citizens of the town.

#### ANDREW E. ELMORE.

Mr. Elmore was born in Ulster county, New York, May 8th, 1814, and came west in the year 1839, and settled at Mukwonago, Waukesha county, then a part of Milwaukee county, Wisconsin.

He married Miss Mary Field, daughter of Hon. Stephen Field, of Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1841, and they have had four children.

At Mukwonago, Mr. Elmore engaged, for many years, in the mercantile business, and was, for some years, postmaster of that place. Mr. Wm. S. Drake, now a resident of this county, was for some time a partner with Mr. Elmore, in business of merchandising. In 1842 he was elected to the Wisconsin territorial legislature, for Milwaukee and Washington counties, and served two years as such member. He was also a member of the first constitutional convention, in 1846, and was a member of the assembly in the sessions of 1859 and 1860. He was, for twelve years, chairman of the board of county supervisors of Waukesha county.

In 1864 he removed to Green Bay, Brown county, Wisconsin. From this place he removed to Fort Howard, Wisconsin, in 1868, where he has since resided. Mr. Elmore has been a member of the State board of charities and reform, from its organization, in April, 1871, and is now, and has been for the past ten years, its president, a highly honorable office. Mr. Elmore received a good common school and business education, but is essentially a self-made man. He is a diligent reader, and a close observer of public affairs, and has always taken a large interest in public enterprises. He is a man of positive convictions and opinions, energetic and prompt, and is one whose influence is felt in the community. He has long been known, among his friends, as "The Sage of Mukwonago," at which place he resided twenty-five years.

There is a county, in the state of Alabama, named Elmore, and there are seven post offices in the United States of this name.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The town was organized for civil purposes in 1858, Amos Preston being elected the first chairman of the board of supervisors. At the time of the organization, the town of Campbell, now Rome, was attached to this town, and so remained until January, 1868, when the latter town was set off by the county commissioners. The town officers for 1878-9 were: supervisors, A. Shultis, chairman, M. Nau-man and J. McCoy; town clerk, H. A. Woolery. Mr. Woolery had been clerk for nine preceding years. Treasurer, S. N. Cahoon; assessor, S. H. Norton; justices of the peace, Jas. Hardie and S. H. Norton; constable, H. Pratt.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school-house in the town was erected in the spring of 1858, on the southwest quarter of section seventeen, and was known





A. F. ELMORE.



as the "Dobson School-house." It was built of logs, and was not completed for about two years, so as to be fit for use. It served a good purpose for many years, not only for schools, but as a convenient place in which to hold elections and religious and other meetings. A new and more commodious house, being a substantial frame building, has since been erected near the site of the old house, which is known as the Shultis school-house. There are now seven substantial frame school-houses in the town, all well furnished.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The Methodist Episcopal church established regular religious services in the town at a very early day, probably in 1857, or 1858, when a class was formed.

The Rev. A. R. Brockett, long a respected resident of this town, who died in 1878, and who has long been kindly remembered by many, gave the writer this minute: "The Free Will Baptist church was first instituted in this *county*, June 23d, 1863, and the first quarterly meeting was organized the second Sunday in June, 1866." This denomination organized a society in this town, in March, 1869.

The Wesleyan Methodists had an organized society for some years.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

A Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, named "Rising Sun Grange," was organized here in 1873, or 1874, and flourished successfully for some years.

#### BOUNTIES TO SOLDIERS.

On the fifteenth of December, 1863, the supervisors of the town determined, by resolution, that, as there was then a draft pending, to give a bounty of fifty dollars, in town bonds, to all such as should enlist in the military service of the United States, prior to January 1st, 1864, and be credited to this town. On August 27th, 1864, the board raised this bounty to three hundred dollars, and on January 5th, 1865, they re-resolved to give this bounty, and employed George D. McArthur, a citizen of the town, as a recruiting agent, to secure volunteers to fill up the quota of the town. Mr. McArthur was paid five dollars per day, in town orders, for his services. Town orders were then somewhat below par. At the same time, the board employed Judge Amos Preston, also an old resident of the town, at an expense of five dollars per day, in town orders, to seek out such persons in the town, who, because of disabilities, might be exempt from service, or draft, and conduct them before the enrolling board, at Mankato, for examination and discharge. On January 11th, 1865, the board met again, and raised the bounty to five hundred dollars, and on the twentieth of the same month, they determined, by reso-

lution, that such bounty bonds should bear no interest, and be made payable June 1st, 1866. The object of these bounties, as the reader will doubtless perceive, was to encourage enlistments, and save the town from draft, or conscription.

#### RAILROAD AID.

This town not only manifested a commendable spirit of patriotism, but has given substantial encouragement to public enterprises, especially railroad building, having often voted aid in the form of "bonuses," but no road was procured, as a result, except under the last vote (1878).

#### A LAWSUIT.

In April, 1870, an action was brought by one A. B. Webber, against the two towns of Elmore and Rome to recover on certain military bounty bonds which he held. These were some of the bounty bonds given to encourage enlistments above referred to. At the time of the issue of the bonds, the two towns were attached. These actions were instituted, not because these towns repudiated the indebtedness, but were permitted, mainly, to determine the actual liabilities in this behalf of the several towns, grave questions as to which had arisen. After a closely contested law suit, judgment was rendered against the town for \$1,421.39. At the time of commencing the above action, another action, by the same plaintiff and for the same purpose, was begun against the town of Elmore alone, on other like bonds, and judgment was rendered against the town for \$809.55. The reason of the two suits was, that the town board, when issuing the bonds, made some of them in the name of both towns, and others in the name of Elmore alone; yet, when all the bonds were issued, the towns were attached and constituted but one town district.

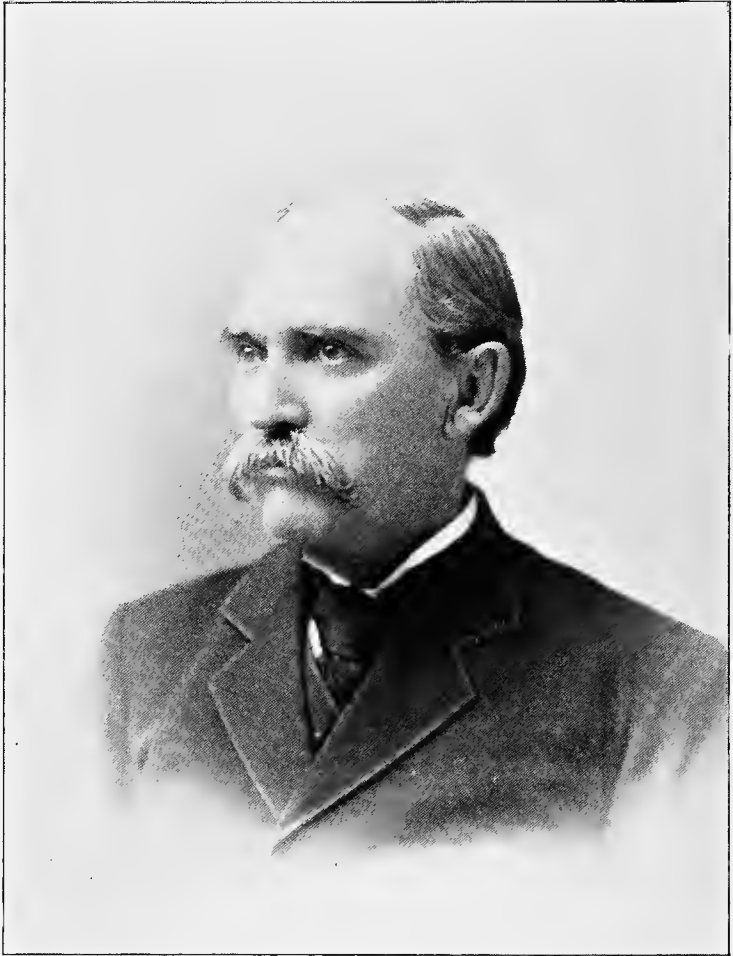
On the second day of July, 1873, Rome being then only a separate town, a joint meeting of the boards of the two towns was held for the purpose of adjusting their war bounty difficulties, at which it was resolved that each town should pay its proportionate share of the judgment of \$1,421.39, and that the same should be levied by a direct tax on all the taxable property of the two towns. The other judgment was also subsequently adjusted.

#### VARIOUS INCIDENTS.

The first death in the town was that of a Mr. Wickwire, who died in the winter of 1856-7.

The first person born in this town was Ellen Miller, daughter of Henry and Charlotte Miller. She was born on the fifth or sixth of April, 1857.





GEO. D. MCARTHUR.



MRS. G. D. MCARTHUR.





The first marriage which occurred here was that of Jacob E. Shirk to Catharine Schneider, March 1st, 1858.

The people of this town were injured, to some extent, especially in that portion of the town west of the river, by the grasshopper invasions of 1873 and 1874, but this town did not suffer as much from these pests as did several others. The people here also suffered severely from the hard, close times of 1875 and 1876, and the town, during these years, made but little, if any, progress in wealth, and lost many in population.

There was, for some years, a post-office kept at a farm house on section 20, on the route from Blue Earth City to Algona, known as Elmore P. O., but it was subsequently removed to the village of Elmore, a village which had not yet put in an appearance, at the close of this historical sketch.

#### GEO. D. MCARTHUR.

Geo. D. McArthur, for many years a resident, and always a large land owner in this town, was born in Columbia county, N. Y., in August, 1834. His father, Duncan McArthur, was a farmer, and an old resident of that region. He removed, in 1849, with his family to Waukesha county, Wis. George obtained his education in the district schools, and attended for some time at Waukesha college.

In 1853 he went to New York City, where he resided a year, when he came west and spent some six months in Tennessee, and then came to Minnesota, in 1855, and resided in Winona county for about a year. His next move was to this county. He located in this town in June, 1856. Here he engaged in farming and stock raising extensively.

In the fall of 1858 he was elected representative in the State legislature, but no session was held in 1858-9, and his services were not required. He was also, subsequently elected court commissioner, but did not qualify.

Mr. McArthur was married in 1859, to Miss Annie S. Drake, of Waukesha county, Wis.

In 1864 he removed to Blue Earth City and engaged, in company with Mr. Uri Hill, in the mercantile business. In 1869 he engaged in the sale of agricultural machinery at Blue Earth City until 1871; when the railroad was completed to Winnebago City he removed to that place and resided there about seven years, still engaged in selling agricultural implements, and this has been, largely, his principal business during life, yet, still always interested in farming operations in Elmore. In 1878 he returned to Blue Earth City, where he has since resided, engaged in his former occupations and banking. In 1894, he was elected State senator, for this district.

Mr. McArthur and his wife have, since 1862, been members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

His political affiliations have always been with the republican party, and for many years he has taken a large interest in our local politics.

#### ALLEN SHULTIS.

Allen Shultis came to this town in company with Mr. McArthur. They were brothers-in-law, and, like McArthur, Mr. Shultis has been closely identified with the town and all its interests, from that day to this. He was born in New York State, January 20, 1832, and came to Waukesha county, Wisconsin,

with his father, in 1842. Allen came to Winona county in 1855, and to this county in 1856. Mr. Shultis also became a large landholder in the town. He was married, in 1857, to Miss Elizabeth McArthur. He was often a member of the town and school boards of Elmore township. He was elected a representative in the State legislature, in 1859, and attended the session of 1859-60. He was a member of the board of county commissioners, in 1864, 1865, and 1866, and was two years chairman of the board. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster of Elmore. For a number of years after coming to this county, Mr. Shultis adhered to the republican party, but, subsequently affiliated with the democrats. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Shultis has always been engaged in farming and stock raising.

#### A FEW FIGURES.

By the census of 1860, the population of the town was 95; in 1865 there were 295, including the residents of Rome township. In 1870 there were 470, Rome having then been set off. In 1875 we find 404; in 1880, 442. A large majority of the population are American born.

Stock and other property in 1879: Horses, 244; cows, 372; other cattle, 404; mules, 6; sheep, 2,264; hogs, 624; wagons and carriages, 66; sewing machines, 22; organs, 1. Agricultural productions (estimated) for 1879: Wheat, 16,500 bushels; oats, 10,500 bushels; corn, 15,000 bushels; barley, 800 bushels; potatoes, 1,600 bushels; wild hay, 3,100 tons. There were 500 apple trees growing. Butter produced, 29,000 lbs. The report of products is quite indefinite for this year. Assessed value of real estate for 1879, \$144,052; assessed value of personal estate for 1879, \$31,610; total, \$175,662; total tax assessed on same, \$3,687.25.

#### THE ELMORE "BAR."

We cannot close this historical sketch of Elmore township without giving a brief account of the once noted "Elmore Bar."

In the early days of the town there was considerable litigation among some of the people who resided near the Iowa line, and who had but little respect for either divine or human laws. Their frequent lawsuits give rise to what was known as the Elmore Bar, a merely local and unprofessional institution. This bar was composed of Allen Shultis, Geo. D. McArthur, W. W. Knapp, Zac. Haggin and DuBois Tooker, who, for a small consideration, acted as attorneys of litigants before the justices' court. When heavier cases than ordinary ones, arose, a regular attorney from the villages was brought in to manage affairs, but generally went out badly beaten. The court was composed of Mr. Philip Chesley, a highly respected and old time resident of the town, who was justice of the peace, and Hiram Chesley, constable. Many amusing incidents occurred in these trials, but we can give but one of them here. In a certain suit, Mr. Shultis was attorney for the plaintiff, and Messrs. Tooker and McArthur for the defendant. As the suit enlisted considerable local interest, the attorneys were quite earnest in behalf of their several clients. Mr. Shultis prepared an elaborately written argument and laid it up between the logs of the cabin, in which they lived, for safe keeping, until the momentous day, and calmly and

confidently awaited the hour of victory over the combination of legal talent arrayed against him. But the opposing counsel, who resided in the same cabin with Mr. S., quietly purloined the argument, and when the day of trial came, Mr. S. found it gone, but where, he could not imagine. He said nothing, but gallantly went into the contest. When the proceedings before the court, reached the argument, lo, and behold! one of the defendant's counsel read, with great energy and emphasis, the lost argument, and won the case. Mr. Shultis was afterwards heard to say that he considered the cabbaging of his argument a very mean trick, as he was thus compelled to furnish brains for both sides, while he could only charge for one, and for that had to take his client's note, which was never paid.

## OFFICIAL.

Prior to the closing year of this historical sketch, this township had contributed to the public services, three county commissioners, Wilson, Preston and Shultis, each of whom was chairman of the board; two members of the State legislature, McArthur and Shultis; a judge of probate, Preston; two court commissioners elect, Preston and McArthur (neither of whom qualified, however), and a coroner, W. A. Way.

The following is a list of the names of a number of residents of the town prior to the close of 1879. It is impossible now to give the names of all who have been residents:

Chas. Aling, Dan Ackerman, F. Albright, A. D. Adams, P. H. Austin, A.S. Anderson, A. R. Brackett, Daniel Boon, Abija Bowen, C. Bartz, H. Benson, H. Barkley, A. Beckwith, A. Cook, John Coppernoll, Enos Coppernoll, H. Coppernoll, S. N. Cahoon, J. A. Cahoon, J. Allison Cahoon, R. Collison, Phillip Chesley, Hiram Chesley, Wm. Chesley, J. E. Chase, C. Collison, A. Collison, R. M. Cordill, W. S. Drake, Sr., W. S. Drake, Jr., F. Goodrich, J. Hardie, A. G. Hardie, F. L. Howland, H. P. Hanson, P. B. Hanyhurst, J. Haggin, A. T. Ireland, A. C. Ingalls, E. C. Ingalls, John Ingalls, A. Krosch, W. Krosch, G. Krosch, J. Klatt, J. A. LaPoint, G. D. McArthur, C. McArthur, A. D. Mason, Elliot Mason, John McCoy, Sam'l Monroe, J. F. McLaughlin, W. C. Middleton, C. Mathews, Orin Moffitt, M. Nauman, S. H. Norton, Wm. B. Page, Amos Preston, J. M. Purdie, Harrison Pratt, Jas. Pratt, A. Russell, J. C. Russell, Roenus Robbins, Al. Robbins, Russell Richardson, J. Richardson, Benj. Stanton, W. M. Saxton, D. Schneider, Simon Schneider, Charles Stockman, Ralph Stockman, R. R. Stockman, F. Smith, Jas. Sullivan, Martin Shultis, L. K. Sharpe, C. Sharpe, Du. B. Tooker, Geo. A. Taylor, R. Taylor, Alfred E. Taylor, Allen Taylor, A. Taylor, C. Taylor, Sherman Taylor, J. VanSlyke, W. H. Vining, J. J. Vrooman, Geo. Vrooman, John H. VanBuren, A. J. Wilcox, C. Whittoun, O. Webster, P. Welden, Marshall Way, Henry Woolery, H. A. Woolery.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## ROME TOWNSHIP.

The United States government in its official land surveys, numbers this township one hundred and one (101) north, of range twenty-six (26) west, of the principal meridian.

The surface of the town has an average elevation of eleven hundred and sixty feet above the level of tide water, and the depth of the drift here is doubtless over one hundred feet to bed rock. Yet this fact has never been determined accurately, either by deep wells or otherwise. The surface is slightly undulating, or rolling prairie, well adapted to farming, grazing and stock raising. The soil is very fertile and all crops which can be raised in the northwest, can be successfully grown here. There is no native timber in the town, but there are many and large artificial groves of forest trees, and more being constantly added. Coon creek heads in this town, and this with several slough rivulets, are the only water courses in the town. Good well water is obtained in abundance, at moderate depths.

## THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first permanent settler of this township was Ole Nelson (Hauge) who settled upon and claimed the northeast quarter of section three (3) early in March, 1863. Mr. Nelson was born in Norway. He emigrated to the United States and first settled in Dane county, Wisconsin. He subsequently removed to this county, locating in the town of Emerald, where he resided several years, and then removed to Rome, as above stated. Mr. Nelson has always been a farmer by occupation.

Owing to the fact that Rome is a prairie town, it was among the towns last settled.

Among those who are entitled to the name of old settlers of Rome, and who were residents of the town in 1868 or prior thereto, we record the names of Fred Everton, T. J. Everton, L. Rogers, H. Cordell, J. H. Stubbs, D. Coyle, A. Bartlett, L. H. Ames, K. Peterson, Nels Thompson, George Bartlett, L. Kallostadt, L. Edson, John Emerson, C. King, W. D. Clark, Wm. Sterrett, John Sterrett, W. G. Clark, L. K. Woodwick, C. Nelson, H. Thompson, O. E. Legwold, Stephenson Iverson, Flo. Simeon Hess, J. Klareweter, W. Tolliver, Eric Amundson, H. Halverson, P. Larson, A. Mickelson, A. Rasmusson, L. Sieverson, Jas. Paterson, Wm. Oelke, O. H. Littlefield, Philip Maglouglin.

## THE NAME.

This town was first called "Campbell," by the special commissioners, in 1858, in honor of one James Campbell, who, by the way, was never a resident of this town, but was one of the first settlers in Elmore township. The writer has been unable to learn that "Old Jimmy," as Mr. Campbell was usually called, was ever distinguished for anything special, except that he was a smooth talking, plausible, old Scotch-Irishman, and was skilled in "swappin' hoses," and turned an honest penny in that way, occasionally. He left this country many years ago, and his present place of residence is unknown to the writer.

The town was attached, by the special commissioners, to Elmore, for civil purposes, and so remained until the January session of the county board, in 1868, when it was detached, and the name of the town was changed to "Grant," in honor of Gen. U. S. Grant. But it soon appeared that there was another town in the State, of the same name, and the State auditor directed the name to be changed again, which was done at the session of the county board, in March, 1868, and the town named "Rome," its present name.

Some persons have said that the town was named in honor of old Pagan Rome, once the mistress of the world, others that ecclesiastical Rome, the head of the church, was intended to be honored, but, the fact is, that the town was named for the city of Rome, in the state of New York, and the name was suggested by Fred Everton, who, though not the first, was the second settler in the town, and for many consecutive years, from its organization, was chairman of the town board.

The name Rome, as a designation of a locality, is undoubtedly more universally known, among men, than any other name in use, at present, or any other to be found in history. There are some twenty cities, villages and post-offices, in the United States, of this name, and then there is the never to be forgotten, old Rome, on the Tiber—"The Eternal City."

## ORGANIC.

When the town was set off as a separate town, the county board directed an election for town officers to be held on the twenty-eighth day of January, 1868, but a severe storm prevented the holding of this election. The first election was held on the second day of March, of that year, at which officers were chosen, but there was another election held for town officers, which occurred on the eighth day of April, following, at which most of the same persons were chosen, as at the prior election. The second election was rendered necessary because of some irregularities in the first.

The town has kept up its organization and self government from that day to this.

The roster of town officers was made up of the following named residents of the township, in 1868, when the town was organized:

Supervisors, Fred Everton, chairman, T. J. Everton and Geo. Bartlett; town clerk, W. J. Cordill; treasurer, S. H. Stubbs; assessor, D. Coyle; justices of the peace, Wm. Burton and K. Peterson; constables, L. Edson and J. Enarson.

The officers for the years 1878-9, were: for supervisors, H. E. Legvold, chairman, W. G. Clark and T. Mikkleson; town clerk, S. O. Norton; treasurer, Ole Nelson; assessor, C. A. Erdahl; justice of the peace, W. J. Cordill; constable, H. Tennesen.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school house erected in this town was built in 1870 near the farm of Wm. Sterrett. It is a good substantial frame building and is known as "the Sterrett school house." The Hess school house is over the line, and in Elmore, and was erected by a joint school district, composed of territory taken from both Rome and Elmore. This house was erected before the Sterrett school house. There are now three school houses in the town. It is said that a Miss Tolliver taught the first school.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The United Presbyterians established a society here at a very early day, and have had, for many years, a resident minister. This congregation worshiped, for many years, at the Sterrett school house. The Norwegian Lutherans have also had public worship in this town for many years past.

#### SUNDRY INCIDENTS.

An act was passed by the State Legislature in 1868, to provide for the payment of certain taxes by the town of Grant, in Faribault county, which enacted that the said town "which was detached from the town of Elmore \* \* shall be and is hereby declared to be liable to pay the same proportion of the tax thereafter necessary to be levied for the payment of the bounties offered by the said town to the volunteers of the late war, as would have been the case had the said town of Grant remained without a separate and independent organization." The town had been set off in January 1868, and the purport of this act is plain.

In 1870, the town, together with Elmore, was sued on military bounty bonds, issued when the town was attached to Elmore. Judgment was entered against the two towns for \$1,421. and costs, a proportionate share of which was paid by this town, and also of another judgment against Elmore alone, for \$809. The matter is more fully recited in the history of Elmore township.

The people of Rome have suffered severely, many times, from destructive prairie fires, which have swept over the country. References thereto will be found in the general history of the county. That of August, 1874, was very disastrous to many.

The town has frequently voted to aid in the building of railroads, but without effect, until the last vote taken, which secured a road to Blue Earth City, and thence southward.

In 1870, the town voted \$8,000 in bonds to the Burlington, C. R. and M. R. R. Company, to build a road from Mason City, Iowa, to Blue Earth City, which, if it had been built, would have given the town a depot, but the project proved a failure.

Up to the close of this history, the town has furnished to the public service a member of the board of county commissioners, L. K. Woodwick.

A FEW FIGURES.

When the census of 1860 was taken, there were no inhabitants in Rome township. At the census of 1865 the town was attached to Elmore, and its inhabitants were enumerated with that town.

By the census of 1870 there were 396 souls in the town, and in 1875, 458; in 1880, 504. The residents of this town are Americans, Germans, Scotch and Norwegians, the latter nationality largely predominating.

In 1879, there were in the town 214 horses, 436 cows, 485 other cattle, 12 mules, 362 sheep, 188 hogs, 69 wagons and carriages, 21 sewing machines, and 2 organs.

The assessed value of real estate that year was, \$117,787. The assessed value of personal property that year was, \$22,015. Total, \$139,802. The total tax assessed thereon was \$1,584.32.

The agricultural products of the same year were as follows: Wheat, 27,000 bushels; oats, 26,000 bushels; corn, 12,000 bushels; barley, 1,300 bushels; potatoes, 1,700 bushels; sorgum syrup, 700 gallons; flax seed, 590 bushels; wool 1,482 pounds; butter, 31,000 pounds. Total acreage cultivated, 3,400.

In addition to the names of early settlers in this town, already given, there is here added a further list of residents, prior to the close of 1879. All, however, may not be named:

J. Anderson, A. Amundson, T. Atlakson, E. Amundson, P. Berg, A. L. Brakke, A. B. Balcom, E. A. Brownlee, W. J. Cordell, Curtis Dolliver, Fones Dolliver, C. Dalsing, S. Erdahal, L. Erdahl, R. M. Erdahl, C. A. Erdahl, A. O. Egness, Iver K. Floe, J. C. Foster, J. A. Fibelstad, S. Gerke, O. Hemmingson, J. Hemmingson, H. Halverson, E. Halverson, A. Ingebretson, O. Jacobson, K. Johnson, A. Johnson, L. A. Kallestadt, C. A. Kallestadt, P. Knudtson, P. Larson, C. H. Littlefield, S. Lovass, H. E. Legvold, O. J. Legrid, A. Mikkleson, T. Mikkleson, A. Markesan, O. M. Mehl, C. O. Mehl, P. F. Mundale, Philip Magloughlin, S. O. Norton, O. Nilson, J. Nilson, G. Nilson, L. Oelke, Wm. Oelke, O. Oleson, L. A. Olson, Ole Olson, A. Oleson, Ole Peterson, C. W. Quiggle, O. J. Quam, R. M. Robertson, A. Rasmusson, L. Seivertson, O. Sjorson, J. R. Starrett, H. Simanson, O. O. Steene, T. Thorson, T. Torgerson, Neils G. Thompson, H. Thompson, R. J. Underdahl, O. J. Weberg, Ludwig Willmert, G. Willmert, W. Willmert,

## CHAPTER XIX.

## SEELY TOWNSHIP.

The town of Seely is Congressional township one hundred and one (101) north, of range twenty-five (25) west. The surroundings of this town are as follows: On the north is Brush Creek township, on the east is the town of Kiester, on the south is the Iowa State line, and on the west is the town of Rome. The mean elevation of this town above sea level is eleven hundred and seventy-five feet. A well bored on the southwest quarter of section four, to a depth of one hundred and twenty-three feet, proves the drift here to be about ninety-five feet in depth, to bed-rock. The bed-rock is a bluish-gray limestone. This is a prairie township, and the surface is moderately rolling. The soil is deep and fertile. Tillable and pasture lands are well proportioned. Brush Creek runs through the northeast corner of the town, and the east branch of the Blue Earth river through the northwest, and these, besides several slough runs, are the living streams of the town. Most of the lands are easily drained. There is no native timber in this town, except what is found on the Blue Earth River. Many thousands of trees have been set out by farmers, and there are now many fine groves of forest trees, well advanced, which dot the wide, green prairies on every hand.

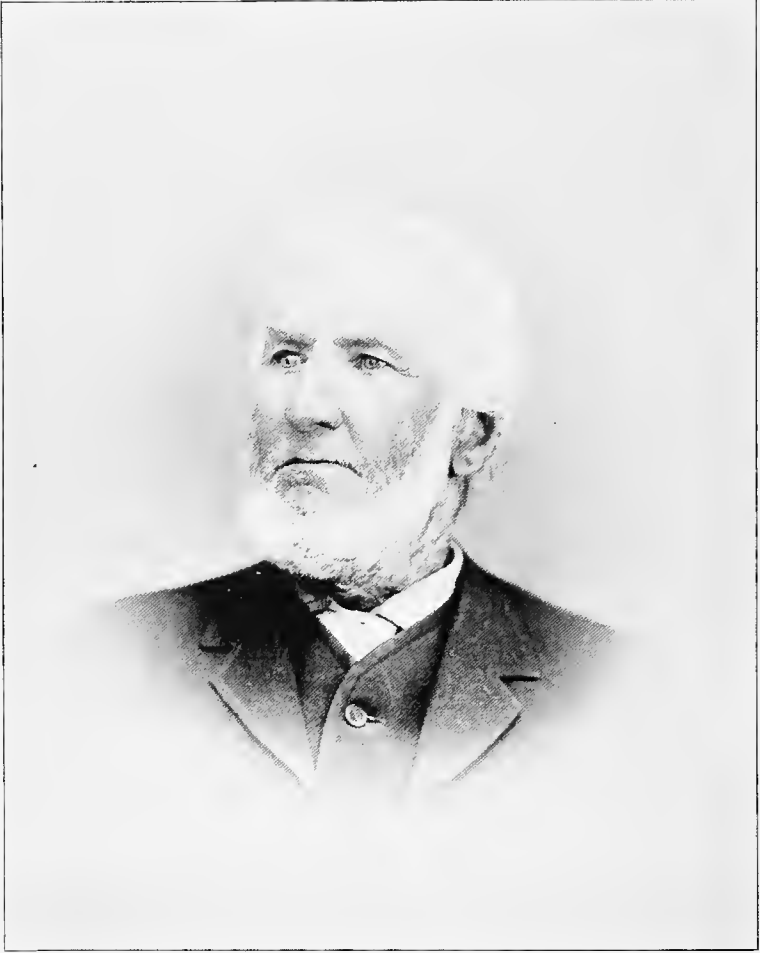
## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first white man to locate in this town was Jacob E. Shirk. He settled upon the northwest quarter of section four, about the twelfth day of June, 1856, and made the first improvements in the town in breaking up the land and erecting buildings.

Mr. Shirk was born in Lancaster county, Penn. He served four years in the United States Marine corps, was present in Japan at the signing of the treaty in 1854, between the United States and Japan, being a member of Commodore Perry's expedition. During this expedition, Mr. Shirk circumnavigated the globe. He was discharged from the service in November, 1855, at Washington, D. C., and immediately emigrated to Clarksville, Iowa, and from thence to Minnesota in 1856, as above stated. He was married in 1858 to Miss Catharine Schneider.







P. C. SEELY.

Early in 1865, he enlisted in a Minnesota regiment of heavy artillery, and was ordered south, but the rebellion closing, he was, after seven months' service, discharged, after which time he engaged in farming on his old homestead in this town. Mr. Shirk died July 15th, 1895.

The following list embraces the names of all persons residing in the town in June, 1860, according to the United States census of that year.

*Foster*—Abraham. *Pratt*—David, Mrs. Asenath, James, Parizade, Harrison, Ellen. *Pratt*—Samuel, Mrs. Helen, Ida. *Shirk*—Jacob E., Mrs. Catharine, Jefferson. *Seely*—Philander C., Mrs. Harriet, Clement. *Seely*—Willard.

But there are others whose names should be added to this list of the early settlers of the town, among whom were David Shirk, William Foster, Wm. B. Taylor, and Chester Eddy.

The following table exhibits the appraised wealth of the people of this town, as set forth in the census schedules of 1860:

Acres of land improved.....	85
Value of farms.....	\$2,000
No. of horses.....	5
No. of milch cows.....	16
No. of working oxen.....	16
No. of other cattle.....	13
No. of swine.....	20
Value of live stock.....	\$ 985
Value of farm implements and machinery.....	363

The first company of immigrants who located in this town, was that of David Pratt and his large family, accompanied by P. C. Seely and family, and a number of other persons who all located here in the year 1857. They took up considerable land, and proceeded to make large improvements. Deacon David Pratt, the patriarch of this company, was a man of more than ordinary intelligence and force of character, and was possessed of some considerable means and with all, and over all, was an earnest, christian man, who illustrated his profession in his every day life and conduct. For many years the house of Mr. Pratt was the headquarters of the town, and the stopping place of the traveler, the immigrant and the missionary, all of whom found here, at all times, the most generous hospitality. Mr. Pratt died in August, 1877.

#### THE NAME OF THE TOWN.

The town was named Seely, by the special commissioners, in 1858, in honor of Philander C. Seely, one of the earliest settlers of the town.

#### PHILANDER C. SEELY.

Mr. Seely was born in Cayuga county, state of New York, in 1823. He emigrated to Wisconsin in 1846, and from thence to this county in 1857.

He married Miss Harriet Pratt, a daughter of David Pratt. They have one child living, Clement W. Seely, now a resident of the town. Mr. Seely was the

first chairman of the board of supervisors, of this town, and the first justice of the peace, being chosen to both offices the same year. He was also a member of the board of county supervisors (now commissioners) one term. He was elected to the office of sheriff, of this county, in the fall of 1861, receiving every vote polled in the county. He served one term. When elected sheriff he removed to Blue Earth City, where he resided some years, but subsequently returned to his farm in Seely, and engaged in farming. He was in the military service of the United States, and went south near the close of the rebellion.

Mr. Seely, in his younger days, took much interest in politics, and early allied himself with the republican party. He was a delegate to the first free-soil convention, which assembled in Wisconsin, and which was held in 1848, when the free-soil party was organized in that state, and he supported Mr. Van Buren, the free-soil candidate for president that year.

Since writing the above sketch Mr. Seely returned again to Blue Earth City to reside, accompanied by his son and his family, and there he expects to spend the remainder of his days.

There are five post-offices in the United States named Seely, and two named Seelyville.

#### ORGANIZATION.

This town was organized for civil purposes in 1858, and has kept up its organization to this day. The town of Kiester, then "Lake," was attached to Seely by the special commissioners in 1858 for town purposes, and so remained until set off as a separate town by the county commissioners, January 4th, 1892. On the sixth of March, 1860, the two town districts of "Seely and Kiester" and "Brush Creek and Foster," were consolidated as one town district, by the county board, but this arrangement did not continue a great while.

The first board of town officers, elected in 1858, were: P. C. Seely, chairman of the supervisors and Abraham Foster and Samuel Pratt, side supervisors; town clerk, Willard Seely; assessor, David Pratt; justice of the peace, P. C. Seely; constable, James Pratt; treasurer, David Pratt.

The town officers in 1879, the last year of this sketch, were the following named persons: supervisors, P. J. Glasted, chairman, O. Reed and C. Sheldon; town clerk, G. B. Bates; assessor, C. W. Seely; treasurer, R. C. Haaland; justices of the peace, P. C. Seely and D. Salley; constables, Fred Williams and J. Reed.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school house was built on the lines between the towns of Seely and Brush Creek, in the year 1858, the district then comprising the two towns. The house was built of logs, and was sixteen feet by twenty-four feet in size, and one story high. The first school was taught by Miss Parizade Pratt (afterwards Mrs. H. Raymond) in the above house, in the summer of 1858. There are now five substantial, well furnished school houses in the town, and a very com-

mendable spirit has always been manifested on the subject of education.

#### RELIGIOUS AND OTHER SOCIETIES.

The first sermon preached in this township, was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Judd (Methodist), of the Winnebago Indian Agency, in the old log house of Deacon David Pratt, in February, 1858. The Baptist church was organized here, December 19th, 1858. The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church was organized about 1870, and this society erected a church edifice in the northwestern portion of the town, in 1872, on section 7. The Methodists organized in December, 1871. A Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was instituted here in the days when that society flourished in this county.

#### VARIOUS EVENTS.

The first person born in Seely township was Ida M. Pratt, daughter of Samuel Pratt. She was born in August, 1858.

The first marriage was that of Abraham Foster, to Miss Emily M. C. Murray, which occurred on the fourth day of May, 1859, and the ceremony was performed by Mr. Seely, justice of the peace.

The first death was that of Samuel Pratt, which took place January 5th, 1863.

A postoffice was established in this town named "Clayton," about the year 1859, on section four. Clayton is now known as something more than a post-office. It may be designated as a hamlet, and the headquarters of the town. For many years there has been a store here, and a hotel, blacksmith shop, school house, etc.

There are two other post-offices in the town, one named Homedahl, on section 30; and one named Seely, on section twenty-two.

Prior to the close of this history, this town has furnished the following public officers: two county commissioners, Seely and Sisson; a sheriff, Seely; a county surveyor, Sisson.

Prior to the close of 1879, there were many settlers who came into this town, the names of some of whom, not already mentioned, are recorded here.

K. Anderson, A. Armstrong, J. Anderson, L. T. Batland, C. Bloom, A. B. Brant, G. D. Bassett, G. B. Bates, John Cushing, R. Derickson, C. E. Everett, F. S. Everette, A. Foster, Ole Gudall, T. N. Gestie, P. J. Glasted, M. O. Hogue, D. L. Hogue, J. G. Hogue, J. O. Hove, C. O. Haaland, T. O. Haaland, R. O. Haaland, F. Hulbert, M. Halsett, A. Halsett, L. Johnson, C. Johnson, J. O. Johnson, D. Johnson, Otten Iverson, Henry Kamrar, S. P. Langsav, S. Larson, L. Lewison, A. W. Langworthy, B. H. Langworthy, W. F. Lawrence, O. W. Lee, N. Nelson, O. N. Oleson, J. Peterson, P. Peterson, A. Peterson, S. Peterson, F. Peterson, J. Pratt, G. Pratt, W. W. Reed, E. R. Reed, J. Reed, O. Reed, John Reed, S. L. Rugg, T. T. Rosdale, Ira M. Riker, A. L. Rake, J. Raymond, J. R. Sisson, Jeff. Shirk, J. M. Showalter, Daniel Salley, O. Sannon, T. D. Stodland, T. Sherman, C. Scholden, T. L. Sherman, W. Seely, C. W. Seely, A. Torkleson, O. B. Thompson, E. J. Torquine, Geo. Venim, H. Wing, Fred. Williams.

## STATISTICS.

The reports for the year 1879, show in this town, 240 horses; 442 cows; 399 other cattle; 8 mules; 170 sheep; 39 hogs; 30 wagons and carriages; 11 sewing machines; 6 organs. The assessed value of real property for that year was \$101,735; personal, \$24,561; total, \$126,296. Total assessment on the same for 1879, was \$1,873.88. Of agricultural products, there were, for 1879, of wheat 30,000 bushels; oats, 17,000 bushels; corn, 11,000 bushels; barley, 1,200 bushels; potatoes, 1,900 bushels, syrup, 1,200 gallons; flax seed, 225 bushels; wool, 1,100 pounds; butter, 45,000 pounds; cheese, 1,800 pounds.

The population of the town in 1860, was 17, in 1865, it was 88, in 1870 it was 266, in 1875 it was 368, and in 1880 it was 441. A large proportion of the inhabitants are of Norwegian nationality.

Her er lidt Historie, oldtidens og nutidens Historie. Efter oldtidens sagaer, der fortæller os om, at Erik den Røde, "en Nordmand," i Aaret 983, besøgte den søndre Kyst af Grönland og grundlagde der en Koloni, og at hans søn, Leif Eriksen, med et følge af modige sømænd i Aaret 1000, næsten fem hundrede Aar før Columbus var født, opdagede og landede paa Kysten af Nord Amerika, hvor de plantede det gamle Norges flag, og grundlagde en Koloni. Det nye land blev af dem kaldet Vinland. Nordmændene kunde saaledes have gjort fordring paa Amerika, som opdagere af landet; men deres Koloni døde snart ud og opdagelsen glemtes; kun erindret i Aarhundredernes løb gjennem gamle Fortællinger og upaalidelige Optegnelser. Men i det siste Aarhundrede har mange hundrede tusinde af Norske folk kommet over til Amerika, og af disse har Minnesota i de siste firte Aar faaet en meget stor part. De, og deres Efterkommere udgjør en stor del af vor stats og county's befolkning. Mange af de allerførste settlere i Emerald, Brush Creek, Seely, Rome, Delavan og forskellige andre townships var Nordmænd. Amerikas frie Institutioner falder meget naturlige for Skandinaverne, og de blive snart forligte med dem, paa grund af at Skandinaverne i Aarhundreder har været stadige Forkjæmpere for hvert enkelt individs tanke og handle frihed. De har været en udholdende race og vanskelige at tvinge under en vilkaarlig og despotisk övrigheds Herredømme, og sandheden er, at dette har endnu aldrig været gjort i det mindste for nogen længere tid i de gamle lande. Deres Fædres lande med sine høie fjelde og dybe dale, sin frie luft, sin nærhed til den aabne sø, det oplivende klima, de gamle, ofte gjentagne sagaer om frihed og om Fædrenes uforfærdede og heltmodige gjerninger, har alt tilsammen forenet sig til at frembringe et friheds elskende folk; og idag er der ikke et land i Europa, som ikke allerede er en republik, der er mere skikket for frie Institutioner end Norge. Ikke engang England. For i det sidste land fortryller og behersker glandsen af en arvelig Adelsstilling og rigdom endnu alt formeget det engelske sind. Hele Amerika, og isærdeleshed dets folk af Norsk herkomst, vil naar Norge opnaar, hvad dets statsmænd haaber paa, en uafhængig republiks stilling, hilse den dag velkommen med saa høie jubel raab, at deres ekko skal gjenlyde over hele jorden.

## CHAPTER XX.

## KIESTER TOWNSHIP.

This is the southeast township of the county and is numbered on the government surveys, as town one hundred and one (101) north, of range twenty-four (24) west. It is bounded on the north by Foster township, on the east by the town of Mansfield, in Freeborn county, on the south by the State line, and on the west by Seely township.

The average elevation, above sea level, of this town is, twelve hundred and fifty feet, but there is one elevation, or point of land which is fourteen hundred feet. There is a range of morainic or drift hills in this town designated by the State geologist, as the "Kiester Hills," and which extend, in a northwestern direction, some twenty miles to the southwest part of Lura township. We quote here from Vol. I, "Geology of Minnesota:"

"The most hilly portions of Kiester are its south side, for a width of one mile, and a belt through its northeast part, from section 13 to sections 3 and 4, in which are the most prominent of these hills, visible fifteen miles to the north and west.

Their height is from 100 to 200 feet above the lowlands, \* \* \* the highest points, which are in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 3, being about 1,400 feet above the sea. These are massive hills of till, of irregular outlines." \* \* \*

These hills, on section 3, are not only the highest lands in the town, but constitutes the summit, or crowning elevation, of the county, and of a large scope of country, in every direction, surrounding them. And considering the general elevation of this town above sea level, the people of the town, going anywhere in the county, outside of their town, may be said to be 'going down' to the place visited, and persons going to this town, from any part of the county, are 'going up' to the town.

"Between the hill ranges of the north and south parts of this township, its central portion, for a width of two or three miles, is moderately undulating till. \* \* \* In sections 8, 17, 20 and 29, through the west part of Kiester, a series of hills of till, 60 to 75 feet high, connects the west ends of these ranges, and forms the west border of the lower tract between them, except at the gap through which Brush creek flows."

The general surface of the town, as indicated, is quite high, dry and rolling. The soil generally is deep and as fertile as any in the State. There are numerous gravel beds in the town, which, at no distant day, will prove of considerable value for various purposes. The township is entirely prairie, there being no native timber in it whatever, but numerous groves of forest trees have been planted by

the residents which are changing the appearance of the country very much, and adding greatly to the beauty of the landscape and to the comfort of its homesteads. Brush creek has its sources mainly in this township, and is the only stream of running water in it, but there are here a number of fine springs of clear, cold water.

"A copious spring, much resorted to by cattle, \* \* issues near the middle of section 14, upon land twenty-five feet higher than neighboring depressions, and a hundred feet below the highest hills, near the northeast and northwest."

#### ABORIGINAL MOUNDS.

Two mounds, apparently artificial, which are circular, and about twenty feet in diameter, and a foot and a half in high, are found near the center of section nineteen.

Good well water is easily obtained at moderate depths.

And now, with this general view of the physical features of this town, we may proceed to a brief sketch of its history.

#### THE NAME.

This town was named "Lake" by the special commissioners in 1858, under the erroneous impression that it contained a number of lakes. There are, however, no lakes in the town.

It appearing subsequently that there was another town in the State of this name, the State Auditor directed the name to be changed, and accordingly on the fourth day of January, 1859, the board of county supervisors named the town "Kiester," after one J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, whose name appears occasionally in this history of the county.

Mr. Kiester was born in Pennsylvania in 1832. He received his education in the common schools and at Mount Pleasant and Dickinson colleges, in that state. He served an apprenticeship of four years in learning the mercantile business and book-keeping. He subsequently studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1855.

In 1856 he came west to Wisconsin, where he remained some months. In April, 1857, he located at Blue Earth City, where he has ever since resided. He was married in December, 1859, to Miss Caroline Billings, of this county. They have had six children, one of whom died in infancy. Since coming to this county, Mr. Kiester has been county surveyor, register of deeds, member of the lower House of our state legislature in 1865, county attorney, judge of probate court over twenty-one years, and state senator four years. He is a Mason, and a member of Blue Earth City lodge, of which he was twice W. Master, and he was subsequently chosen twice Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota.





J. A. KIESTER.



Mr. Kiester has always been a republican in politics, and he and his family are members of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Blue Earth City, of which he has been a lay reader for some years. He was the writer of this history of the county.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Owing to the want of native timber in this town, and the further fact that much of the land was owned by speculators, this was among the last towns in the county to be settled.

Eli E. Judd and A. W. Judd selected lands here, about the first of November, 1865, and about the middle of December following, J. E. Wing, selected a tract of land for settlement. These persons did not remain during the winter, but on the seventeenth of May, 1866, they returned with their families and located on the lands previously selected by them, on sections 20 and 21. On the next day, May 18th, Henry Conrad and George L. Conrad settled in the town, on section nine.

Henry Conrad, one of the very first, if not the first actual settler of the town, as has been claimed, settled here in May, 1866. He was born in Oswego county, N. Y., in 1829. He learned the trade of carpenter and builder. In 1854 he went to Chicago, and worked at bridge building. On the fifteenth of December, 1854, he was married to Miss Sophia Cooley, of New York. They have eight children. He removed to Wisconsin, where he continued to reside until the spring of 1866, when he settled in this township, as above stated, and now has a large and valuable farm. Mr. Conrad served in the army during the rebellion and is a republican in politics. George L. Conrad, a brother of Henry, and also a resident of this town, was also born in the state of New York, and came to this town with his brother Henry, and became one of the prosperous farmers of the township. We have no further notes of Mr. George Conrad's personal history, that we may give the same in more detail.

J. N. Price, Ezra Oliphant and Wm. Cole moved into the town in the fall of 1866.

Among the other early settlers were Hiram Wing, C. B. Wing, A. J. Guernsey, George Greely, Ole F. Mondale, Charles Oliphant, George Doust, Sylvester Payne, J. E. Wing and Albert Elston.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school house was erected on section twenty-one, in 1868. It was a frame building, eighteen by twenty-eight feet; well finished, and at the time it was built, was among the best school houses in the county. This was known as the Judd school house. There is a good school library of over one hundred volumes, at this school house. The second school house, which is a very good one, was erected about the year 1870, on section ten (10) and is known as the "Con-

rad school house." There are now three good school houses in this town.

#### ORGANIZATION.

This town was attached by the special commissioners, in 1858, to the town of Seely, for civil purposes, and so remained until January 4th, 1872, when it was set off by the county commissioners, on a petition of the inhabitants, and was soon organized as a separate town.

The first board of town officers, at the organization of the town, was composed of the following named citizens: Supervisors, S. Payne, chairman, J. N. Price and A. J. Guernsey; town clerk, J. E. Wing; treasurer, H. Conrad; assessor, Ole F. Mondale; justices of the peace, Thos. Robertson and G. L. Conrad; constables, Geo. Doust and C. Oliphant.

The town officers during the last year of this sketch—1879—were the following named persons: Supervisors, Ole F. Mondale, chairman, J. Harvey and E. Oliphant; town clerk, G. G. Goodwin; treasurer, C. Oliphant; assessor, S. Payne; justices of the peace, J. Trattles and H. Mondale; constable, H. Doust.

#### RELIGIOUS AND OTHER SOCIETIES.

Religious services have been regularly held here for many years, by the Episcopal Methodists, who had a small society, or class organized about the year, 1872. Other religious bodies have also held public services here. A Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was organized in the town, on the tenth day of July, 1873. Wm. Billings, master; A. Eaton, secretary.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The first boy born in the town was Willard Conrad, son of Henry Conrad. He was born on Christmas, 1866. The first girl born here was Mary E. Judd, daughter of E. E. Judd. She was born March 25th, 1867.

The first marriage in the town occurred on the twenty-fifth day of October, 1868, when A. W. Langworthy and Miss Fidelia Wing, and C. B. Wing and Miss Henrietta Calkins were married by Rev. S. L. Rugg.

The first death that happened in this town, was that of William Cozard, who died in the fall of 1872. He was almost dead, with "consumption," when he came into the town, and died about a week after his arrival.

There is one post-office in the town, named Kiester, on the north-east quarter of section twenty-one.

The railroad market most convenient, for some years, for the people settled here, is at Alden, in Freeborn county.

## STATISTICS.

By the census of 1870, which was the first taken in this town, the population was 61; in 1875, there were 89 inhabitants; in 1880, 130. The American born inhabitants are largely in excess of other nationalities.

The assessor's reports, for 1879, show that there were, that year, in the town, 83 horses, 116 cows, 123 other cattle, 153 sheep, 50 hogs, 27 wagons and carriages, and 7 sewing machines, with much other property. The assessed value of real estate, for that year, was \$112,343; the assessed value of personal estate, \$7,149; total, \$119,492. Total tax assessed on the same was \$1,056.38.

The agricultural products of the town, for 1879, are estimated as follows: Wheat, 10,000 bu.; oats, 9,000 bu.; corn, 4,000 bu.; barley, 300 bu.; potatoes, 300 bu.; syrup, 400 gals.; cultivated hay, 22 tons, wild hay, 700 tons; timothy seed, 56 bu.; wool, 1,000 lbs.; butter, 5,000 lbs. Total acreage cultivated, 1,200.

This sketch may now be concluded by a brief statement of the names of a number of residents who had settled in the town prior to the close of 1879, in addition to those already mentioned. A. A. Anderson, S. P. Corr, Fred Conrad, Andrew Eaton, H. Ford, J. Godding, G. S. Goodwin, E. Hays, J. Harvey, S. Johnson, H. F. Mondale, O. F. Mondale, C. Oliphant, W. Oliphant, F. Oliphant, E. Oliphant, M. Oliphant, S. N. Payne, H. C. Stage, H. E. Stage, David Salisbury, Z. C. Sisson, E. Trattles, H. A. Waldreff.

The writer is indebted to Messrs. E. E. Judd and Hiram Wing for many of the facts set forth in this sketch of Kiester, and for the tables of town officers.

The history of this town is quite brief and uneventful, yet its future may be as prosperous and important as that of any town in the county.

## PART THIRD.

---

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND OF  
THE SEVERAL COUNTY OFFICES OF THE COUNTY TO THE  
CLOSE OF 1879, WITH BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES OF  
THE SEVERAL OFFICERS, TO DATE OF  
PUBLICATION.

---

“Roll back thy sable curtains dark with age,  
Mysterious past! divulge thy earliest page.”—*Welch.*

### SECTION ONE.

A county, as all know, is a subdivision, or portion of the territory of a state, or nation, established for civil or governmental and other purposes. It is sometimes known, as in England, by the name of “Shire.”

As to the origin of the civil divisions known as the county, such as we now have it, it is probable that it was first instituted by King Alfred, of England. Blackstone says: “For to him we owe that masterpiece of judicial polity, the subdivision of England into tithings and hundreds, if not into counties.” We derive these divisions from England. However, similar subdivisions of territory, under other names, as province, department, canton, parish—and with various civil powers, not just such as ours, existed before Alfred, and we find them in some form in all civilized nations, to-day. They are a necessity to convenient and orderly government, whether monarchical, or republican.

As to the establishment and organization of our county, the reader is referred to the history of the years, 1855 and 1856. In the United States, these subdivisions of territory are known in all the states, and in all with similar powers, by the name of “county,” except in Louisiana, where they are known as “parishes.”

The county is a great convenience in many respects, but especially in the assessment and collection of the revenues of the State,

as well as the local revenues, for the support of government—in the election of National, State and legislative officers, and the canvassing of the votes and returns thereof; in the matter of the public schools and education; in the administration of justice; in the preservation of the public peace, the public health, and public order. If in all these matters we were under the immediate control, and were directed by, and had to report to, officers of the State, at the capital, whose surveillance was extended over us, we should soon discover that the evils of such a system would be intolerable.

In this State, a county is a body politic and corporate, and may sue and be sued—may purchase and hold real and personal property for the use of the county, and make order respecting the same, and make contracts in relation to the property and concerns of the county, etc.

The powers of the county, as a body corporate, are exercised by the board of county commissioners.

Counties as organized in the United States, are a valuable, an almost indispensable requisite to local self-government, always a matter of great importance in the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people. The distribution of governmental powers relating to most of the practical affairs and interests of life, to the people of such districts, brings such power nearer home to them, and more under their control, and prevents that centralization and concentration of power in a common head, or locality, which leads to absolutism.

We may here reiterate the caution already expressed, that in a government such as ours, of, by and for the people—the system of self government—we should look with suspicion upon, and severely scan any proposition which tends to limit, control, or abridge our powers of self government, either in our towns or county. Always remembering, however, that we are as much citizens of the state and nation as of the county or town.

Every county is, so to speak, a little government within itself. It has a capital city, or town, known as the county seat, or shire town; a capitol building, which is the court house; a limited legislative and supervisory power in its board of commissioners; its judicial system—its courts being the district court, of general civil and criminal jurisdiction; courts of probate and courts of justices of the peace; and its executive and administrative functions, exercised by various other county officers—all this, however, existing by and subordinate to the laws of the State.

In the following historical sketches of the several county offices, the writer has thought it expedient to set forth, briefly, the legal duties and peculiar characteristics of each office, as there are many who are not fully informed as to the special duty, powers and

authority pertaining to these several offices. Such statement may assist the elector in selecting proper incumbents for these places.

And who were the persons named in these sketches, who served the public during these years? From whence came they, and what of their lives, labors and achievements? These questions the writer has sought to answer in the brief biographical and personal notices here given, for they, with many others, were of the number of those who, some in a larger and some in a smaller way, have helped to make, and are a part of the history of our county.

## SECTION TWO.

### THE JUDGES AND CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

The district court is a court of general common law jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases, and has a clerk and seal. It is presided over by one judge.

When the county was organized, it was attached to Blue Earth county for judicial purposes, but was by act of the legislature, of 1857, detached from that county, and became entitled to terms of court within the county.

By act approved May 23d, of the same year, it was placed in the third judicial district, comprising a number of counties and the judge was authorized to appoint a clerk of court in each county.

Subsequently, by the constitution of the State, this county was placed in the sixth judicial district, where it still remains. By act passed August 12th, 1858, the county was given one term of court annually, to be held on the first Monday of April of each year.

By act approved March 5th, 1870, the county was allowed two terms annually, commencing the first Tuesday of January and the first Tuesday of June.

The principal duties of the office of the clerk of the district court are to keep accurate minutes of the proceedings of each term of court—to enter up all judgments, decrees and orders of the court—to keep a docket in which the name of each party to a judgment is entered alphabetically, with the amount and time of entry of judgment, to file and preserve all papers pertaining to each case. There are other duties also pertaining to the office.

Marriage licenses are issued by the clerk, and a record of marriage certificates kept by him, and the births and deaths in the county are annually reported to the clerk, and a record kept thereof, and he has now very important duties to perform in relation to the public taxes.

The clerk is paid for his services by fees prescribed by law. His term of office is four years, and he is required to take an official



oath and give an approved official bond for the faithful performance of his duties. He may appoint deputies.

The first term of the district court of this county was held in April, 1859, for a full account of which the reader is referred to the history of that year.

Let us now say something in reference to the office of judge of the district court and the judges.

The office of judge of the district court is a very important and honorable one, and the question as to who shall be placed in the office is a matter of perhaps greater concern to the people than any other which they are called upon to determine by their votes. As is the judge, so will this highest local tribunal be. To fill this high office efficiently, in all respects, requires talent and learning of a high order, combined with great firmness, independence, prudence, good sense and incorruptible integrity. It is a position of hard, and often perplexing labor, and of grave responsibility.

The importance of this office to the people, may be shown by a very simple illustration. The laws may be violated, our private rights trampled upon, our property illegally taken from us, or we may be injured in person, or reputation, but we have no place to resort to but the courts, to vindicate or enforce our rights, or right our wrongs. But if the courts are weak, or corrupt, the tools of sharpers, shysters and villains, if justice is obtained, not freely, but by purchase, not completely and without delay, but after harassing and expensive waiting, if at all, what then? We may answer simply in the homely phrase, which all can understand, "the bottom of everything has fallen out." It is only in the confidence and assurance of the supremacy of the laws and their enforcement by able and incorruptible courts, that civilized society lives and moves and has a being. Take this away, and anarchy, mob-law and the rule of the strong and bloody hand appear.

The people do well, when called upon to elect their judges, to weigh deliberately, the vote they are about to cast. And here, at least, party affiliations merely, church or social relations, are not to be considered, and political intriguing and trading are wholly out of place. Interests, too grave to be thus influenced, are at stake. Better make a mistake in any other office than in this. Chief Justice John Marshall said:

"The judicial department comes home in its effects to every man's fireside. It passes on his property, his reputation, his life, his all. Is it not to the last degree important that he (a Judge), should be rendered perfectly and completely independent with nothing to control him but God and his conscience? The greatest scourge \* \* ever inflicted upon \* \* \* a people, was an ignorant, corrupt or dependent judiciary."

At best, human justice, as applied to the infliction of penalties in punishment for the perpetration of offenses against the laws, is

always, in some degree, injustice, because of man's incapacity to apportion and exactly, the punishment to the offense, in any given case. For man cannot accurately weigh motives, influences, education, provocations, and mental conditions. God alone can perfectly do that. Hence it is apparent that our judges should be our wisest, most conscientious, discerning, independent and incorruptible men, for they are best qualified to administer exact justice, according to legal intent.

It is with unfeigned pleasure that the writer bears testimony to the fact that our judicial district has always been highly favored in the ability and high character of its judges. Hon. Lewis Branson, of Mankato, Minn., was the first judge who presided at our terms of court, which office he held until the close of the year, 1864. Judge Branson resided at Mankato, where he was engaged in the practice of the law until his election to the judgeship. Some time after the expiration of his term of office, he removed to California. The writer has been unable to obtain any farther facts of Judge Branson's personal history.

Hon. Horace Austin, of St. Peter, Minn., was our next judge. He was elected to the office in November, 1864, and resigned September 30th, 1869.

Gov. Austin was born in the State of Connecticut, in the year 1831. His father was a blacksmith and taught his trade to his son Horace. Horace received his education in the common schools and at an academy, and he became a school teacher. He studied law four years with Messrs. Bradbury and Morrill, of Augusta, Maine. In 1854 he came to the great west, and reached Minnesota in 1856, and in March, 1857, located at St. Peter, and engaged in the practice of the law. He served as captain of a company of cavalry, in Gen. Sibley's expedition against the Indians, in 1863. In 1864 he was elected judge of this district, as we have seen above, and served in that capacity until his resignation. He was elected Governor of the State in 1869, and was re-elected Governor in 1872, for a second term, which he served, after which he retired to private life, engaging in agricultural pursuits and milling, at Minnesota Falls.

Since the above sketch was written, Gov. Austin has engaged in business in Minneapolis.

Hon. M. G. Hanscomb, of St. Peter, was appointed to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Judge Austin, and was judge of the district from October 1st, 1869, to December 31st, 1869.

Hon. Franklin H. Waite was elected judge in 1869, and presided over our courts for the next five years, when, owing to ill health and advancing age, he resigned, after the June term of 1874.

Judge Waite was born in Windham county, Vermont, in February, 1813. When a boy he removed with his parents to Jamestown, New York. He, early in life, showed a great preference for the profession of law, and after sufficient study, was, at the age of twenty-three years, admitted to practice by the supreme court of the state of New York. Five years later he was appointed in that state, judge of the court of common pleas, which position he held until that office was abolished. During President Polk's administration, he was post-

master at Jamestown, N. Y. Afterwards he came west and located at Fond-du-lac, Wisconsin, and engaged in the practice of his profession. In 1860 he came to Minnesota and located at Mankato, pursuing his profession. He was elected to the State senate of Minnesota in 1867, and in 1869 was elected judge of this district as above stated.

Judge Waite's political affiliations were with the democratic party, and during the war of the rebellion, he was a strong Union man. He was an earnest anti-monopolist, and a strong opponent of the national banking law. He died at Mankato, March 4th, 1884, at the age of seventy-one years.

Hon. A. C. Woolfolk, of Mankato, was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Judge Waite. He presided at the January term in 1875.

Daniel A. Dickinson, of Mankato, was elected our district judge at the general election of 1874, and presided from the commencement of his term, except at the January session of 1875, until the June term, 1881, when he was appointed by the governor of the State, one of the associate justices of the supreme court of the State. At the general election of 1881 he was elected by the people to that high office.

Mr. Dickinson was born October 28th, 1839, at Hartford, Vermont. His father was a farmer and merchant. When Daniel was about six years old his father and family removed to Boston, Massachusetts. Daniel's parents dying when he was yet quite young, he spent his youth under the guardianship of his grandfather, at West Lebanon, New Hampshire. He entered Dartmouth college in 1856, and graduated in 1860. He read law at Plattsburgh, New York, and was admitted to the bar in 1862, but before commencing practice he enlisted in the naval service of the United States, as acting paymaster, and served until 1865. He returned to Plattsburgh where he engaged in the practice of his profession until 1868. On June 11th, 1867, he was married to Miss Mary E. Weed, of Plattsburgh, New York. In 1868 he came to Mankato, in this State, and engaged in practice until elected judge, as above stated. On his promotion to the supreme court, he removed to St. Paul, the capital, where he now resides. Judge Dickinson was re-elected associate justice of the supreme court in 1886. He was not re-elected in 1892, and has since been engaged in practice.

Hon. Martin J. Severance succeeded Judge Dickinson, being appointed to the office in 1881. At the general election of 1881, he was elected judge.

Mr. Severance was born December 24th, 1826, in Franklin county, Massachusetts. He received an academical education in his native county, and commenced the study of the law in 1849, and was admitted to the bar in 1853. He practiced law in Chicopee, Massachusetts, several years, and then left his native state, coming to Minnesota, and locating at Henderson, Sibley county, where he was engaged in practice from 1856 to 1862, most of the time as county attorney. He enlisted, in the summer of 1862, as a private soldier, in the military service of the United States, and, after twenty months' service, was elected and commissioned captain of his company, and served three years, and was mustered out, with his regiment, August 18th, 1865. Returning home, Mr. Severance located at Le Sueur, this State, and practiced there until 1870, when he removed to Mankato. Judge Severance was married June 16th, 1858, to Miss Elizabeth P. Van Horn, of Chicopee, Massachusetts, and they have three children. He was a member of the House of Representatives, of Minnesota, in 1859 and 1862. He was re-elected judge in 1886, and again in 1892.

## THE CLERKS.

The first clerk of the district court of this county, was John M. Jackson, Jr., of Blue Earth City, who was elected to the office October 13th, 1857, and he was also appointed to the office by the district judge, March 26th, 1858. He appointed Geo. B. Kingsley deputy, October 18th, 1858. He resigned the office January 3d, 1860.

Mr. Jackson came to this county in the spring of 1857, and "made a claim" near Blue Earth City. While a resident here, he was, for a while, engaged in the mercantile business, and was deputy postmaster for some time. He was a democrat in politics. He left the county at an early day, returning to his former home, Peru, Indiana.

On the resignation of the office by Mr. Jackson, January 3d, 1860, Geo. B. Kingsley, on the same day, was appointed clerk by the county board. At the next general election, held in November, 1860, Mr. Kingsley was elected clerk, and served the full term. He appointed Wm. Dustin, deputy clerk.

## GEORGE B. KINGSLEY.

George B. Kingsley was born in Delaware county, state of New York, on March 21st, 1831.

His father, Israel C. Kingsley, was an old resident of Delaware county, and engaged, for many years, in the trade of carriage and wagon maker. He had a family of eight children.

George B. received his education in the common district schools. He learned the trade of his father, commencing when quite young, and followed it for a number of years in his native state, and also in Minnesota.

He came to the West in 1854, and located at St. Paul in this State, where he remained until the next summer, when he removed to Shakopee, Scott county, in this State. Here he remained some three months, when he concluded to return to New York state, but stopped at Red Wing with relatives during several months. Here a town site company was formed to go up into the Lake Superior region, which he joined, but finally gave up this project. He then bought an interest in the town site of Cárver, in this state, and went there with the intention of staying, but finally sold out his interest. In March, 1856, he met James B. Wakefield, and concluded to unite with him and others in the project of laying out Blue Earth City, and he came to this county in that month, and subsequently purchased a one-eighth interest in the town site.

Mr. Kingsley was the first justice of the peace and the first postmaster in the county. In 1857 he was elected a member of the House of representatives of the first State legislature. In 1860 he became clerk of the court, as we have seen before.

On the twenty-third day of October, 1862, he was married to Miss A. D. Nichols. They have had one child, a son, who is now dead.

Mr. Kingsley, in partnership with H. J. Neal, engaged for some years in the manufacture and sale of household furniture at Blue Earth City.

Having turned his attention to the law, Mr. Kingsley was admitted to the bar June 13th, 1870, and engaged, for some years, in the practice of law at Blue Earth City.

After the completion of the railroad to Blue Earth City, Mr. Kingsley, in company with several other persons, engaged in the warehouse and wheat buying business.





H. J. NEAL.

Mr. Kingsley has frequently been justice of the peace, town clerk, member of the board of town supervisors a number of terms, chairman of the board, a member of the city council, president of the council, and a member of the board of education, of Blue Earth City independent district.

Mr. Kingsley and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. His political relations were with the democratic party for many years, but afterwards with the prohibition party. His name appears frequently in this history in connection with public events.

Mrs. Kingsley, who has for some years been somewhat interested in literary pursuits, published, in 1887, an instructive and well written volume, entitled "Heart or Purse," which has been very kindly received and much commended.

Mr. Kingsley died at Blue Earth City January 8th, 1894.

John K. Pratt, of Blue Earth City, elected in November, 1864, next assumed the duties of the office in January, 1865, and held the office until his death. On his demise, James C. Pratt, of Blue Earth City, was appointed clerk by Judge Austin, in April, 1868.

John K. Pratt was a native of Ohio, born in 1837, and emigrated with his father to Wisconsin in 1844. He was married in 1857, and came to this county in 1858. He died in March, 1868.

His brother, James C. Pratt, was a Vermonter, born in that state April 23d, 1833. He emigrated with his father to Wisconsin in 1844, and came to this county in March, 1860. He was married to Miss Harriette Catlin, of Wisconsin, in August, 1861, and returned to this county the same year. Here he engaged in farming for some years, and subsequently removed to Blue Earth City and engaged in merchandising, which has been his business ever since.

Mr. J. C. Pratt appointed as his deputy, Henry J. Neal, of Blue Earth City, April 13th, 1868, who performed the duties of the office as deputy, until after the next general election, held in November, 1868, when he was elected clerk.

Mr. Neal was re-elected in the years 1872, 1876 and 1880. He was not a candidate for re-election in 1884. He served as clerk nearly seventeen years.

Mr. Neal was born in the old Granite State (N. H.), at Wolfborough, on the seventeenth day of May, 1834. His father, Harry Neal, was a farmer and land surveyor by occupation. He emigrated to Canada, where he remained a year or so, engaged in school teaching, and then removed to Niagara county, state of New York, where he died, when Henry was about eight years old.

Henry received his education in the common schools and learned the trade of wheelwright. He emigrated to Wisconsin in 1849, and engaged there somewhat in the lumber business.

He was married in 1856 to Miss Esther B. Silliman. Mrs. Neal died February, 1889. Mr. Neal came to this county in April, 1858, and settled at Blue Earth City, where he continued to reside until his death.

He enlisted in October, 1862, in the regiment of the Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and was with Gen. Sibley in the expedition against the Indians. In August, 1864, he again enlisted in Company "C," Eleventh (11) Regiment Minn. Infantry, and became first lieutenant of the company. He went south and served until the close of the war, being mustered out with his regiment in July, 1865.

On his return home he engaged in the manufacture and sale of household furniture, for some years. He was chairman of the board of town supervisors, held the office of justice of the peace for some time, and was a member of the

board of county commissioners nearly two terms, of which board he was chairman in the years 1867 and 1868, and was clerk of the district court as above stated. After leaving the office of clerk, he engaged in the insurance and real estate business until May, 1891, when failing health required his retirement. He died January 27th, 1896, at Jacksonville, Florida, where he had resorted for several winters on account of the mildness of the climate. Mr. Neal was a member of the Masonic fraternity for many years, and was always a republican in political sentiment. He was for four years chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee of the second district.

### SECTION THREE.

#### THE PROBATE COURT AND THE JUDGES.

There is established, in each organized county in this State, a probate court, which is a court of record, having a seal. The probate court has exclusive jurisdiction, in the first instance, to take the proof of wills, to grant and revoke letters, testamentary and of administration; to direct and control the conduct, and settle the accounts of administrators and executors; to enforce the payment of debts and legacies, and the distribution of the estates of intestates; to order the sale, and dispose of the personal and real property of deceased persons; to appoint and remove guardians, and direct and control their conduct and settle their accounts, and to take the care and custody of the persons and estates of insane persons, habitual drunkards and spendthrifts, on proper application. The court is invested by law with ample powers to execute its duties. This court is open at all times for the transaction of business, but a stated, or regular session, is held the first Monday of each month. Full and complete records of all the proceedings, orders and decrees of the court, are required to be kept. The judge of probate court holds his office for two years, and he is required to take an oath of office, and give an approved bond for the faithful performance of his duties. He is authorized to appoint a clerk of court. The judges were formerly paid by fees for their services, by the persons interested in estates, but, by act of legislature, passed in 1875, it was made a salaried office. The judge of probate is also invested with the jurisdiction to hear informations, or complaints, as to insane persons, residing in the county, to direct their examination and commitment, if found to be insane, to the hospitals for the insane. And this is a most delicate, difficult, important, and, withal, a very unhappy official duty, and requires the utmost care and circumspection, that no errors may occur, and no wrong may be done to any one. Summarizing briefly, it is sufficient to indicate the importance of this office, and the interest we each have in it, to say that our business and estates, whether much or little, are left, and often left very suddenly, and in much confusion, mainly, for final settlement



and disposition, when we cannot personally be present to explain our affairs or protect our rights, or the rights of those who survive us, to the ability, integrity and sound judgment of the judge of the probate court.

Jas. B. Wakefield, of Blue Earth City, was the first judge of probate of this county. He was appointed by the county board, April 6th, 1857, and was elected judge at the general election held in October of the same year. He resigned the office on the fourth day of November, 1857, and the office became vacant.

The first estate brought before the court was that of one Alphonso Brooks, who was killed in a quarrel about a claim in October, 1856, a more full account of which will be found in the history of that year.

It was provided by the law in force in 1858, that "in case the judge of probate is unable to act, or if the office be vacant, then the said court must be held by the district attorney of the county.

W. W. Knapp, appointed district (now county) attorney, April 5th, 1858, performed the duties of judge of probate, until the next general election.

At the general election held in October, 1858, Guy K. Cleveland, of Winnebago City, was elected judge. He resigned the office January 2d, 1860.

Mr. Cleveland came to this county in 1857, or early in 1858. He was a lawyer by profession. He was elected representative in the State legislature for this district in 1859, and State senator in 1860, for two years. He subsequently removed to Mankato, where he became the proprietor and editor of a weekly newspaper, which he controlled for many years. He is now dead.

Wm. J. C. Robertson, of Verona, appointed by the county board January 2d, 1860, succeeded Judge Cleveland.

Mr. Robertson was born in Albany, state of New York, December 12th, 1806. His father was a mason by trade. He died when William was but four years old. When about sixteen years old, William was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith's trade, and he followed this occupation some thirty-five years. His education was obtained in the common schools of the county.

He accompanied his mother and family on their removal to Green county, N. Y., and from thence, in 1817, to Delaware county in that state. While here he was married to Miss Martha P. Maxson. He removed to Chemung, N. Y., and in 1844 he emigrated with his family to Fon du Lac county, Wisconsin, and remained there until 1857, in the spring of which year, he came to this county and settled on a farm in the town of Verona. He had, however, visited the county in the autumn of 1856, and looked out his location. Here he engaged in farming, until in December, 1862, when he removed to Blue Earth City, where he has resided ever since.

While in Wisconsin, Mr. Robertson was a town and county supervisor, and a justice of the peace, some thirteen years, and for a time postmaster at Rock River. He has been a town and county supervisor, in this county, (in 1859 and 1860), judge of probate in 1860, as we have seen above, and sheriff of the county in 1864 and 1865.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson have been for nearly half a century, members of the M. E. church. Mr. R. was, in the early part of life, a democrat, and his first vote for president was cast for Andrew Jackson. He became a whig, after Mr. Van Buren's election, and when the republican party arose, he became a republican.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson have had eight children, all of whom are living but two. Mr. Robertson died at Blue Earth City in 1887.

Amos Preston, of Elmore, elected in November, 1860, was our next judge of probate. Heretofore the business of the probate court had been very limited, owing the sparse settlement of the county, but it now began to increase and became considerable, during the incumbency of Mr. Preston. Judge Preston was re-elected for a second term in November, 1862. At the general election in November, 1864, George Hart, of Delavan, (then Guthrie) was elected judge, but declined to accept the office, and Judge Preston held over until the next general election, November, 1865, when he was again elected and served until the close of 1867.

Mr. Preston was a New Yorker. He was born in Oneida county, March 16th, 1810. His father was a farmer. Amos was raised on a farm, and he was engaged in business as a farmer during life, though he was for some five years engaged quite extensively in lumbering in his native county, in connection with his farming interests. His education was such as could be obtained in the common schools of the time. At twenty-one years of age he struck out into the world for himself. He was married in 1834 to Miss Maria Wilson. They have had nine children, three of whom are now dead. In 1852, the great California gold fever being at its height, Mr. Preston concluded to try his fortunes in that distant land and went there by sea. Here he remained about three years, and then returned home and emigrated from thence to Delaware county, Iowa, where he tarried about a year, and in 1857 came to this county. Here he took a claim, broke up some land and bought some timber during the summer, and in the fall he brought in his family, and remained here since. Mr. Preston was originally a whig, but was a republican since the organization of that party. Mrs. Preston died in 1881. Mr. Preston never connected himself with the church, but his wife was a member of the Presbyterian church and four of his children are church members. Mr. Preston has frequently held town offices and was for a number of years, a member of the county board of which he was chairman in 1875. He sold out his property interests in this county in 1886, and went to California. He subsequently returned to Minnesota and resided with his son-in-law, Harrison Pratt, at Minneapolis, until his death, which occurred in 1888.

A. F. De La Vergne, of Winnebago City, elected in November, 1867, succeeded Judge Preston. He held the office until July, 1869, when he resigned and removed to the state of Iowa, where he has since died.

Judge De La Vergne was born in France, about the year 1816. He came to America when a child, to the state of New York. He came to Minnesota and settled at Le Sueur, Minn., in territorial times. He was a shoemaker by trade and subsequently a lawyer by profession, and practiced at Le Sueur. He was a member of the Lower House, seventh session, (representing the tenth district in the territorial legislature, which assembled January 2d, 1856. He became a resident of this county about 1864, locating at Winnebago City. He was justice of the peace of Winnebago City some four years. He was elected

court commissioner of this county in 1867 and qualified. Judge De La Vergne was a married man, but his wife did not reside with him while he lived in this county.

After the resignation of Judge De La Vergne, J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, was, on the second day of August, 1869, appointed judge by Gov. Marshall. Heretofore no permanent records in books, such as the law requires, had been kept of the proceedings of the court. The business and papers during the course of years, had greatly accumulated, and were in much confusion and disorder when the matter being called to the attention of the county commissioners, the following resolution was adopted September 7th, 1869.

*Resolved,* That J. A. Kiester, Judge of the Probate Court, be and is hereby employed and authorized by this board, to arrange and file the papers pertaining to the several cases in said court, in proper order, and write up the minutes of the proceedings of said court, make the records required by law of the appointment of executors, administrators and guardians, in suitable books to be provided by the county, and that for such services he shall receive such reasonable compensation from the county as may hereafter be allowed by this board."

By virtue of this resolution, and the provisions of the statute authorizing judges to complete all unfinished business of the court, the duties assigned in the above resolution were performed.

At the ensuing general election, held in November, 1869, Mr. Kiester was elected judge, and was re-elected in the years 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1879, 1881, 1883, 1886 and 1888.

A brief biographical notice of Mr. Kiester will be found in another part of this work.

## SECTION FOUR.

### THE COURT COMMISSIONERS.

Some one who appears to have been a little irritated at the action of a court commissioner, writes in a paper:

"He was reduced to the ludicrous necessity of applying for his writ to that anomalous officer—a sort of mysterious fifth wheel of our judicial system—a court commissioner, for his writ. What a court commissioner is for, probably no one ever knew before. No one ever heard before of a court commissioner doing anything. The office is indeed created by statute. But no salary is attached to it, and it is usually filled by some obscure fledgling of an attorney who is learned in the law only by a courteous professional fiction. The very existence of such an office is unknown to the great majority of people, except as they are reminded of it once every three years by seeing it figure on the printed tickets over the name of some one that nobody knows, as a candidate for its obscure and empty honors. It has been a popular mystery what was the use or functions of a court commissioner. It now turns out that his chief use is to do things in the judicial line which no court could be persuaded to undertake; to assume powers which the superior courts have uniformly decided to be beyond their province. 'For fools rush in where angels fear to tread.'"

By the statutes, "court commissioners shall be men learned in the law, and shall have and may exercise the judicial powers of a judge of the district court at chambers." More definitely stated, a court commissioner may grant writs of attachment, writs of injunction, writs of habeas corpus, approve bail bonds, recognizances, and appeal bonds in certain cases, and various other duties which need not be named here. He has also power to administer oaths and take acknowledgements. His term of office was, formerly, three years, and he is required to take an oath of office and give an approved bond in the sum of \$2,000. He is required to keep a record of all proceedings had before him. By the act of August 4th, 1858, the powers of court commissioner were conferred upon the judges of probate. The law was soon changed, however, and the office was made a separate one. Yet from the fact that the two offices had been previously combined, the practice grew up in this, as in many other counties, of electing the judges of probate, as court commissioners. A very correct view of the true character of this office is stated in the following quotation:

"It is well known that the perquisites afforded by the position are considerable—amounting, practically, to nothing at all, hence, on that ground, no one could desire to hold the office, but it is nevertheless, one of much responsibility, and requires special fitness in the incumbent. The duties are co-extensive with those of a District Judge—sitting at chambers, or in vacation, for the hearing and determining of applications and motions, and for the issuance of writs and orders—hence it will be seen that even though the place is not a lucrative one, the honor which it confers, and the responsibility which it devolves, are very considerable."

At the general election held in November, 1860, J. A. Kiestler was elected court commissioner, and on the third day of September, 1862, resigned the office. Geo. D. McArthur was elected to the office in November, 1862, but did not qualify. Amos Preston was elected in 1863, and George Hart was elected in 1864, and Reuben Waite, in 1866, neither of whom qualified, and the office remained vacant. At the general election of 1867, A. F. DeLaVergne, of Winnebago City, was elected and qualified. Up to this time no business had ever been transacted by the commissioner, and there was but one transaction during the term of Mr. DeLaVergne. The office soon became vacant again by the resignation of Mr. DeLaVergne. At the general election of 1869, J. A. Kiestler was again elected to the office, and as the public convenience had come to require that some one should hold the office and perform its duties, he accepted it. He was re-elected in the years 1872 and 1875, 1879 and 1882, and resigned the office in March, 1885, having held it over fifteen consecutive years. The court commissioner is paid by fees prescribed by law, and have amounted from 0, to as great a sum, in some years, as forty dollars.

## SECTION FIVE.

## THE COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

The county attorney is the law officer of the county, as the attorney general of the State, and the attorney general of the United States are the law officers of the State and general governments. His general duties, as prescribed by statute, are to appear as attorney in all cases where the county is a party, to give opinions and advice to the county officers upon all matters in which the county is interested; to attend all terms of the district court and other courts of criminal jurisdiction, and attend all preliminary examinations of criminals, when the magistrate so requests him, and furnishes him with a copy of the complaint; to attend before the grand jury and give them advice; draw presentments and indictments, examine witnesses, and issue process for witnesses; prosecute all presentments and indictments, and attend all coronor's inquests, when requested.

He is required to take an oath of office, and give bond to the board of commissioners. He is paid for his services by salary fixed by the county board. His term of office is two years.

Prior to the admission of the State into the Union, the county attorney was named district attorney.

It may be well to observe that the supposition that "any lawyer is good enough for county attorney" is a stupid mistake. A negligent, dishonest or incapable attorney may involve the county in great expense and fruitless lawsuits, and, in the administration of criminal justice, may betray the county and the public, or utterly fail in the prosecution of offenders, to the great disparagement of the public peace and good order.

The first county attorney of this county was, probably, James B. Wakefield, who may have been, and very probably was appointed to that office, but no record evidence of the fact can now be found.

Wm. W. Knapp, of Blue Earth City, was appointed to the office by the county board, April 5th, 1858, and duly qualified, and acted in that capacity a short time.

## WILLIAM W. KNAPP.

Mr. Knapp was a New Yorker by birth, and came to this county in 1857. He dealt somewhat in land, and was a school teacher, surveyor and attorney. After remaining for several years he went to Missouri, thence to Pike's Peak, and from thence to Idaho, and finally returned to the state of New York, to his old home, where he married, and then returned to Minnesota, and located at Faribault, Rice county, where he engaged in the hardware trade. From thence he removed, after some years, (in 1870) to Mason City, Iowa, where he resided at the time of his death.

He died January 29th, 1890.

The office soon becoming vacant, we find that Jo. L. Weir, of Winnebago City, was appointed attorney January 4th, 1859, and assumed the duties of the office.

Jo. L. Weir was born in Robertson county, Tennessee, in 1821. He received his education in the common schools and at the Franklin college, Tennessee, which he attended for some time, but did not graduate. He studied law in his native county and was there admitted to the bar, and practiced his profession a short time. In 1857, in company with his brothers, George and Daniel, he came to this county and settled near Winnebago City, where they took lands under the pre-emption law. Mr. Weir engaged to some extent in the practice of the law in this county, but gave his attention principally to farming. During the "school examiner" system in this county, he held that office for some time in his commissioner district. Mr. Weir never married. In 1867 he returned to Tennessee, where he now resides.

On the fifth day of March, 1860, the county board declared the office again vacant, and by resolution authorized the county officers to employ attorneys when necessary.

Mr. Wakefield now re-appears as the law officer of the county, having been elected attorney in November, 1860, and qualified November 17th. Norman B. Hyatt, of Blue Earth City, editor of the *Blue Earth City News*, elected to the office in October, 1861, succeeded Mr. Wakefield.

Mr. Hyatt, it is believed, came to this county early in 1861. He engaged in the practice of law at Blue Earth City, and subsequently became interested in the *Blue Earth City News*, of which paper he was the editor for some time. He afterwards enlisted in the military service of the United States, and became the captain of his company. After retiring from the service, he finally located at Webster City, Iowa, where he engaged in the practice of his profession.

The office becoming vacant by the enlistment of Mr. Hyatt, the county board, on the twenty-eighth day of May, 1863, appointed Andrew C. Dunn, of Winnebago City, to fill the vacancy. At the next general election held November 3d, 1863, Mr. Dunn was elected for a full term which he served.

Mr. Dunn was born in New York City, October 9th, 1834. He received his education mainly from his father, Nathaniel Dunn, who was for many years a noted educator, at one time principal of Wilbraham Academy, Mass., and for many years professor of chemistry in Rutgers's Female College, N. Y.

Andrew commenced reading law under the direction of Edward Standford, Esq., of New York City, at the early age of fifteen years. He came to Minnesota in April, 1854, and was admitted to the bar by the Territorial Supreme Court, practiced a short time at Sauk Rapids, and then located at St. Paul.

He came to this county in 1856, and he, with several others, founded the village of Winnebago City, being one of the original town site proprietors, and built the first house in that village. In 1858 Mr. Dunn was one of the special commissioners, appointed by the governor, to divide this county into towns and name them. On New Year's day, 1859, he was united in marriage to Miss D. J. Smith, of Blue Earth county, in this State. Seven children have come to them, but only three of whom are now living.

Mr. Dunn, since his first location in this county, has made the practice of the law his chief business and life work, and he is the oldest resident practicing lawyer at the bar of this county.





A. C. DUNN.



He was secretary of the first State Senate of this State, (which convened in December, 1857). In 1863 he was one of the commissioners appointed to take the vote of the soldiers then in active service at the south.

Mr. Dunn was chief clerk of the House of Representatives of this State in the years 1864, 1865 and 1866, and was elected representative of this legislative district in 1880, and attended the memorable sessions of 1881, and was one of the counsel on the part of the House in the impeachment proceedings had against Judge E. St. J. Cox. He has, from time to time, held various local offices, and has always taken a large interest in the public affairs of the State, and especially of the county.

Mr. Dunn was a democrat in early life, and during the rebellion was a union democrat and has since affiliated with the republican party. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for many years Mr. Dunn has been superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school at Winnebago City.

At the general election of 1865, Mr. Wakefield was again elected attorney, and also representative for the twentieth district, in the State legislature. He accepted the latter office, and the former became again vacant.

On the third day of January, 1866, J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, was appointed attorney by the county board, and was re-appointed on the nineteenth of March following, and served until the next January. In the meantime, Mr. Wakefield, elected attorney in November, 1866, appears for the fourth and last time in this particular branch of the public service, but having been also elected State senator, at the same election, he accepted the latter office, leaving the attorneyship to be otherwise provided for. A biographical notice of Mr. Wakefield will be found elsewhere in this work.

On the third day of January, 1867, Mr. Kiester resigned the office, and it became again vacant. A brief biographical sketch of Mr. Kiester will be found in another part of this book.

On the resignation of Mr. Kiester, John H. Sprout, of Blue Earth City, was appointed (January 3d, 1867) attorney, and immediately qualified.

At the next general election, held in November, 1867, he was elected for a full term, and was re-elected in the years 1869, 1871, and 1873, and held office during nine consecutive years.

#### JOHN H. SPROUT.

Mr. Sprout was a native of Attica, Wyoming county, New York, where he was born December 16th, 1836.

His father, Col. Hosea B. Sprout, a resident of Attica for fifty years, was a farmer by occupation. John H. obtained his education in the common schools and at Warsaw Academy, and Genesee Wyoming Seminary. He subsequently engaged in school teaching in his native county.

In 1857 he emigrated to Dodge county, Minnesota, and engaged in farming for awhile. In the fall of 1857 he went to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he read law with Hon. O. C. Howe, until the next spring, when he returned to

Minnesota again, and engaged somewhat in farming. In the autumn of 1859 he returned to Wisconsin, and engaged in school teaching for about three years, after which he came to Minnesota, and engaged in farming for about a year and a half, and then went to Juneau, Wisconsin, where he resumed the study of law under the direction of Messrs. Billinghamurst, Lewis and Friebert, and then attended, for some time, Michigan University law school. He was married, in 1861, to Miss Caliste L. Nichols, of Dodge county, Wisconsin. He was admitted to the bar in the last named county, where he commenced the practice of law, and in the latter part of the year came to this county, locating at Blue Earth City, where he has since resided, engaged all the time in the practice of his profession. He was county attorney, as above stated, and has been justice of the peace a number of years, twice president of the council of Blue Earth City, and, also, president and member of the board of education at Blue Earth City, a number of terms.

For several years he was postmaster at Blue Earth City. Mr. Sprout is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a republican in politics.

M. W. Green, of Wells, elected in 1875, succeeded Mr. Sprout. Mr. Green was elected in 1877 for a second term, which he served. Mr. Green, after the expiration of his term of office, removed to Fargo, D. T., where he has continued in the practice of the law.

Morton S. Wilkinson, of Wells, elected in November, 1879, was our next county attorney. He held the office one term.

Mr. Wilkinson was born at Skaneateles, N. Y., on the twenty-second of January, 1819. He received an academic education, and taught school some six months. He read law at Skaneateles, and was admitted to the bar in 1842. He came west and settled at Eaton Rapids, Mich., where he practiced law till 1847, and then came to Stillwater, Minn. Mr. Wilkinson was twice married. His first wife died in Michigan, his second in Minnesota.

He was elected to the first territorial legislature, which assembled in the fall of the year, 1849. He made St. Paul his home from that time, engaged in the practice of the law, until 1857, when he moved to Mankato, Minn. About this time he was appointed, with others, to draft and report a code of laws for the State, which work he did in 1859.

The legislature of 1859 elected Mr. Wilkinson United States senator for the State of Minnesota for six years, which term he served. After the expiration of his term in the senate he was (in 1868) elected representative in congress and served one term. Subsequently he represented Blue Earth county, in the State senate, in the years 1874, 1875, 1876 and 1877.

Senator Wilkinson came to this county in 1878, and located on a farm near Wells, but has all along continued in the practice of the law, appearing occasionally in our district courts, and also, lately, before the supreme court of the United States, at Washington, D. C., in a number of important suits.

He was a republican in politics until late in his career, when he affiliated with the democrats. He died at Wells, February 4th, 1894.



J. H. SPROUT.



## SECTION SIX.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.—THE OFFICIAL DUTIES OF THE BOARD AND THE NAMES OF THE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1879.

The board of county commissioners constitutes the legislature of the county. As defined by law, the duties of the board, briefly expressed, are to examine and settle all accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the county, the care of the county property, the management of all the county funds, and the transaction of all the business pertaining to the county, except as otherwise provided by law.

The board has power to set off, organize and vacate towns, and change the boundaries thereof; organize and change school districts, lay out roads, build bridges, levy certain taxes, make appointments to fill vacancies in various offices, and, in general, to supervise all the interests and transact all the business of the county, not specially otherwise provided for by law. It is also the special duty of the board to attend to the equalization of the assessments for tax purposes, and to all matters relating to the poor of the county. At the annual session of each year, held in January, the commissioners elect one of their number chairman for the year, whose duty it is to preside at their meetings. The term of office of a county commissioner was, for many years, three years. (It is now four). They receive pay at the rate of three dollars per day, for each day necessarily employed in doing the county business, and ten cents per mile travel. The board, in its duties, somewhat resembles a court, and is sometimes called the "commissioners' court," and is also known as "the county board." The county auditor is *ex-officio* clerk of this small legislature, and arranges and presents much of the business to the board for consideration. He keeps accurate minutes of all the proceedings of the board in a book denominated the "county records."

1856. The first board of county commissioners of this county was appointed by the governor of the territory, on the organization of the county, their commissions bearing date February 25th, 1856. This board was composed of the following gentlemen: James B. Wakefield, chairman, Henry T. Stoddard and Moses Sailor; clerk, Samuel V. Hibler, then register of deeds.

1857. For this year, the members of the board were: William M. Scott, chairman, Moses Sailor and C. W. Wilson; clerks, J. B. Wakefield and J. A. Kiester,

1858. C. W. Wilson, chairman, Moses Sailor and E. Crosby; clerk, J. A. Kiester.

1859. At the session of the legislature held in August, 1858, an act was passed abolishing the board of county commissioners and enacting the "supervisor system." By this system the several chairmen of township boards of supervisors, were *ex-officio* members of, and constituted the board of supervisors of the county. The duties of this board were the same, identically, as those of the former commissioners. These supervisors were elected in the several towns, on the first organization of the towns, October 20th, 1858. The new board met and organized January 3d, 1859, and was composed of the following named gentlemen: James L. McCrery, chairman, Jo. L. Weir, Amos Preston, J. B. Wakefield, S. W. Myrrick, W. J. C. Robertson; clerk, A. Bonwell.

The regular annual town meetings were held in the several towns in April of this year (1859) and resulted in the election of the following supervisors: Geo. H. Goodnow, chairman, Thomas Blair, P. C. Seely, S. L. Rugg, Amos Preston, J. L. McCrery, W. J. C. Robertson, J. A. Kiester and Lorenzo Merry; clerk, A. Bonwell.

1860. Geo. H. Goodnow, chairman, P. C. Seely, Thomas Blair, S. L. Rugg, Amos Preston, J. A. Keister, W. J. C. Robertson, Lorenzo Merry and J. L. McCrery; clerk, A. Bonwell.

By act of the legislature approved February 28th, 1860, the supervisor system was abolished, and the old commissioner system was re-established, as the supervisor system was found to be entirely too expensive and cumbrous, especially in the thinly settled counties. The new law went into effect on the election at the town meetings of this year (1860) held in April. In counties having less than eight hundred votes, the county was entitled to three commissioners, and counties having over eight hundred votes, were entitled to five.

This county was at the time entitled to but three commissioners, and the three commissioners elected, who were chosen at large were: Thomas Blair, chairman, J. H. Welch and Albin Johnson; clerk, A. Bonwell.

The last meeting of the supervisors was held in March, and the first meeting of the new board, above mentioned, was held in June of this year.

At the general election in November, 1860, commissioners were elected again, and since that year, the commissioners are always elected by districts at the general election in November, of the year when the term for any district expires. As the result of this election, we have for

1861. Jesse H. Dunham, chairman, Thomas Blair and Wm. M. Scott. Clerk, A. Bonwell.

Mr. Wakefield had been elected, but after the first meeting resigned, when Mr. Scott was appointed in his place.

1862. Thomas Blair, chairman, Ezra M. Ellis and J. H. Dunham. Clerk, A. Bonwell.

1863. J. H. Dunham, chairman, Thomas Blair and Albin Johnson. Clerk, A. Bonwell.

Mr. Ellis had been elected, but did not accept the office, and Mr. Johnson was appointed to fill the vacancy.

1864. Thomas Blair, chairman, Allen Shultis and Wm. M. Scott. Clerk, A. Bonwell.

1865. Allen Shultis, chairman, Thomas Blair and Wm. M. Scott. Clerk, F. W. Cady.

It appearing by the election of 1864, that the county had over eight hundred legal voters, the commissioners, on the fifth day of September, 1865, divided the county into five commissioner districts and at the general election held in November, 1865, five commissioners were elected, so we have for the years:

1866. Allen Shultis, chairman, H. J. Neal, J. R. Sisson, J. Claggett and C. S. Kimball. Clerk, F. W. Cady.

1867. H. J. Neal, chairman, J. R. Sisson, A. R. More, Sr., Jas. Crays and J. Claggett. Clerk, F. W. Cady.

1868. H. J. Neal, chairman, W. J. Robinson, A. R. More, Sr., Jas. Crays and J. Claggett. Clerk, F. W. Cady.

1869. A. R. More, Sr., chairman, J. A. Latimer, J. Claggett, W. J. Robinson and H. J. Neal. Clerk, W. W. White.

1870. A. R. More, Sr., chairman, H. J. Neal, J. A. Latimer, W. J. Robinson and J. Claggett. Clerk, W. W. White.

1871. A. Bonwell, chairman, J. Claggett, J. A. Latimer, A. R. More, Sr., and L. C. Seaton. Clerk, W. W. White.

1872. A. R. More, Sr., chairman, David Catlin, Henry Sellen, W. W. Potter and L. C. Seaton. Clerk, W. W. White.

1873. W. W. Potter, chairman, David Catlin, J. A. Dean, L. C. Seaton and Henry Sellen. Clerk, W. W. White.

1874. W. W. Potter, chairman, David Catlin, J. A. Dean, Henry Sellen and Rob't Andrews. Clerk, W. W. White.

1875. Amos Preston, chairman, David Catlin, Rob't Andrews, E. H. Hutchins and F. W. Temple. Clerk, W. W. White.

1876. F. W. Temple, chairman, Amos Preston, Rob't Andrews, David Catlin and E. H. Hutchins. Clerk, W. W. White.

1877. F. W. Temple, chairman, Amos Preston, David Catlin, E. H. Hutchins and J. R. Sisson. Clerk, W. W. White.

1878. A. H. Bullis, chairman, David Catlin, J. R. Sisson, F. E. Cary and H. A. Woolery. Clerk, W. W. White.

1879. A. H. Bullis, chairman, David Catlin, J. R. Sisson, F. E. Cary and H. A. Woolery. Clerk, W. W. White.

## SECTION SEVEN.

## THE COUNTY AUDITORS AND THEIR OFFICE.

Prior to January 3d, 1859, when the act of August 13th 1858, went into effect in this county, the duties of the auditor were performed by the register of deeds, who was then *ex-officio* clerk of the board of county commissioners. By reference to the history of the office of register of deeds, it will be seen who performed the duties of auditor prior to the above date.

The duties of the county auditor are multifarious and often intricate and perplexing, requiring a clear head, great patience and constant attention.

He is required to keep an accurate account current with the treasurer of the several state, county, town, school district, road, poor, and all other funds, make out all the tax duplicates, draw or attest all warrants drawn on the treasury for funds, take charge of and direct the assessment of taxes and keep the tax records.

The auditor is *ex-officio* clerk of the board of county commissioners, and as such is required to keep an accurate record of their proceedings, and carefully keep and preserve all documents, books, maps, records and other papers and files required by law to be kept in his office.

The term of office of auditor is two years, formerly commencing in March, but now in January, and before entering upon his office he is required to take an official oath and give an approved bond in such sum as the commissioners may fix, not less than two thousand dollars, nor more than twenty thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his duties. He may appoint deputies. The auditor was formerly paid by salary, but he now receives as salary, a percentage on the aggregate assessments of the county.

The auditor is usually considered the principal financial officer of the county—its accountant, or bookkeeper, and in many respects its business agent. It may be remarked that negligence, inefficiency or dishonesty in the auditor may lead to intermidable confusion in the accounts and business of the county, and the affairs of individuals, and open a wide door to fraud and public plundering.

By the act above mentioned of August 13th, 1858, the county board was authorized to appoint a clerk, who, at the option of the board, might be the register of deeds, or any other person. At the organization of the board, January 3d, 1859, Arthur Bonwell was appointed clerk. By said act it was enacted that the clerks thereafter should be known as county auditors, and should perform all the duties of auditor performed prior thereto by the register of deeds. Mr. Bonwell was thus the first auditor—eo-nomine—of this







A. BONWELL.

county. At the general election held October 11th, 1859, he was elected auditor.

By act approved March 6th, 1860, the office of auditor was re-enacted, so to speak, new duties added, and he was made by virtue of his office, the permanent clerk of the board of county commissioners. When Mr. Bonwell took the office under the new laws relating thereto, there was much to be done to get the office into proper working order. A full set of tax and account books were to be opened, the papers, books and accounts pertaining to the office under the old system, arranged, and a system, or order of business for the future established, in conformity to the new laws, all of which was done. Mr. Bonwell was re-elected auditor in 1860, and in 1862, serving until March, 1865.

Arthur Bonwell was born in Brown county, State of Ohio, on the fourth day of July, 1825. His father was a farmer. In 1829 his father and family removed to Hyland county, Ohio, and in 1836 removed to Tippecanoe county, State of Indiana. The subject of this sketch received his education in the common schools. He has, from early youth, been a studious reader. He was brought up in the occupation of a farmer, but commenced teaching school when about nineteen years old, and taught many terms during his life. His health has never been very robust, and many times he has been in feeble condition for considerable periods of time, and this fact has had much to do with shaping his life. When about twenty-two years old, he went on a flat-boat expedition, to New Orleans, La., and returned as a deck passenger, on board a steamboat. In 1850, Mr. Bonwell, then twenty-five years old, went overland to California, where he remained until 1856, engaged in mining, trading, and ranching. In the latter year, he returned to the States, in July and August, by the isthmus route and steamship, landing in New York City, and from thence he journeyed to Butler county, Iowa, to which place his father had removed during his absence. After remaining at home for a short time, he went to the State of Texas, where he remained until spring, traveling over the country and visiting many localities in the Lone Star State. From thence he visited New Orleans again, a short time, and returned up the river to Butler county, Iowa, where he remained during the summer of 1857. In September, 1857, he came to this county, locating at Blue Earth City. Here he engaged for a time in surveying and school-teaching, and other occupations, until his appointment as county auditor, in January, 1859, as above stated. While yet filling the office of auditor, Mr. Bonwell was elected register of deeds of the county, in the fall of 1864. This office he held but one term, not desiring a reelection. He was married, in 1868, to Miss Excene Gano. They have had four children. About the year 1872, he removed to his farm in Jo Daviess township where he remained some eight years, engaged in farming, after which he returned again to Blue Earth City, where he erected a comfortable home, and now resides. Mr. Bonwell has, from time to time, held various town and school offices, and the office of justice of the peace, several terms, at Blue Earth City, and was chairman of the board of county commissioners, of this county, in 1879 the board of which he had been, for many years, clerk. Mr. Bonwell has been a republican in politics since the organization of that party, until late years, during which he has acted with the prohibitionists.

Franklin W. Cady, of Verona township, elected auditor Nov. 8th, 1864, succeeded Mr. Bonwell. Mr. Cady was re-elected at the general election, Nov. 6th, 1866, for a second term, which he served.

Mr. Cady was born in Lake county, Ohio, January 15th, 1826. He attended the district schools during the winter terms, until he was eighteen years old, and then was a student of Grand River Institute, in Ashtabular county, O., for two years. He learned the art of penmanship, under the tuition of P. R. Spencer, and subsequently taught writing schools and district schools, during four winters. He removed to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm and commenced farming.

He was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Waterhouse, July 20th, 1851. They have three children.

In June, 1861, he came to this county and settled on a farm in the town of Verona. When he assumed the duties of auditor he removed to Blue Earth City, but on retiring from office he returned to his farm. Having purchased a valuable tract of land near Blue Earth City, he removed upon it and resided there for some years, but having sold this farm, he removed again to the old homestead, in Verona, where he still resides. Mr. Cady has also held various town offices from time to time, in Verona. He has been a republican ever since the organization of the party. He is largely engaged in farming and stock raising.

William W. White, of Walnut Lake township, next assumed the duties and responsibilities of the office, being elected auditor at the election held in November, 1868.

Mr. White was re-elected in the years, 1870, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1878, 1880, 1882 and 1884, during all of which successive terms he has served the county in this office.

Mr. White was born in Oneida county, state of New York, on the twenty-fourth day of December, 1828. His grandparents were Vermonters, and emigrated to New York State, where William's father, Asel White, was born. He was a farmer.

William was educated, mainly, in the common or public schools of his neighborhood, but he also attended at Saquoit Academy, in his native county, for some time. He was brought up a farmer.

In 1857 he was married to Miss Frances F. Lapham. They have had two children.

In 1858, Mr. White removed to Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm. Here he remained some three years, when he sold out and emigrated to this State, in April, 1861, locating in Mower county, where he rented a farm. In the fall of the same year he came to this county and settled in Walnut Lake township, where he took up a quarter section of land under the pre-emption laws, but subsequently changed to a homestead entry. He "proved up" on this tract, and still owns it.

Mr. White, while a resident of Wisconsin, was town clerk of Beaver Dam township, one term, and was also a justice of the peace one term, while a resident of Walnut Lake township. In the fall of 1868 he was elected county auditor, as we have seen above, and removed to Blue Earth City in the spring of 1869, to assume the duties of the office, and here he has resided during his term of office. He was a member of the village council of Blue Earth City, one term. Mr. White has always been a republican in politics, and he and Mrs. White are members of the regular Baptist church. After retiring from office, Mr. White returned to his farm in Walnut Lake township, where he remained some years, and then removed to Owatonna, Minn.



W. W. WHITE.



## SECTION EIGHT.

## THE COUNTY TREASURY AND THE TREASURERS.

Briefly stated, the duties of the county treasurer, as defined by law, are to receive and safely keep all public moneys, directed by law to be paid to him, and to pay out the same, only upon the order of the proper authority. He is required to keep fair and accurate books of account, showing the amount, the time when, by whom and on what account moneys are received by him, and the amount, time and manner of all disbursements. His accounts must be so kept, that they will show what has been received and paid on each separate and distinct fund, or appropriation. The treasurer is not only the depository of the public funds, but is also now the collector of all the taxes. Formerly the sheriff was the tax collector.

The treasurer is required to make a full and complete settlement with the county auditor, every four months, in which he exhibits the balance and condition of each fund in his hands.

His accounts and funds are also subject to examination at any time, without notice, by the State examiner and by the board of audit, consisting of the clerk of the district court, the chairman of the board of commissions, and the county auditor. The treasurer's term of office is two years, formerly commencing and ending in March, but now in January. He is required, before entering upon his duties, to take the usual official oath, and give an approved bond for the faithful performance of his duties, in such sum as the board of county commissioners may direct. The treasurer is paid by a certain percentage on all funds coming into his hands, which he is allowed to retain.

## THE FIRST TREASURER.

The first treasurer of this county was Louis P. Grout, of Blue Earth City, appointed by the county board April 6th, 1857. He immediately filed his official bond, and entered upon the duties of his office, which were not onerous, as it appears that he never received or paid out any public funds, as treasurer, except one dollar, which he paid some one for writing his bond, and that he paid in trade. In the absence of anything further to say of the first treasurer, it may be recorded here, as an item of historical interest, that Mr. Grout, in partnership with his brother, Isaac E. Grout, an individual of some note in the early days of the county, kept a small store in Blue Earth City, for some years, in which the principal articles of merchandise were calico, salaratus, soap, tobacco, cod-fish and whisky.

This store was not the first, but the second mercantile establishment at Blue Earth City, and was kept in a one story log cabin,

14x20 feet, which stood nearly opposite the Constan's hotel. The building was roofed with "shakes," and was chinked and mudded up in the usual manner, and had a puncheon floor, two doors and three half windows. It was divided into two rooms, the rear room being occupied by the families of the proprietors, as a dwelling, and the front room was devoted entirely to commercial purposes. Here, in the dignity of his office, stood the treasurer of the county, engaged in mercantile pursuits. And here, too, in this hovel, it may be remarked, was many a "wassail," held of early settlers, when "joy was unconfined." The old building has long since disappeared, and the first treasurer has passed to his final account.

Mr. Albin Johnson, of Blue Earth City, succeeded Mr. Grout, being elected to the office October 13th, 1857. He qualified November 2d, following, and assumed the duties of his office. During the following year the first tax was levied and collected, and the first public funds came to the hands of the treasurer. At that time the treasurer did not collect the taxes, the sheriff being *ex-officio* tax collector. The treasurer, however, several years later, became by law the collector of all taxes. At the general election, held October 11th, 1859, Mr. Johnson was re-elected for a second term, which he served.

Albin Johnson was born in Carroll county, state of New Hampshire, on the sixteenth day of February, 1817. His grandfather and father were among the old residents of Massachusetts, originally, but removed to New Hampshire. His grandfather was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and was at Bunker Hill and other battles of that eventful period. His father was a farmer and blacksmith. Albin received his education in the common schools and at an academy, located at Wakefield, New Hampshire. He designed entering the medical profession, but gave it up. In his youth he taught school during the winters for some sixteen years. His occupation during the remainder of the year, was principally farming. He held a number of town offices in his native town. Mr. Johnson was married July 13th, 1839, to Miss Nancy M. Burleigh, and they have had five children, one of whom is now dead. He came directly from his eastern home to this county, in January, 1857, and has resided here ever since. He first settled on a farm, where he has since erected good buildings and made other extensive improvements. When elected county treasurer he removed to Blue Earth City, but returned to his farm again afterwards. In 1880 he removed again to Blue Earth City and erected a large dwelling and other buildings, as a home, and continued to reside at that place, but still having charge, to a considerable extent, of his large farm, until his death. Mr. Johnson and family are members of the Presbyterian church. He was a republican in politics from the organization of the party. Mr. Johnson was twice county commissioner, and frequently held the office of town supervisor. He died at Blue Earth City, August 2d, 1887.

William Dustin, of Winnebago City, elected October 8th, 1861, was the next county treasurer. Heretofore the accounts of the treasurer (not very extensive indeed) were kept in small account books, and memorandums, furnished by the treasurer, but the county having provided a full set of proper books for the office,







WM. DUSTIN.

Mr. Dustin proceeded to open and keep the public accounts, in a more convenient manner. Mr. Dustin was re-elected for a second term, at the general election November 3d, 1863, and held the office until the expiration of the term.

#### WILLIAM DUSTIN.

William Dustin was a native of Orange County, state of Vermont, where he was born in 1826.

His father, John K. Dustin, was a farmer by occupation, and William was kept on the farm until he was twenty years of age.

He received his early education in the common schools of the country. When about twenty years old (1847) he went to reside in Boston, Mass., where he received a practical, commercial education, which was the preparation for what proved to be his life work.

In 1854 he was married to Miss Abby Gay, of Boston. They have four children now living.

In 1857 he removed with his family to La Crosse county, Wisconsin, where he remained one year, and then, in the spring of 1858, came to this county, and settled near Winnebago City, and engaged in farming.

Soon after his election to the office of county treasurer, Mr. Dustin and his family removed to Blue Earth City.

Here, in connection with the duties of treasurer, Mr. Dustin engaged in the mercantile business for many years. For a time he was deputy postmaster, and was afterwards postmaster. He held the office of chairman of the board of town supervisors for many consecutive years, and was a member of the village council and of the board of education at Blue Earth City. In the spring of 1882 he removed to Holt County, Nebraska, and engaged in merchandising. Mr. Dustin was a republican in political sentiment.

Rial B. Johnson, of Winnebago City, elected November 7th, 1865, succeeded Mr. Dustin, and at the proper time assumed the duties of the office. Mr. Johnson was re-elected to the office in the years 1867, 1869, 1871, 1873 and 1875, holding the office for twelve consecutive years.

#### AN INCIDENT.

On the night of March 1st, 1869, an attempt was made to rob the county treasury. The treasurer's office was entered, and the safe blown open. A small iron till in the safe, which was supposed to contain the money, was taken out and carried to a wood-pile a square distant, where an axe was found, with which the till was smashed, when lo! but three cents were found to reward the rascal, or rascals, for their pains.

The county auditor was the first in the morning to learn of the attempted robbery, and supposed that a large sum had been taken, and, while examining the safe, Mr. Johnson, the treasurer, came in. After viewing the safe a few moments to see what had been done, he quietly remarked, that "the burglars didn't seem to have known that that was not the safe in which the funds had been deposited, and that it required the auditor's warrant and not an ap-

plication of gunpowder to draw the funds." The treasurer had the public funds, to a cent, entirely secure, and the county lost nothing. No attempt was made to discover the burglars, nor has anything transpired to this day to indicate by whom the burglary was attempted. The commissioners, meeting soon after this event, passed a resolution of thanks to Mr. Johnson for his care of the public funds.

Mr. Johnson is a native of New Hampshire. He was born October 22d, 1827, in Grafton, Grafton county, of that state. When ten years of age, he removed with his parents to Vermont. His educational advantages were such as were furnished, in that day, by the common schools of New England. He early learned a trade, which he afterwards found to be of great advantage in life. In 1856, he came west, and settled in Berlin, Wisconsin, where he carried on the shoe business, until his next removal. Here he was married, in 1857, to Miss Ellen Davlin. They have had two children, a son and a daughter. In the spring of 1858, he came to the township of Verona, in this county, and engaged in farming, and, in 1862, he removed to Winnebago City, this county, where he engaged again in the shoe trade, and also merchandising, until his election to the office of county treasurer, in 1865. In the spring of 1866, he became a resident of Blue Earth City, and has continued to reside ever since at that place. After retiring from the office of treasurer, he was, in 1878, elected state senator for the sixth district, for four years, which he served. He was our first senator under the biennial system. Mr. Johnson has held various local offices, from time to time, as president of the village council of Blue Earth City, etc. Since leaving official life, Mr. Johnson has been largely engaged in farming operations, and has, for many years, dealt largely in real estate. He was the originator of the abstracts of title, in this county, a work on which he spent a large amount of labor, time, and money, and subsequently sold. The same abstracts now belong to the county. Mr. Johnson has been a republican in politics since the days of Fremont. He became a Mason in 1867, and has always taken much interest in the fraternity, and was, for two terms, Worshipful Master of Blue Earth City Lodge, No. 57. He is also a member of Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 21, Royal Arch Masons.

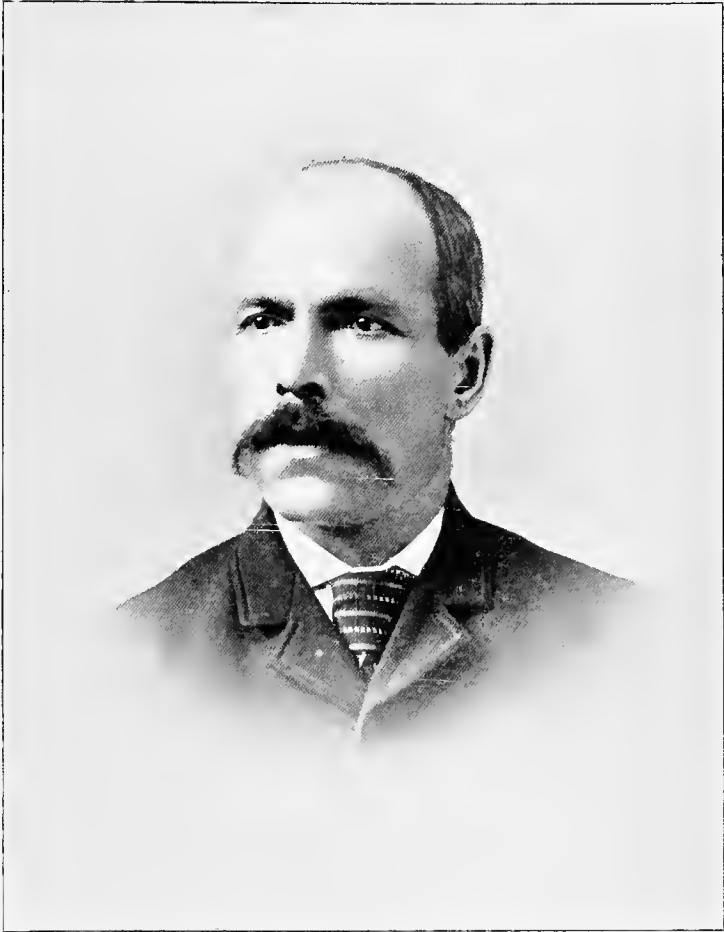
Otto Kaupp, of Blue Earth City, is the next in order of the treasurers. He was elected in 1877 and assumed the duties of the office in March following, and served one term.

It was in Wirttemberg, Germany, on the first day of December, 1842, that Mr. Kaupp was born. His father was a physician. He died in 1855. The subject of our sketch received his education in the public schools of the city. In 1857 he came with his sister to this State and located at Mankato. Here he engaged in farming until 1860, when he commenced learning the tinner's trade and worked at the business seven years in Mankato. In the spring of 1867, he came to this county and located at Blue Earth City, where he engaged in the hardware business, in which he has continued ever since. He was married to Miss Mary J. McLaughlin, October 29th, 1868. They have five children. He was town treasurer in 1877, town clerk from 1880 to 1886. President of the village council of Blue Earth City in 1882, and village treasurer in 1885 and 1886. Mr. Kaupp is a member of the Roman Catholic church and a democrat in politics. He was appointed postmaster at Blue Earth City in the fall of 1887. Mr. Kaupp was also president of the city council of Blue Earth City, a number of years in succession.





R. B. JOHNSON.



OTTO KAUPP.





Anthony Anderson, of Delavan, succeeded Mr. Kaupp. He was elected treasurer in the fall of 1879, and was re-elected in the years 1881, 1883, 1886 and 1888.

Mr. Anderson was born in Washington county, New York, August 18th, 1833. His father was a farmer, and Anthony remained at home most of the time assisting his father on the farm, until he was twenty-one years of age. His early education was acquired in the common schools, except one year, during which he attended Castleton Seminary, Vermont. When he left home, he went into the mercantile business at Putnam Landing, Washington county, New York, and remained at that place until he came west. He was married in July, 1865, to Miss Mary E. Wright. They have had two children. In August, 1866, Mr. Anderson came to Blue Earth City and engaged in merchandising. In 1871 he removed to Delavan, in this county, and took charge of Mr. Coleman's lumber yards, where he remained until his election to the office of county treasurer, when he returned to Blue Earth City, and has since resided at that place. Mr. Anderson has held various local offices, as town supervisor in New York, justice of the peace of Delavan township, and member of the village council of Blue Earth City, and of the school board for many years. He is a republican in politics, and he and his family are members of the Presbyterian church. Latterly, for a number of years, he has had charge of a lumber yard at Blue Earth City and has, also, been largely interested in the Farmers and Merchants Bank, at that place.

## SECTION NINE.

### THE OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS AND THE REGISTERS.

The duties of the register of deeds as defined by law are, briefly—That he shall keep suitable books in which he shall record at large and in full, word for word, any and all instruments (duly executed), in any way affecting the titles to real estate, that may be left with him for record. Keeping separate books of deeds, mortgages and other instruments, and shall also keep in separate books, an alphabetical index, in which he shall enter under the proper letter of the alphabet, the name of each grantor and grantee in any deed, mortgage or other instrument, left with him for record. He also furnishes abstracts of title when requested.

The term of office of the register of deeds, is two years. He is required to take an official oath and give bond for the faithful performance of his duties. He is authorized to appoint deputies, for whose acts he is responsible.

The register is paid for his services by fees, paid by the person desiring recording done. From the fact that the register of deeds is the only public official custodian of the records and evidences of all the land titles and the encumbrances thereon, that exist by law in the county, the importance of this office and the extent of the trust reposed in the register of deeds are very evident, and comment is unnecessary.

Prior to January 3d, 1859, the register of deeds was in this county, *ex-officio* clerk of the board of county commissioners, and

in that capacity performed the duties of county auditor, or in other words, the register of deeds was both register and auditor.

The first register of deeds of this county was Samuel V. Hibler. He was appointed by Gov. W. A. Gorman, on the organization of the county, his commission bearing date February 25th, 1856. He appointed Wm. Dow and J. B. Wakefield, deputies. Mr. Wakefield, however, performed, principally, the duties of the office, not at that time very onerous. Mr. Hibler held the office until the general election held in October, 1856.

Mr. Hibler was a Pennsylvanian. He came to Minnesota and located at Shakopee, Scott county, in this state, where it appears he intended to open a book and stationery store. Here he became acquainted with Messrs. Wakefield and Constans, and concluded to join them in the project of founding Blue Earth City, and came to this county in February, 1856, and became one of the original town site proprietors.

Mr. Hibler took a claim adjoining the town site and remained here during a part of the summer, when he returned to Shakopee to arrange his business affairs there. While absent his claim was jumped. On returning, there occurred the unhappy affair of the killing of Brooks, more fully detailed in the history of the year 1856. After this he went back to Shakopee, and from thence returned to Pennsylvania, and sold out his interests in this county. During the war of the rebellion, he enlisted in the military service of the United States and became the captain of a cavalry company.

At the general election held October 14th, 1856, James B. Wakefield, of Blue Earth City, was elected register of deeds, and immediately entered upon the discharge of the duties of this office. He continued to perform the duties of register of deeds and clerk of the county board until the twenty-second of April, 1857, when he appointed J. A. Kiester, of Blue Earth City, deputy register, who thereafter transacted the business of the office as deputy until the twenty-sixth day of October, 1857, when the office becoming vacant by the resignation of Mr. Wakefield, Mr. Kiester was appointed register by the county board. He held the office by this appointment until the general election in October, 1858, when he was elected for a full term.

By the act of August 13th, 1858, the county board were authorized to appoint a clerk if they choose, other than the register of deeds, and on January 3d, 1859, they appointed Arthur Bonwell, clerk, at Mr. Kiester's request, and he then assumed the duties of auditor and clerk of the county board, and those duties passed from the office of register of deeds.

In the year 1860 the county procured a full set of record books and indexes, and although the books containing the records up to this time, being volumes A. B. C. D. E. F. G., were most of them small, cheap books, provided by the registers, the county commissioners unwisely refused to have them transcribed into new books. Better books should have been used from the beginning, but the

county was poor and the registers poorer. The old indexes were, however, transcribed into the new books, and made full and complete, and in conformity to the law.

At the general election, held November 6th, 1860, Mr. Kiester was re-elected for a second term, and at the election in November, 1862, for a third term, and held the office until the expiration of the term, but was not a candidate for re-election.

Arthur Bonwell, of Blue Earth City, was our next register of deeds, having been elected in November, 1864. He held the office one term, declining a re-election. Biographical sketches of the preceding registers will be found elsewhere in this work.

On the twenty-sixth day of March, 1865, the building, a small frame, in which the offices of register and auditor were kept, took fire accidentally and was entirely consumed, but happily, all the books and most of the valuable papers of both offices were saved, though some of the records were scorched. A more full account of the event is given in the history of 1865.

Francis Lent, of Prescott, elected November 6th, 1866, succeeded Mr. Bonwell. He was re-elected in the years 1868 and 1870, holding the office six years. Mr. Lent appointed Daniel F. Goodrich his advisor, assistant and deputy.

Mr. Lent was born in Westchester county, New York, October 1st, 1832. His parents removed from that county in 1845, to Oswego county, in that State, and in 1853, to Jefferson county, Wisconsin. His father was a carpenter and joiner by trade, but followed farming during his latter years. Francis got his education in the district schools, and has made farming his occupation through life.

He was married to Miss Phebe E. Lent, in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, August 26th, 1854, and they have one child. Mr. Lent came to Minnesota in 1861, and first settled in Olmstead county, but left there coming to this county in 1862, and located on a farm in Prescott. When elected to the office of register of deeds, he removed to Blue Earth City, and remained there until he retired from the office, when he returned to his farm, where he has since resided.

Mr. Lent has always been a republican in political sentiment. He has been town clerk and town supervisor a number of times, and justice of the peace of his town.

#### HON. DANIEL F. GOODRICH.

Mr. Goodrich was born November 13th, 1836, in the county of Somerset, Maine.

His father was a farmer and lumberman. Daniel's education was obtained in the common schools and at Waterville academy and Waterville college, now Colby university, where he graduated in 1859. After his graduation he was engaged in teaching and in the study of the law. He read law under the direction of Hon. R. Foster, of Waterville, Maine. In July, 1862, he enlisted in the military service of the United States, and was ordered south. He went into the service as a private and was promoted, rapidly, to sergeant, sergeant major, second lieutenant and first lieutenant, and for awhile, commanded the company. He was in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek and Peters-

burgh again, and Sailor's creek. He was in twenty-two battles, besides skirmishes. He served until the close of the war. He returned home in 1865, and was admitted to the bar in March, 1866, at Augusta, Maine, and went into practice with Mr. Foster, for a short time. In 1867, he came to Minnesota and located in Rice county, for some months engaged in school teaching. He came to this county and located at Blue Earth City, in 1868, where he engaged in the practice of the law, and where he resided at the time of his death.

Mr. Goodrich held various minor offices, at Blue Earth City, was justice of the peace there for four terms, and deputy register, as above stated. He never married.

Mr. Goodrich was elected state senator, for this district, in 1877, and attended the session of 1878. He was again elected to the senate in 1882, for four years, and attended the sessions of 1883 and 1885, and he was again re-elected in 1886 for four years, and attended the sessions of 1887 and 1889. He was chairman of the judiciary committee, during the session, 1889.

Mr. Goodrich died at Blue Earth City, in September, 1889.

Frederick P. Brown, of Blue Earth City, elected in November, 1872, succeeded Mr. Lent. Mr. Brown was again elected in the years 1874, 1876, 1878, 1880, 1882 and 1884, holding the office longer than any prior incumbent.

Mr. Brown was born in Kobbervig, Norway, August 12th, 1838. His father was a sea-faring man and captain of a merchant vessel for a number of years, and he was also engaged for some years in the mercantile business at Kobbervig. He is a lineal descendant of Bishop J. N. Brown, who was a man of learning and distinction in Norway.

Frederick received his education mainly in private schools and from private tutors. When quite young he went to sea and became a sailor. He sailed seven years on salt water and two on the American lakes. During his sea-faring life he visited many countries. He emigrated to America in 1854 and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming and clerking occasionally.

While a resident here, he was, during one session of the state legislature, postmaster of the senate.

At the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, he enlisted at Madison, Wisconsin, in the Third Wisconsin, but falling ill, he was soon after discharged.

In December, 1861, he came to Minnesota and located at Rochester, where he was employed as a clerk in the large dry goods house of A. Nelson. He was married in the spring of 1863 to Miss Lena Larson. They have had eight children, two of whom are dead.

Mr. Brown remained at Rochester until 1866, when he came to this county, locating at Blue Earth City, where he went into the mercantile business in company with Colburn Nelson, in which business he continued some years.

Mr. Brown and his wife are members of the old Norwegian Lutheran Church, and he has always been a republican in politics.

Mr. Brown was elected secretary of state of the State of Minnesota in 1890, and was re-elected in 1892. Since retiring from public office, Mr. Brown has been largely engaged in farming operations in this county.



F. P. BROWN.



## SECTION TEN.

## THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

The public school system of Minnesota is, in many respects, an honor to the intelligence of the people of the State, and a blessing, the value of which can never be fully estimated.

The public school fund, provided by law, and well secured for the support of free public schools is more liberal, perhaps, than that of any other state in the Union, and should ever be guarded with jealous care. And there has, as yet, been but one attempt made, by public plunderers, to get the fund into shape, by legislation, so that it might be reached by them. But the project was defeated by the honesty and ability of the state auditor.

Prior to the adoption of the county superintendent system, the schools were first without any supervision, except that of the trustees. Then followed the town superintendent system, by which a superintendent for each township, or township district, had the supervision of the schools. After this came the district examiner system, in which an examiner was appointed, by the county board, for each county commissioner district in the county. This system obtained at the time of the adoption of the county superintendent system. The examiners who were appointed under that system, in the several districts, are named in the history of the several years.

The earliest printed reports, relating to schools in this county, other than mere scant statistics, were made in 1861, by three of the town superintendents. They are preserved here as a matter of curiosity, and read as follows:

## BRUSH CREEK DISTRICT.

"L. J. Whitney, superintendent, reports one teacher licensed, one school; no school house yet; no school furniture. School not classified 'to suit my notions.' Not opened with reading nor prayer. 'Less jealousy and to be more united' would greatly improve. People too little interested."

## DOBSON AND CAMPBELL DISTRICT.

"Wm. Hill, superintendent, reports two teachers licensed; two (2) schools; one log school house, one hired; neither have out-houses; one is graded; deficient in everything else; schools properly classified, and opened by reading the scriptures. We want two new school houses and a few more scholars. People generally interested, though there are some exceptions."

## GUTHRIE DISTRICT.

"John McKinney, superintendent, reports two teachers licensed; two schools held in log dwelling houses, on the prairies—owners in them, too. Schools properly classified; not opened with reading or prayer. Thing needed, 'spur the trustees.' People interested 'considerably.'"

## THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The principle duties of the superintendent, briefly stated, are to examine and license teachers, visit and inspect the schools of his county at least once in each term, give advice to teachers, organize and conduct teachers' institutes, encourage teachers' associations, introduce the best modes of instruction, receive the reports of district clerks, and transmit an abstract of the same to the state superintendent and report annually the condition and prospects of the schools under his care, besides many other minor duties which cannot be enumerated here. The term of office was formerly one year, but it was subsequently made two years.

By the law establishing the county superintendent system of school supervision, the board of county commissioner of the several counties were authorized to adopt the system and appoint a superintendent when deemed advisable.

The system was adopted in this county, January 2d, 1866, and A. H. Pelsey was appointed superintendent for the year 1866, at an annual salary of \$175. On the sixth of September, 1866, he was appointed for the year 1867, at a salary of \$200. On September 4th, 1867, he was appointed for the year 1868, and in January following, the salary for 1868 was raised to \$300. Mr. Pelsey resigned the office, October 1st, 1868.

Mr. Pelsey came to this State from Wisconsin, and located at Blue Earth City, about the year 1865, where he and his wife were for a long time engaged in the public schools. He subsequently studied medicine and located at Minnesota Lake, where he engaged in practice, and where he died.

While a resident of Blue Earth City, he took quite an interest in public educational affairs, and also somewhat in politics.

On the the resignation of Mr. Pelsey, Sheridan J. Abbott, of Winnebago City, was appointed superintendent to complete the remainder of Mr. Pelsey's term, and also for the year 1869, which he served.

## SHERIDAN J. ABBOTT.

Mr. Abbott, who has long been a prominent resident of the county, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Lorrain county in that state, March 25th, 1839. He removed with his people to Marquette county, state of Wisconsin, in 1849. His early education was obtained in the district schools of his native state and in Wisconsin, and at college in Ripon, in the latter state, which he attended for some time, but did not graduate.

He commenced reading law when about sixteen years old, with Hon. H. G. Webb, at Wautoma, Wisconsin, reading during the summers, and teaching school in winters. He taught many terms. He was admitted to the bar, at Berlin, Wisconsin, when about twenty years old, and then engaged in the practice of law.

He was married, in 1860, to Miss Julia H. Potter, of Marquette county, Wisconsin. They have three children. Mr. Abbott was at one time county







S. J. ABBOTT.

attorney of Marquette county, Wisconsin, and resigned the office just before coming to Minnesota. He came to this county in 1867, and located at Winnebago City, where he engaged in the practice until 1886, when he removed to Delavan, in this county, where he continued his business.

With a very brief exception, Mr. Abbott has been a republican from his youth. His family attend the Methodist Episcopal church.

He was elected a member of the State legislature in 1892, and attended the session of 1893.

On September 9th, 1869, the county board appointed the Rev. J. D. Todd, of Winnebago City for a part of the year, 1870, but he declined the office, and on the sixteenth day of the same month the board appointed Richard W. Richards, of Minnesota Lake, for three months, from January 1st, 1870, to April 1st following, at an annual salary of \$300.

On the twenty-fourth day of March, 1870, Mr. Richards was appointed for two years, from April 1st, 1870, and the salary was raised to \$400 per annum. On January 2d, 1872, he was again appointed for two years, from April 1st, 1872, and the salary was raised to \$600 per annum, and on January 7th, 1873, the salary was increased to \$800 per annum. By act of March 7th, 1873, the commissioners were required to fix the salary "at not less than at the rate of ten (10) dollars for each organized district in the county, not exceeding one hundred districts, but if the number of districts exceeded one hundred, the salary should not be less than \$1,000, nor more than \$1,250 per annum." This act took effect as to the salary of the superintendent of the county, June 10th, 1873. On January 6th, 1874, Mr. Richards was again appointed for two years, from April 1st, 1874.

The time for making the new appointment came on at the January session of the county board, in 1876. There were three applicants for the appointment, and the commissioners, not being able to agree, the matter was deferred to the March session.

In the meantime an act was passed by the legislature making the office elective at the next general election in this and several other counties, and provided that the present incumbents should continue to hold their offices until the first day of January, 1877. Under this provision Mr. Richards held over.

By act approved March 1st, 1876, it was enacted: That any woman, of the age of 21 years and upwards, belonging to either of the classes mentioned in section 1 of article 7 of the constitution of the State of Minnesota, who shall have resided in the United States one year, and in this State for four months next preceding any election held for the purpose of choosing any officer of schools, or any school district meeting called to consider any measure relating to schools, shall be entitled to vote at such election or meeting, in the school district of which she shall at the time have been for ten days

a resident, and any woman so entitled to vote shall be eligible to hold any office pertaining solely to the management of public schools. It having been determined that women, under the above act could not vote for superintendent, an additional act was passed in March, 1885, by which women belonging to the above mentioned classes were permitted to vote for county superintendent, and they are eligible to hold the office of superintendent.

Mr. Richards was elected superintendent in the years 1876, 1878, and after an interval of one term, was again elected to the office in the years 1882 and 1884.

Mr. Richards was born in Oneida county, New York, July 14th, 1838. His father, who was a carpenter by trade, was born in Wales, and came to America about the year 1835. He died when Richard was about four years old. Soon after his father's death, Richard went to live with a friend with whom he made his home for a number of years, and attended the common schools until he was about twelve years old, when he was engaged as a clerk in a grocery store, in Utica, New York, where he remained about two years, and after this he was employed as a copying clerk for some three years in the law office of Hon. Roscoe Conkling, in Utica. His health failing he went into the country to recruit, and afterwards entered Fairfield Seminary as a student. He taught his first term of school in Fulton county, New York, in the winter of 1854-5. The next three years were spent in school, during the spring and autumn, and teaching a four months' term of school in winter. During this time his preparation for college was completed, and in 1858 he entered Union college, Schenectady, New York. He became principal of the Johnstown, New York, schools, a position which he resigned in 1861, to accept a more lucrative position, as teacher in the state of Maryland, but the rebellion breaking out about this time, his plans were disarranged. He then enlisted in the military service, becoming a member of the 34th regiment, New York state militia, in answer to the first call for troops. At Albany he was exposed for many hours to a cold rain, and in consequence was attacked with lung fever, and was not mustered into the service of the United States, as his regiment was mustered out at the expiration of term of service. In the fall of 1861 he emigrated to Wisconsin, where he engaged in teaching. In the summer of 1862 he was appointed superintendent of schools of the west half of Dodge county, Wisconsin.

In 1863 he was appointed a clerk in the office of the secretary of state, Wisconsin, where he remained some time, then in 1864 he entered the office of the adjutant general, Wisconsin, as a clerk, where he remained until the close of the war. He was also, during the session of the legislature of Wisconsin, in 1864, enrolling clerk of the assembly.

In 1865, he removed to St. Louis, Mo., where the only work he could find for some time was that of street car conductor, in which he was employed about seven months, when he secured the position of shipping clerk in a glass manufacturing company. After a few months' service in this position, he was chosen bookkeeper and paymaster of the concern. Here he remained until the factory was burned, in December, 1866. In January, 1867, he came to this county and purchased a farm in Minnesota Lake township, and came there to reside in the following April.

On the eleventh of February, 1867, he was married to Miss Winifred Morris, of Painfield, N. Y. They had three children, two of whom are dead. His wife died in July, 1873.





R. W. RICHARDS.

In the spring of 1872 Mr. Richards removed to Blue Earth City where he has since resided. He was married in April, 1879, to Mrs. Mary A. Loomis, of this county.

Mr. Richards' official history as superintendent, is detailed above. He has held various other official positions, as secretary of the Agricultural society many terms, and as an officer of the Sunday school association, and has always been a worker in the temperance cause, and was Deputy G. W. C. Templar in this State for 1875 and 1876, and organized many lodges of that order in the state.

He has been a member of the Presbyterian church since 1856, and always a stalwart republican in politics. During late years Mr. Richards has been chief clerk in the county auditor's office, and has been a member of the board of education at Blue Earth City, of which he is at this time president.

It is gratifying to the writer to record the fact here that from the early settlement of the county, to the present time, the people of all parts of the county have taken a large interest in the subject of education, and that they have made rapid progress in the increase of the number and standing of the schools, and the building of school houses, as is attested by the history of the several years of the county. Our schools take rank with the common schools of other parts of the State, and our graded schools compare favorably with schools of like grade anywhere in the northwest. No people can interest themselves in a better cause than that of the proper education of the young.

## THE COUNTRY SCHOOL HOUSE.

### THE DISTRICT SCHOOL.

The country school house! the little red school house! the little white school house!

“Within, the master's desk is seen,  
 Deep scared by raps official;  
 The warping floor, the battered seats,  
 The jack-knife's carved initial;  
 The charcoal frescos on its wall;  
 Its door's worn sill, betraying  
 The feet that, creeping slow to school,  
 Went storming out to playing!”—*Whittier.*

Many scores of country school houses have been built in the twenty townships of this county. In some respects the country school houses are the most important structures in the county. How could we get along without them? Their uses are manifold. Let us enumerate some of them. In some one of them the township caucuses meet, to elect delegates to the higher political bodies. Here the people assemble to hear political speeches and the discussion of the great party issues of the times. Here the district school meetings are held. Here, in some predesignated one, the electors of the town assemble, each year, to elect their town officers and decide im-

portant township questions, and often stormy contests occur, and high words of rival candidates are heard. It is in the school houses that the people of the country meet to hear lectures and organize their local societies. Here too, are the great spelling contests, the singing schools, and here the local debating societies meet to discuss and settle great social and moral questions, and declaim selections from the speeches of Adams, Patrick Henry, Webster, Clay, Corwin, and other eminent orators, of by-gone days. And it is not in the fine churches, but in the country school houses, that the great majority of the people of the county assemble for stated public religious services, and it is here many of the great religious revivals occur, and many church societies are organized from time to time.

Yet none of these are the uses for which the school houses were built. These uses, so far as the purposes of the erection of school houses are concerned, are but secondary.

These buildings were erected, principally for the use of the several school districts, for school purposes. They are not public halls, or churches, however appropriate, their use as such, may be, but school houses. And the importance in this respect, of our district school houses, may be partially realized, when it is known that it is not in the high schools, academies, colleges, or universities, but in the common, public, free schools, that by far the greater number of our people get their education, or all the schooling they ever get. And from these schools, as their starting point, where they discover their capacity, get their first training, become imbued with their first impulses and ambitions, have come, many, who have won imperishable names, ripe scholars, great orators, able jurists, wise and patriotic statesmen, great philanthropists and christian leaders, in the pulpit, and in the missionary fields.

The country school-house! The district school! What remembrances of boyhood's and girlhood's years these words awaken! How many terms of winter, or summer schools, or both, did we attend? And the teachers! do we, in looking back, remember them? How we loved some of them, and how we feared others. How different they were in their manners and methods. How we often tried their patience. And perhaps we may remember too, the "sproutings," the ferulings, the dunce seat punishments, the chidings we received and deserved, and we may recollect, also, the oft expressed kindly words of praise and encouragement. And we know now, whatever we thought then, that most, if not all of our teachers, are entitled to our gratitude and kindly remembrance.

But all who have been school children, have other memories of their young school days—the warm friendships, the games, the petty quarrels, the rivalries and contests, the triumphs and defeats,



the young love matches and jealousies. And many a love match, made in the country school house, has proved to be a life match.

The existence of a free government, such as ours, its growth, stability and success rests in the virtue and intelligence of the people. An educated people can never be long deprived of their rights, or enslaved. And a free State must have many men of education to conduct its affairs. The State, therefore, and every citizen thereof, has a vast interest in the education of the young, and their preparation for the varied duties of life and good citizenship. In this favored land, the free district school is the most important factor in the education of the people. And especially is this the fact in this portion of our country, in which its population is made up of many nationalities.

There is no power known in this land which wields so mighty an influence in the unification, harmonization and Americanization of its people, as the free district schools. Their doors are open to all alike, the rich and the poor, and their training, lessons and advantages, are for all the children of one common country. But our free school system has some powerful enemies who, for ulterior purposes, are opposed to any methods of education but such as may be directed by them. Then there are others, who, because of their own ignorance, or immorality, or disregard of the public welfare, or their selfishness, or avarice, would destroy the whole system of public schools, maintained at public expense. Besides these, it may be remembered that all despotisms, either in church or State, really whatever their pretenses may be, believe in keeping the masses of the people in ignorance. They cannot live in the light of public intelligence. All these need to be watched. We must permit no sophistries, or promises, or professions of favor, to blind our eyes, or threats, or auguries of evil to deter us from maintaining, extending and perfecting our free school system.

There are some things that are peculiarly and essentially American, the outgrowth of American conditions and American necessities, that must be insisted upon, and our free common school system, maintained at the public expense and to which every citizen who enjoys the liberties and protection of the State, must contribute his lawful proportion, whatever his original nationality, or notions may be, is one of them.

And now, we should remember, while engaged in the affairs of life and perhaps giving but little attention to the schools ourselves, that he in whose hands the people have placed the greatly important trust and duty of the supervision of our district schools, is the county superintendent.

## SECTION ELEVEN.

## THE COUNTY SURVEYORS.

The duties of county surveyor are, to "execute any survey of lands which may be required, by order of any court, or upon application of any individual, or corporation." He is required to take an oath of office, and give an official bond. His term of office is two years. He may appoint as many deputies as he may need. He is required to keep a record of all surveys made by him, or his deputies, and is paid for his services, by those who employ him, at the rate of four dollars per day.

Orville Kimball was the first county surveyor of this county. He was either appointed by the county board, or was elected at the general election, in 1856, but no record now remains of the matter. He left the country in the spring of 1857. He designed going to California, when he left here, and a number of years afterwards it was said by some of his relatives, residing in Massachusetts, that Mr. Kimball had located in Canton, China, engaged in the mercantile business, and became very wealthy.

On the sixth of July, 1857, J. A. Kiester was appointed surveyor, by the county board, and, at the next general election of 1857, he was elected to the office for a full term. He was succeeded by S. A. Safford, of Winnebago City, who was elected in 1859. He removed from the county the next spring, when J. H. Welch, of Verona, was, on the fourth day of June, 1860, appointed by the county board, to fill the vacancy, and was elected to the office, at the general election of that year, for a full term. Mr. Welch also removed from the county, temporarily, and the office became vacant in 1861.

John Harvey Welch was born in Royalton, Niagara county, New York, March 21, 1833. He worked at home, on the farm, and attended the common schools, until he was seventeen years old. He then engaged in school teaching, occasionally, and attended the Union School, at Lockport, New York, until twenty-one years of age. He came west in 1854, and spent three years engaged as a civil engineer, on railroads, in Wisconsin. He came to this county in May, 1857, and located on a pre-emption claim, in the town of Verona. Mr. Welch was married March 8th, 1859, to Miss Martha J. Hazeltine, of Dodge county, Wisconsin. They have had five children, two of whom are now dead. In 1861, Mr. Welch was appointed, by President Lincoln, register of the United States land office, then located at Chatfield, Minnesota. In October, of that year, the office was removed to Winnebago City, in this county. He then became a resident of Winnebago City, where he has ever since resided. He held the office of register about six years. In 1863, he engaged, also, in the general mercantile business at Winnebago City, and, in 1866, in the hardware trade, in which he continued until 1887, when he sold out. He was appointed, in 1889, postmaster of Winnebago City. In 1860, Mr. Welch was one of the board of county commissioners, and he has held various local offices, as chairman of the town

board of supervisors, president of the village council, and member of the board of education, of Winnebago City. Mr. Welch is a republican in politics. He cast his first vote for Fremont, for President, in 1856. He and his family attend the Presbyterian church.

On the twenty-fourth day of June, 1861, George A. Weir, of Winnebago City, was appointed to the office by the county board and assumed its duties.

George Patten, of Verona, elected in 1861, was our next surveyor, but enlisting in the military service of the United States, the office again became vacant. Mr. Patten did not return to this county again as a resident.

W. W. Seely, of Verona, elected to the office in 1862, succeeded Mr. Patten. The office again became vacant. Mr. Seely removed from the county. Our next county surveyor was John A. Dean, of Jo Daviess, appointed by the county board September 1st, 1863.

The survey, subdivision and platting of the timbered sections of the school lands in the county was performed by Mr. Dean. This was a large work, and some of it difficult and laborious.

The work was done in the fall of 1863, and the plats filed with the commissioner of the state land office, and also in the office of the register of deeds of the county.

Mr. Dean is a native of New York state, born June 19th, 1825, in the county of Jefferson. His father, Samuel Dean, was born in England, and came to America and settled in Jefferson county, N. Y., when that country was yet quite new. He was a farmer by occupation.

John, the subject of this brief sketch, acquired his education mainly in the common schools of the country. He had also some instruction by private tutors. He spent his youth until he arrived at the age of twenty one years, on the farm of his father. He commenced teaching school at twenty and taught occasionally during a period of twenty-eight years. Having qualified himself for the profession of civil engineer, he was engaged in the employment of the state of New York, as first assistant engineer in the construction of the Black River canal, from Rome to the Black river, when about twenty-three years old. This canal was an important work to the people of the state. The work, from its character, required much engineering skill and hard labor, and was satisfactorily performed.

About the year 1851, Mr. Dean emigrated to the state of Wisconsin, and settled in Dodge county, where he engaged in school teaching, practicing law and surveying.

He returned to New York and was married to Miss C. M. Yendes, in May, 1853. They have had two children, one of whom is now dead.

The same year, Mr. Dean returned to Wisconsin and located at Markesan, Green Lake county. Here he engaged in the practice of law, surveying occasionally, teaching school, and sometimes working at the carpenter trade.

In August, 1860, Mr. Dean and family came to this county. Here he took up a quarter section of land in the town of Jo Daviess, which he settled upon and continued to reside, engaged in farming and the nursery business, until his removal to Blue Earth City.

The nursery of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubbery planted by him, was the first nursery in the county, and was attended by him with much care for many years.

Mr. Dean entered the military service of the United States, in November, 1864, as a private, going immediately south, to Nashville, Tennessee, where he joined Co. B, 5th Minnesota Vet. Vol. Inft. He was in the battles of Nashville in December, 1864, and was also at the siege of Mobile, Alabama, in April, 1865, and continued with his regiment until discharged in September, 1865, when he came home. He removed to Blue Earth City about the year 1875, where he has since resided, but still continues to look after his farming interests and nursery business. Mr. Dean is an independent republican in politics, but has never taken a very active part in political matters, except to keep well posted on the issues of the times. He has been much afflicted during a great part of his life with asthma and his affliction has greatly influenced the course of his active life. He has, from early youth, been much of a student, his tastes inclining him much to mathematical and kindred studies. Mr. Dean has frequently held school and town offices, and was at one time a member of the board of county commissioners of this county.

Daniel Birdsall, of Prescott, elected in November, 1863, next performed the duties of the office. Mr. Birdsall was elected in 1865 for a second term. During the year following, he removed from the county, and the office became vacant. He was succeeded by John R. Sisson, of Seely, who was elected in 1866, and was re-elected in 1868.

Mr. Sisson is a native of Massachusetts, born in Wilbraham, May 22d, 1815. He received a common school education and studied surveying. In 1822 he removed with his parents to the Western Reserve, Ohio. In 1839 he was employed by the general government and went to Arkansas, and engaged in the survey of the public lands. In 1841 he removed to Louisa county, Iowa, and was married February 1st, 1843, to Miss Lucy G. Clark. Nine children were the fruit of the marriage. His wife died September 30th, 1881. In 1859 he removed to La Crosse county, Wisconsin, from thence to this county in 1863. As to occupation, Mr. Sisson has been engaged in farming, carpentering, and as above stated, in surveying, and latterly, somewhat in merchandising. Mr. Sisson has been a supervisor in his town and a justice of the peace, and was county commissioner in the years 1866, 1867 and 1877, 1878 and 1879. He was again married February 6th, 1882, to Miss Mary B. Pelton. He has for some years resided near Alton, Brush Creek township, in this county. His political affiliations are with the republican party, and he is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. Sisson died at Wells, January 7th, 1896, to which village he had removed about a year previous to his death.

And now George A. Weir re-appears as county surveyor, having been elected in 1870, and held the office during the term. He was subsequently elected to the office in the years 1874, 1882 and 1884. He has also been deputy surveyor three terms, during the administration of other county surveyors.

#### GEORGE A. WEIR.

Mr. Weir was born in 1833, in Robertson county, Tenn. His education was acquired mainly in the common schools. He also attended a select school, where he learned the profession of surveyor and civil engineer. He came to Minnesota with his brothers Joseph and Daniel, in 1857, and settled near Winnebago City, where he has since resided. He was never married. His principal business through life has been that of farming.

In 1858 he brought a lot of apple trees to this county, from Blooming nursery, Ill., and set them out on his lands. They were probably the first fruit trees in the county of the kind.

In 1866 he assisted as one of the engineering corps, in making the preliminary survey of the line of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, from the western boundary of the state to Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn. The line was run for the purpose of locating the lands granted to the company. Mr. Weir is a democrat in politics, but of late years has taken no active part in political affairs.

Edward S. Leavitt, of Wells, was elected surveyor in the years 1872, 1876, 1878, 1880 and 1886, the intervening terms being filled by Mr. Weir, as will be seen above.

#### EDWARD S. LEAVITT.

Mr. Leavitt was born October 16th, 1815, at Gilford, N. H. He graduated at Dartmouth College in 1843, and studied law with Hon. J. P. Robinson, of the state of Massachusetts, and was admitted to the bar, and practiced in that state until 1849, when he removed to California. In 1850 he emigrated to Oregon, where he was engaged in making surveys of lands donated to settlers. The next year (1851) he was elected judge of Clackamas county, and, in 1853, returned to the east, and located in Rockford, Illinois, where he engaged in the practice of the law.

He was married in April, 1855, to Miss Mary J., daughter of the Rev. James Fernald, of Saco, Maine. They have had one child, a daughter, who died in August, 1883. Mrs. Leavitt died in April, 1887. Mr. Leavitt came to Minnesota in October, 1856, and was county surveyor of Winona county eight years. He settled in this county in October, 1870, and has here been county surveyor as above stated. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a republican in politics.

### SECTION TWELVE.

#### THE SHERIFFS AND THEIR OFFICE.

The sheriff is the chief police officer of the county, and is an officer with whom most of us care but little to have any official business. His duties are to keep and preserve the peace in his county, for which purpose he is empowered to call to his aid such persons or power of his county, as he may deem necessary. He shall also pursue and apprehend all felons, execute all writs, warrants and other process from a justice of the peace, district court, or other competent tribunal. The sheriff is also the jailor, and in this capacity has charge of the county jail and its inmates. The duties of this branch of his office are usually performed by an individual known in the common law as the "turnkey."

The sheriff's office is one of much responsibility. Its duties are often not only very unpleasant, but quite often intricate and perplexing, and the sheriff frequently needs the best legal advice and direction. His official transactions often involve large pecuniary liabilities, and while many other officials may neglect, or err to

some extent, in the performance of their duties with impunity, the sheriff is by law and practice invariably held to a strict accountability. There are no excuses for him, and the duties of his office are the most thankless known to the law.

The sheriff is required to take an oath of office, and give an official bond for the faithful performance of his duties. He may appoint such deputies as he deems necessary to assist him in his business. He is paid by fees which are prescribed by law. His term of office is two years.

Henry P. Constans was the first sheriff of this county, and was appointed at the organization of the county, by Gov. W. A. Gorman, his commission bearing date, February 25th, 1856. He was subsequently appointed by the board of county commissioners, April 6th, 1857.

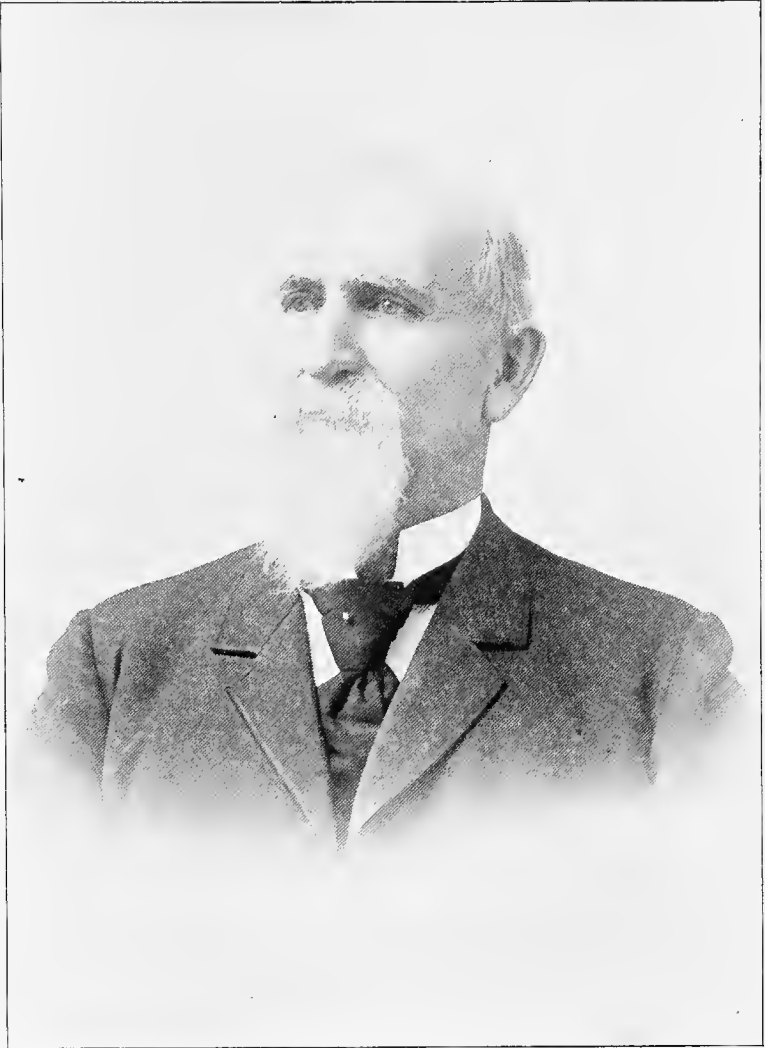
Mr. Constans was born in France, on the twenty-ninth day of April, 1834. His father held the office of forester in the department where he resided. He is now dead. Henry received his education in the common schools of the neighborhood. He had also the benefit of instruction, for some time, by private tutors.

When only seventeen years old, he came to America, and landed in New Orleans in the year 1851. From New Orleans, he went to Quincey, Illinois, intending here to learn the harness makers' trade, and did work at the trade some two months, when the cholera breaking out in the place, he migrated, in June, 1851, to St. Paul, in this State. Here he remained until 1854, when, in company with Jas. B. Wakefield, he went to Shakopee, in Scott county, in this State, and concluded to locate there. Here he opened a store, being the second store in the village.

By reference to the history of the year 1856, it will be seen that Mr. Constans was one of the company who projected the laying out of Blue Earth City, and came to the county in 1856, and was one of the original town site proprietors. Here Mr. Constans engaged in the hotel business, being the first hotel-keeper in the county, and he has continued in this business until the present time. He was married in the fall of 1856, to Miss Barbara Hebieson, of Scott county. They have had five children, one of whom is now dead. Besides being the first sheriff of the county, as above stated, Mr. Constans has for several terms been a member of the board of education of Blue Earth City, and a member of the first village council of that place, and a member subsequently of that board. He was a candidate for the State senate some years ago. Mr. Constans' religious connection is with the Presbyterian church. In politics he has always been a democrat, but never so much of a partisan as to lose his liberty of voting for those whom he deemed the best men for official position, of whatever party they might be. Mr. Constans is a Mason, and a member of Blue Earth City Lodge, No. 57, of which he was a charter member. He is also a Royal Arch Mason and member of Mt. Horeb Chapter, No. 21.

Thomas R. Foley, of Winnebago City, elected sheriff Oct. 13th, 1857, succeeded Mr. Constans. Mr. Foley's deputies were Geo. H. Goodnow and Alonzo Beebe. The first tax levied in this county, 1858, was mainly collected under Mr. Foley's administration, the sheriff being then, *ex officio*, the collector. This was the only tax in this county collected by the sheriff, as the duties of tax collector





H. P. CONSTANS.





MRS. H. P. CONSTANS.



were transferred to the county treasurer. Mr. Foley removed from the county before his term of office expired, and at the session of the county board held January 4th, 1859, the office of sheriff was declared vacant and George H. Goodnow, of Winnebago City, was appointed and qualified the next day. He appointed Alonze Beebe his deputy. At the general election held October 11th, 1859, Mr. Goodnow was elected to the office for a full term, which he served. He appointed Geo. S. Convers, of Blue Earth City his deputy.

Mr. Goodnow came to this county in 1857, it is believed, and located at Winnebago City. He was a machinist by occupation. He purchased the saw mill at that place, to which he subsequently added a grist mill, being the first grist mill in the county. He held various local offices, and was chairman of the board of town supervisors, and chairman of the board of county supervisors in 1859 and 1860 and was sheriff as above stated. He took an active interest in the public affairs of the county, and the enterprises of this locality, for many years. He subsequently removed to Montana, where he has since died.

Our next sheriff was Philander C. Seely, of Seely township. He was elected October 8th, 1861, and entered upon his duties January, 1862. He appointed Willard Seely his deputy.

W. J. C. Robertson, of Verona, elected in November, 1863, succeeded Mr. Seely. He held the office one term. He appointed P. H. Allen as his deputy.

Biographical notices of Messrs. Seely and Robertson will be found elsewhere in this history.

Following Mr. Robertson came Charles E. Chaple, of Winnebago City, who was elected November, 1865, and appointed as his deputies, Charles A. Rose, of Blue Earth City, and Silas Richardson, of Winnebago City. He was not a candidate for re-election.

Mr. Chaple was a native of Wisconsin, born in Rock county, August 6th, 1843. He went with his family from there to Boon county, Illinois, and from thence to Fayette county, Iowa, and from thence to this county in 1856. His father settled on lands north of Winnebago City and engaged in farming. Charles' opportunities of education were such as were to be found in the frontier log school houses. He engaged in farming, which was his only occupation until he enlisted in the military service of the United States in February, 1862.

He was at Fort Ridgley at the time of the Sioux outbreak in the fall of that year. He then became a member of the 15th Minnesota, and served in the south, and remained with the regiment until the summer of 1864, when he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, and returned home on veteran furlough. He returned in August, 1864, to the front, and was at the siege of Spanish Fort, April 2d, 1865, and was badly wounded, losing an arm. He was discharged from the army, June 14th, 1865.

He was married to Miss S. M. Vaunice, of this county, August 6th, 1864. They had nine children, of whom four are now dead.

His wife died in June, 1886. He was again married January, 1887, to Miss Isabel S. Young, of Connecticut.

In 1871, he was elected sergeant at arms of the senate. He was appointed janitor of the state capitol in the spring of 1872. He removed to St. Paul and held the office of janitor until January, 1885, when he resigned to take the position of deputy sheriff of Ramsey county, which he held until January 1, 1887,

when he received the appointment of military store-keeper for the State, at St. Paul, and is at this writing engaged at that business. He has always been a republican, and is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Chaple was subsequently elected sheriff of Ramsey county.

Freeland F. Harlow, of Winnebago City, elected in November, 1867, next assumed the duties of the office. His deputy at Blue Earth City was P. C. Seely, former sheriff, who transacted most of the business in the south half of the county.

Mr. Harlow is a native of Maine, born in Oxford county, in October, 1836. His father was a brick maker. Freeland passed most of his youth in Lewiston, Maine. He learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. When about fourteen years old, he located at Erington, Mass., where he remained some four years. He acquired his education in the district schools. About 1854 he returned to Maine. In 1856 he came west, and stopped at Ripon, Wisconsin, during the winter and spring. He left Ripon in May, 1857, and on the twenty-fourth of that month arrived in this county (Faribault). Here he worked at farm work until the winter of 1860 and 1861, when he returned again to his native state.

In 1862 he enlisted in the military service, and became a member of Company C, 23d Maine Vol. Inf., and served nine months in the Army of the Potomac, in defense of Washington, D. C. He was discharged in 1863, and returned to Minnesota. Soon after his return he concluded to go into the sheep raising and wool growing business, and purchased a large number of sheep. The venture proved a failure, as almost all his sheep died, and he lost all his investment, which was his all. He next engaged in clerking for G. K. Moulton, a dealer in general merchandise at Winnebago City, where he remained some three years, and then engaged, as clerk, in the United States Land Office, located at Winnebago City, for several years, and afterwards opened a general land, loan and insurance office on his own account, at Winnebago City.

He was married to Miss Jennie Cottrell, June 15th, 1869. They have two children. He subsequently engaged in the hotel business at Winnebago City, and also at Fairmont in Martin county, this state, and at Wells, in this county, and this for many years has been his principal business. In 1868 he took a trip to the Black Hills, of Dakota, where he remained some six months, engaged in mining and trading. Mr. Harlow has always been a republican. Mrs. Harlow and children are members of the Protestant Episcopal church. Mr. Harlow and family have resided, for some years, at Fairmont, Martin county, Minn.

Minnesota Lake township furnished the next sheriff, Benning W. Barber, who was elected November 2d, 1869. He appointed S. P. Child, of Blue Earth City, his counsel and deputy. B. W. Barber was a son of Chauncey Barber, one of the earliest settlers of the county, and, at the time of his election, engaged in the mercantile business with Smith T. Barnes, at Minnesota Lake. After retiring from the sheriff's office he engaged at that place in merchandising on his own account. In the fall of 1874 he sold out and removed to the territory of Utah.





JOHN B. CHAPEL.



CHAS. E. CHAPEL.





## HON. S. P. CHILD.

Simeon P. Child was born November 16th, 1835, in Medina county, Ohio. His father was by occupation a farmer, carpenter and millwright.

When Simeon was about three years old his father removed, with his family, to St. Lawrence county, New York, where they remained until about the year 1843, when they returned to Ohio and located in Lake county. In the fall of 1845 they removed to Dodge county, Wisconsin. Simeon and his brother, James E. Child, came to Minnesota in 1854, and located in Waseca county, in January, 1855. Waseca was then a part of Blue Earth county.

In February, 1855, Simeon started to visit Ft. Ridgely alone, but when he had got as far on his way as about fifteen miles west of St. Peter, he found the snow so deep that he could not proceed, and started to return, and was caught in a fierce snow storm, and his lower limbs and feet were quite badly frozen; but he worried through and at last got home. His brother went to get a physician, but owing to the deep snows and intense cold, he was gone seven days. During this time Mr. Child suffered intensely, and was entirely alone. As a result of the freezing, his toes had to be amputated.

In the spring of 1856, he was employed on the Winnebago Indian reservation, in Blue Earth county. Here he had charge of a large number of breaking teams. He remained on the reservation until the fall of 1857, when he returned to Wisconsin, and there spent the winter.

In the spring of 1858, he returned to Waseca county, and was married to Miss Clarrissa Armenia Northrup, on the eighth day of August, and commenced farming for a living. In the fall he went to merchandising at Wilton, in Waseca county, but returned again to the farm, where he remained until the breaking out of the Indian massacre in 1862, when he enlisted in the military service. He served here until in the following winter, when he went into the quartermasters department and went South with the federal army. He was placed in charge of the Little Rock and Memphis railroad, running the road and keeping it in repair.

In the spring of 1864, he returned home, his health having failed, and was ill for two years, and not engaged in any business.

In 1866, he removed to Blue Earth City, where, under the firm name of Baldwin & Child, he engaged for a number of years in banking, real estate and collections, and also opened a brick yard. He was a member of the House from this county, in 1872 and in 1873, and State senator in 1874 and 1875.

In the fall of 1875 he was appointed assistant postmaster to the United States senate, and acted in that capacity until June, 1878. In the meantime, however, he was again a member of the House from this county, in the session of 1877.

In 1878 he was appointed United States post-office inspector, an office which he held until the year 1893, and in the performance of the duties of which office, he visited Kansas, Indian Territory, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Dakota, Oregon, Montana, and in fact all the states and territories west of the Missouri river, and many of the southern states and old Mexico, his special work being the collection of evidence in the famous star route cases.

Mr. Child has always been a republican in politics. After retiring from the office of inspector, he was engaged as the general agent of the American Surety Company of New York, and opened an office in St. Paul, to which city he removed his family in 1893, but still retained his property interests in this county, which he still deems his home.

A. B. Davis, of Winnebago City, succeeded Mr. Barber. He was elected in November, 1871, and was re-elected in the years 1873 and

1875, serving six years. His deputies at various times were Q. J. Adams, J. W. Rosenberg, Allen Cummings and M. B. Pratt.

Mr. Davis was born at Shiloh, New York, December 15th, 1836, and received his education in the district schools. He was engaged for a number of years as a stage driver and mail contractor. He came to Minnesota and located at Albert Lea, in 1857. He was married in December, 1864, to Miss M. Adams, of Albert Lea. They have one child, a son. During the war he was captain of Company E, Brackett's Battalion (cavalry), was ordered to Missouri. He came to Faribault county in 1868; was sheriff here as above stated. Mr. Davis is a democrat in political sentiment. He was appointed postmaster at Winnebago City by President Cleveland.

M. B. Pratt, of Blue Earth City, elected in November, 1877, next became the sheriff, holding the office one term. He appointed, as deputies, H. A. Chase, of Winnebago City, and Q. J. Adams, of Wells.

Mr. Pratt came to this county in 1869, and was one of the members of the mercantile firm of Whallon, Case & Co., at Blue Earth City. He removed to Owatonna, Minnesota, in 1880, where he engaged in the business of dealing in grain.

Mr. Pratt's successor was Allen Cummings, of Blue Earth City, elected in November, 1879. Mr. Cummings was re-elected in the years 1881, 1883, and 1886.

Allen Cummings was born April 21st, 1840, in Herkimer county, New York. He received instruction in the common schools of the neighborhood, but his opportunities for obtaining an education were very limited, in his youth. Allen commenced to work for wages when quite young. After a number of removals, Allen's father finally located in Jefferson county, New York, where he has resided the greater portion of his life.

On the twenty-ninth of April, 1861, Allen enlisted in Company G, 35th New York Volunteer Infantry, for two years, and went south. He was in the battles of Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and many skirmishes. He was discharged, by expiration of term of service, June 5th, 1863, when he returned home, and went to work on a farm during the summer of 1863. On January 1st, 1864, he re-enlisted in Company M, 14th Regiment New York Heavy Artillery, for three years, or during the war. He served in New York harbor, until April, 1864, when the regiment was ordered to the front, and joined Grant's Army at Rapidan, and participated in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, and first battles around Petersburg, Virginia. On July 30th, 1864, at the explosion of the mine, he was taken prisoner, and carried to Danville, Virginia, with many hundreds of others, where he remained until about February 18th, 1865, when the prisoners were sent to Richmond, Virginia, and confined in Libby prison, and, on the 21st of February, 1865, they were paroled. From thence he went to Annapolis, Maryland, and was permitted to go home, on furlough of thirty days. But, owing to ill health, the furlough was extended thirty days, during which time the war closed. He, however, returned to his regiment, at Washington, D. C., and did duty with the regiment until August 25th. The regiment was finally discharged and paid, at Rochester, New York, September 6th, 1865. On November 15th, 1865, Mr. Cummings was married to Miss Zenette Vandervoort. He engaged in farming, in Jefferson county, New York, until March, 1868, when he emigrated to the west, and arrived at Blue Earth City, April 18th, 1868, and has since resided at that place. In April, 1872, he was



S. P. CHILD.



appointed deputy register of deeds, of this county, by F. Lent, register, which position he held about a year. In the spring of 1874, he was appointed, by A. B. Davis, sheriff, as his deputy, and this position he held some twenty months. He was twice city recorder of Blue Earth City. In 1876 he was engaged, by Mr. White, auditor, as clerk in the auditor's office, and continued as such until he qualified as sheriff, in January, 1880. Mr. Cummings appointed, at various times, as deputies, Isaac Kamrar, C. H. Patten, and T. W. Donovan, of Winnebago City, and Joseph Stearnes and W. A. Billings, of Wells, and Wm. Whitfield, A. L. Crandall, and F. D. Yendis, of Blue Earth City.

After retiring from all official positions. Mr. Cummings removed to his farm, near Blue Earth City, and engaged in farming for some years, and then retired again to the village above named, where he has since resided.

## SECTION THIRTEEN.

### THE CORONERS.

The chief duty of the coroner as such, is to "hold an inquest upon, view of the dead body of such persons found in the county, as are supposed to have come to their death by violence." For this purpose he is authorized to summon and empanel a jury.

In cases of a "vacancy in the office of sheriff, the coroner exercises the powers and duties of said office, until a sheriff is elected and qualified." The coroner is also authorized "to serve and execute process of every kind, when the sheriff is a party in the action" and when it appears that the sheriff will not, by reason of partiality, prejudice, consanguinity, or interest, perform his duties properly. And "when the sheriff for any cause is committed to the jail of his county, the coroner shall be keeper thereof." By this it appears that the sheriff jails all other rogues, but only the coroner can jail the sheriff! The coroner is required to take an oath of office and give an official bond. His term of office is two years and he may appoint deputies. He is allowed fees for his services to be paid by the county, or from the parties interested in suits as the case may be. The business and pay of this office have never amounted to much in this county, and it may be observed that no great contests have ever been fought over the office by rival aspirants. It is a bone containing too little meat, and as to the honors of the office, they have never been greatly esteemed by the ambitious. The ambitious politician always looks for offices producing some pay, as well as honors.

Capt. Jeremiah B. Gillit, of Blue Earth City, elected in October, 1857, was the first coroner of this county.

Mr. Gillit was a native of Vermont, where he was born, about the year 1799. By occupation he was a farmer, but also learned, and worked at times at the trades of shoemaker, mason and plasterer.

He married Maranda Clark, at the time a resident of New York state, and they were blessed with a family of six children.

Mr. Gillit emigrated to Upper Canada at a date not now known. He was one of the insurgents in what is now known as the insurrection or great rebellion, or "patriot war," which occurred in Canada in 1837 and 1838. He soon after removed from Canada to the state of Illinois, where he remained some years. He came to this county, in June, 1856, and located on a farm near Blue Earth City, where he spent his remaining years, engaged in farming, and at which place he died, in July, 1875, aged seventy-six years.

William A. Way, of Blue Earth City, was elected in 1859. Mr. L. C. Taylor, of Dunbar, was elected in 1861, and David Pratt, of Seely, in 1862, but the two last named gentlemen did not qualify as neither desired the office. William A. Way was again elected in November, 1863, and performed the duties of the office for the term. D. H. McDowell was next elected to the office November, 1865, but the office again becoming vacant, Wm. A. Way was again elected November, 1866.

William A. Way was born in Connecticut about the year 1831. He learned the trade of carpenter. He was married in 1852, to Miss Harriett C. Darke, of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, where he resided several years. They were blessed with a family of six children. They came to this county in 1856, and located on a farm. Edwin M. Way, a brother of William, located with his family the next year. Edwin died in 1863. William, after farming some years, removed to Blue Earth City, where he continued to work at his trade. He held the office of supervisor of Blue Earth City township a number of years, and was also town clerk of the same town. He sold his farm and other property in 1868, and removed to California and from thence, after some years, to Texas, where he died in 1883. The family then returned to California, where they have since resided.

Aaron J. Rose, of Blue Earth City, elected to the office in November, 1867, was our next coroner. He was re-elected in the years 1869, 1871 and 1873 and attended to the duties of the office during four terms.

Mr. Rose was a native of the Province of Ontario, Canada, where he was born September 5th, 1812. He was married October 30th, 1833, to Miss Catherine Smith and they reared a family of six children (three daughters and three sons). Sometime after his marriage he engaged in hotel keeping at Trenton, Canada. He left Trenton about the year 1850 and located at Port Perry, township of Roach, and engaged as purser on board a steamboat, which ran on Lake Scugog, for several years. Mr. Rose was one of the sympathisers with the Patriots, in the Canadian rebellion in 1836-7, and as a result his property was confiscated by the government, but was subsequently restored to him. Leaving his family in Canada, for the time being, Mr. Rose went to Waterloo, Iowa, in 1856, and remained during the summer and autumn. In January, 1857, he came to this county and engaged in the saw mill business, with his son-in-law, Capt. P. B. Davy. He also took a claim near Blue Earth City, which he afterwards traded for an interest in the saw mill. Having gotten all things ready, his family came on in 1859. Mr. Rose held various town offices from time to time, and was justice of the peace for many years, and coroner, as above stated. Mrs. Catherine Rose died in February, 1875, and Mr. Rose in October of the same year. They both rest in the cemetery at Blue Earth City.

Hubert P. Young, of Blue Earth City, was elected to the office at the election of 1875, but removed from the county in January, 1876, and the county board at their January session of 1876, appointed W. J. C. Robertson to fill the vacancy in the office.

Aaron B. Balcom, of Blue Earth City, was elected to the office in 1876.

Mr. Balcom is a native of Douglass, Mass., where he was born March 16th, 1823. He received his early education in the common schools, and at an academy at Uxbridge, Mass. When about eight years old his parents removed from Douglass to Uxbridge. Here he worked in a cotton factory from the time he was ten years old to sixteen, when he went into a store to learn the mercantile business and book-keeping. Here he remained two years and then returned to Douglass. From thence he went to Boston, Mass., and engaged at clerking in a store. His next move was to Millford, Mississippi, where he clerked in a store about two years, and then emigrated to Montgomery, Ala., where he again engaged as a clerk for some time, and then returned to Massachusetts, on a visit. He next came west and settled at Cincinnati, O., where he bought a half interest in a shoe store and remained about two years, and then sold out and went to St. Louis, Mo., where he remained some two years. He then returned again to Douglass, Mass., and bought out the store, in which he had commenced clerking. Here he remained some ten (10) years, then sold out and emigrated to Chicago, Ill., in the spring of 1856, and went to work in the railroad office of the Illinois Central. He remained here awhile, then went, in the fall of the year, to Princeton, Ill., and engaged in laying, packing and shipping eggs. Here he bought out a stock of goods, which, in the spring of 1857, he shipped to Winona, Minn., where he opened a store. This stock he sold out in January, 1858, and came to this county in February of that year, and settled on a farm in Verona township. In 1859, he rented this farm and removed to La Crosse, Wis., where for three years he engaged in merchandising. In 1862 he returned to the farm, and in 1864 sold the farm and located in Blue Earth City and engaged in merchandising until 1869, and then sold out. In 1870 he located on a farm in Rome township and remained a short time, when he returned to Blue Earth City, where he has since resided. Mr. Balcom has always been a republican in politics since the organization of that party. He was the first treasurer of our agricultural society, organized in 1859.

Our next coroner was Chas. S. Kimball, of Winnebago City, who was elected in the autumn of 1878.

Mr. Kimball was born in Troy, New York, September 11th, 1822. His father was a soldier in the war of 1812. When Charles was about five years old, his parents emigrated to the state of Maine. He was taught in the common schools until he was sixteen years old, when he was sent to the Academy at Limerick, Maine. He finished up his school days when about nineteen years old. He then went to Great Falls, N. H., and worked some two years in a cotton mill and from there he went to Lowell, Mass., where he again worked in a cotton mill. Here he remained about twelve years, and became an overseer of the hands, but his health failing, he had to quit the business.

Mr. Kimball was married at Lowell, Mass., in 1848, to Miss Mary A. Hayes, of N. H. They had three children. Mrs. Kimball died at Winnebago City, in April, 1884.

Mr. Kimball left Lowell and returned to Maine, and remained four years, and then came west and located in Burns, Wisconsin. Here he remained about two years, and then, after a hard and long drive with an ox team, arrived at Winnebago City, in this county, June 15th, 1858.

Here Mr. Kimball engaged in the blacksmith business for some five years, and was the pioneer blacksmith of the place. In 1862 or 1863 he opened a hotel at Winnebago City, and this became his principal business for some twenty odd years.

He was out of business for several years and rented his hotel buildings. Mr. Kimball was at one time a member of the Freewill Baptist church, but became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Winnebago City. He has, during his life, been much interested in Sunday school work. When a young man he was a teacher for some years in the Sunday school. Mr. Kimball was in early life a democrat, but left that party in the days of Buchanan, and has been a republican thereafter. He held various local offices at Winnebago City. He was justice of the peace quite a number of years, and police justice. He was also chairman of the board of town supervisors, town and city treasurer, and chairman of the school board, a county commissioner in 1866, and county coroner for a period of eight years.

Mr. Kimball was again married December 25th, 1884, to Miss Sophia Jones, of this county. He died at Winnebago City, in 1889.

## SECTION FOURTEEN.

### A LITTLE GOSSIP ABOUT LIFE IN THE COUNTY OFFICES.

The following remarks are made in reference to the county official life of this county, as many of them would not be applicable to that of many other counties. The remarks also refer to those mainly who have their permanent offices at the court house. The business office, the place of labor of the county officers, is the court house of the county. Here goes on, year after year, the public business of the people of the county; sometimes performed for years by some of the same officers, but occasionally one or more new hands appear. Some may have grown gray in the work, while others are quite young. Life here, as elsewhere, has its pleasures and pains, its "ups and downs." It is not as some superficial people have thought, a life of comparative ease, of large pay and little work, a sort of popular ovation, with plenty of money to carry it through.

For every officer who does his duty, there is steady work to do, and much of it requiring care and close attention. It is not play. No one rests "on a bed of roses" by any means, and all have more or less difficult and perplexing labor to perform and responsibilities to bear.

Peace and harmony usually prevail among the officers, and while they do not always think alike on all subjects, of politics, science, morals, or religion, and while such questions as the tariff, candidates for office, Calvinism, Armenianism, materialism, the orthodox faith, monopoly, prohibition, Darwinism, etc., are often discussed with great earnestness, if not with far reaching ability, there are seldom any bitter or personal feelings manifested. No



one has ever been known, however, to change his views, as a result of these discussions, and the disputants always, so to speak, "come out of the same hole they went in at." The jokes and good stories of the season also go their rounds, and practical jokes upon each other occur occasionally, but ordinarily there is not much time for these outside matters, and especially not in business hours.

The busiest seasons of the year for the officers, generally, are during the sessions of the district court and board of commissioners, in January and June, as many people defer their county business until these times. In the treasurer's office, however, the great rush of the season comes in the latter part of May, when people come to pay their real estate taxes. It is usually a pet ambition with the officers to be "up" with their work to date, and there is, consequently, but little spare time for amusement.

An agreeable feature of official life is that the pay is, in general, cash, and certain with those who get salaries, and is generally sufficient, though not generally excessive, for the work done. Comfortable quarters in which the labor is done and necessary conveniences to facilitate business are furnished at the public expense, while the incumbents are usually accommodating, courteous and good natured in their intercourse with each other. There is also a certain degree of honor and consequence in being a county officer, highly pleasing to some minds. And this is a reasonable pride and all well enough when not carried too far, for the incumbent is the chosen and trusted servant of his fellow citizens, in the position which he holds. On the other hand an officer's time is not his own. He cannot come and go when he pleases. He is not exactly his own man. He has engaged to do certain work and to do it well and faithfully, and it is his duty to be on hand and attend to it, and this fact is usually realized. It is true that he may appoint deputies, and must of necessity do so, in various offices, and while the deputies may be more efficient than the principals, yet it is the officer himself who, because of some supposed fitness for the place, the people have chosen to fill the place, and not others simply selected by him, and as a rule, the people like to deal with and have the personal attention of the officer himself.

The performance of official duties, also, in time, became a sort of routine, monotonous, treadmill labor, and is confining and exacting, and possesses many perplexing features and serious responsibilities. To add to all this, officers are sometimes charged with neglecting duties with which, in fact, they have legally nothing to do, unless their attention is requested to them, and sometimes, while wholly impartial, are charged with favoritism and their motives impugned, without cause. Charges are also made, sometimes, that

officers of the county are dishonest, when there is not a shadow of evidence of the fact. The instances, in this county, of officers charging illegal fees, or taking advantage of their position to practice any little, gainful frauds on the people, have been exceedingly rare, if they have existed at all, and would soon have been discovered. The people are very apt soon to smell out such an officer, and he would not succeed a great while. President Lincoln is credited with the remark, that "such an officer may fool all the people a part of the time, and a part of the people all the time, but he can't fool all the people all the time."

It is a mistaken notion, also, that to hold a county office is a great thing in a financial point of view. As a rule the pay is no more, and often not so much, as would be realized for like work and capacity in other occupations. Then there is always the uncertainty of the tenure of office. If the incumbent could be sure of a long term in office, by frequent re-elections, the holding of a county office might be of more value financially considered. A discharge comes very suddenly and unexpectedly sometimes, and the party never gets a "letter of recommendation," which may help him to get another job.

The fact is that most county officers have gone out of office not much, if any, better off financially, so far as the mere pay of the office was concerned, than they were when they went in, and this is true even of some who received the largest pay, and held office for long periods.

The man who has a permanent, fairly paying, legitimate business, whatever it is, can rarely afford to abandon it for a county office, always of uncertain tenure, for if he is soon relegated to private life again, he must commence business anew. And this matter of anxiety as to re-election, recurring every two or more years, together with the expense and labor incident thereto, must be deemed one also of the disagreeable features of county official life.

The question is sometimes asked why, if there is not a good deal in these county offices, do the incumbents usually desire a re-election? They are always candidates for re-election, and "won't let go until choked off." Well, it may be answered, that in addition to the more agreeable features of holding office above set forth, there is this important reason: As a rule those who accept a county office abandon all other business, because the office usually takes their time and attention, perhaps requires a removal to the county seat, if the person elected resided elsewhere, and when the end of the term comes, unless re-elected, which generally seems a fair prospect, they find themselves out of business, and must enter upon business life again, perhaps under many disadvantages—but here is work they understand, and can do, and hence a re-election seems

the best thing, under the circumstances, and is generally sought, term after term, until, for some reason, the people squelch out these fond aspirations. Officers who are voted out, invariably think the people have made a great mistake, and that there has been some treachery somewhere.

We, however, have never had an officer who went into and out of office, as a certain jolly Irishman said he did.

He had come to America, and after some years' residence here returned on a visit to the old country, and boasted a good deal of his exploits in America. "Well, Moike," inquired an old friend, "did ye iver git into office over thare?" "Indade I did, Dennis," said Moike, "and was mighty poplar too, I wint into a high office by the unanimous consint of the pape, and begorry, I wint out wid that same."

• There is a fact which may be noted here, as an incident to official life not generally known. The county officers holding a somewhat prominent and public position, and having an acquaintance with almost every one, and it may be added, being dependent on the good will of the people for their positions, and thus deemed under special obligations, are called upon constantly for contributions to almost innumerable things, not only local but throughout the county, as the support of the ministry, the building of churches, public enterprises of all kinds, even the making up of the loss of a team, or stock or other property of some unfortunate person; special cases of poverty, in fact charities of all kinds, and the whole finished up with the importunities of book agents, picture sellers and venders of various nostrums, as eye-water, catarrh snuff anti-billious pills, and such useful articles as stove-polish, silver wash, etc., make quite an aggregate, and although these things are all right in themselves, and many of them should be and are liberally contributed to, or purchased, yet this may be named as absorbing quite a percentage of the salaries every year. But we have said this is one of the incidents of official position, and the officer who does not like this or any other feature of office, may resort to that great and inestimable privilege, provided by law and sanctioned by the people, for all suffering public officers—he may resign. We may add to these rambling remarks several further incidents of life in the county offices. It is understood among the officers that when temporary assistance or information is needed by any one in the transaction of the business of his office, it is the duty of some of the others to render the assistance, or advise about the matter, and this is always done freely as a matter of common courtesy. New officers are entitled to all the assistance and instruction they may need as to the performance of the duties of their offices, until they get familiar with, and can perform them themselves.

People visiting the offices on business, or in quest of information, are always treated cordially and courteously, whether they be rich or poor, and of whatever nationality, and every effort is made to attend to their business promptly and correctly. The sentiment has always prevailed in the offices, that when an officer forgets that he is the servant of the people, and grows surly and unaccommodating, he is in eminent danger of what the boys call "the grand bounce." Should officers in America exhibit the insolence and the exacting and self-important ways of officers of like grade in some foreign countries, they would receive from the people, "notice to quit," in a very short time, and properly so.

About election times, which by the way are times when among the officers there is more or less conjecturing and uneasiness, the cry of "court house ring," "county clique" is heard, which means that the county officers are banded together to keep each other in office, or all pull together for the election of some favorite. To this it may be answered with truth, that such a thing as "court house ring" for the purpose above specified, or for any other purpose has never existed in this county. The officers very frequently talk over the elections and with more interest, perhaps, than some other people, and usually differ considerably in their views. Every officer, has, as a rule, "to scull his own boat," and the writer has never known during the period covered by this history, of a combination among them, as that suggested above.

This history of the offices may now be closed by the record of facts, most creditable to the officers concerned, that during the period of this history, during which many officers have come and gone, the county has been served with fair ability and great faithfulness. The work has, in the main been well done, and bids fair to stand all tests of time and inspection. No one has ever been guilty of mis-feasure, or malfeasance in office—there have been no great mistakes prejudicing people's rights or interests. There have been no embezzlements, no defalcations in office, and all this is largely attested in the fact of the frequent reduction of its officers, or in other words, the long terms of service accorded many of them, ranging from six to eighteen and one of twenty years. No other county in the State can boast of so many officers who have held its offices for so many years. May the second quarter of a century of our official history show as good and as honorable a record.

## SECTION FIFTEEN.

## CONCLUSION.

We have now reached the conclusion of the first volume of our history, embracing the first twenty-five years—the settlement epoch—of our county.

Nothing need be said here, of how well or how imperfectly the work of writing the history has been done. The record must speak for itself. The effort has been to writer, at least, an impartial and truthful history. In looking back over the history of our county, and while remembering some things we could wish had not happened, yet we feel much pride and great satisfaction, because of the much good work done, the great progress made and the high standing of our county, all along, from the beginning and at the close of the quarter century. The early settlers found a wilderness and at the close of the first twenty-five years we behold a great community of intelligent, prosperous people, animated by a spirit of progress and improvement, cheerful and confident, and enjoying all the blessings of the highest christian civilization. And this was a good deal to accomplish in so short a time. But many of the earlier settlers and others of the first quarter century have already gone to their long homes. They have gone forever beyond our sight, or companionship on earth, but may we not utter the wish, expressed in the beautiful words—“May the eternal light shine on them, O, Lord forever, for thou art merciful. Grant them O, Lord, eternal rest.” Others of that period, are now nearing their journey’s end, and are now treading down that last declivity of life, which opens into the valley and shadow of death.

When the next quarter century closes, but few of those who were of adult age, whose names are recorded in our census rolls of 1860, in the several towns, will remain on earth. A few, perhaps, may still be here, like belated wayfarers, the friends of their youth departed, the labors of life and its ambitions over, waiting from day to day the final summons to join the great multitude who have passed to another state of existence. And many of the old and honored friends, (would that we could have named more of them), who shared the toils and hardships, the joys and sorrows, the adventures and successes of many years of pioneer life, it is not too much to say, there may remain no record but this history that they ever lived and labored here. And it is the decree of a higher power which men cannot change, that like all the generations that preceded us, so shall we all pass away, and one generation succeed another, until our names and our deeds, the records we have written,

even the memory of the mighty age in which we have lived—the grandest of all the ages—shall grow dim in the remembrance of men, and at last, perhaps, be wholly lost in the night of oblivion. So be it.

To the unknown people who shall come after us, and who in their great advancement in the methods of civil government, the sciences, arts, literature, inventions, discoveries, the mastery of the powers of nature, and, we may add, perhaps, in virtuous and happy living, may look back upon us as a rude, ignorant, semi-barbarous people, we bid a genial, kindly welcome to this fair land. Our day and work are done. Many great things are doubtless in reserve for them. The great industrial, social and other problems which now engage the public mind, and which now seem almost impossible of solution, may all by them be wisely settled. Human labor may be still further lightened by machinery, of which we have now no conception. They will, perhaps, 'ere a quarter of a century more expires, travel over land and sea in aerial palace cars. The now hidden regions of the north and the south poles may be known and oft visited lands. The vast underworld of the oceans, three times greater in extent than all the dry land, the living beings in which far exceed in numbers those of the land—the great water world of which we know very little except of its surface, may yet, by the people of the future, be navigated, explored in sub-marine ships, which shall safely traverse the great valleys and plains and mountain sides, of the great deep, and note the vegetable and forest growths, bring to light the mineral wealth, and study and classify and picture the living creatures of the deep seas, many of them doubtless of such strange forms, of beauty or horror, and of such vast proportions as to be inconceivable to us. Jules Verne's travels under the seas may not always be a fantastic dream. It may be a prophecy.

Agriculture may at sometime in the future be aided in the cultivation of all vegetable life, by the application of electricity, and crops never fail. That same mighty, but still mysterious, power, may propel all machinery and furnish all necessary light and heat, and abolish the use of coal and wood, as fuel; or perhaps, heat for all purposes, may be drawn from the deep bowels of the earth, and be distributed upon its surface, where needed. The same powerful agent—electricity—may help to locate and may become the principal agent, in the curing, of diseases. The application of mesmerism, hypnotism, yet but little understood, and psychological knowledge may abolish the use of drugs, conquer pain, and cure many ailments as well as work other astonishing wonders. Human health may be greatly preserved, and the longevity of the race be vastly increased by agencies of which we now know nothing.

The chemists of the future may furnish delicious and nutritive food in such condensed form, that one may carry a sufficient quantity for a week, a month, or a year, in his pocket. And because of appliances so destructive, which may hereafter be invented, that great multitudes of men and vast amounts of property may be instantly destroyed, wars shall no more occur among men, and perhaps all nations be simply parts of one world-wide confederation, and a supreme tribunal of the world may hear and determine all international difficulties. But beyond all else, perhaps to those of the future of great and cultivated intellectual power, and who lead pure lives and have unquestioned faith in Him, who can do all things, the veil, now impenetrable to us, that divides the physical and spiritual worlds, may for them, be made thinner, transparent, or may possibly, not by pretense, delusion, or jugglery, but in fact, be drawn aside, and they may be able to see and to tell, even in this life, the great mysteries of the life to come, or may be granted a wider, deeper, more certain knowledge and understanding of all things about them, so longed for by the thoughtful student of nature, and of man's mental and spiritual capacities.

To a few, in the ages long past, such visions and such knowledge, were granted by Him who dwelleth in eternal light, and it is written, that in the last times, men shall be as gods, in knowledge. But for us, still groping in darkness, surrounded by mysteries, limited on all sides, while we strive and hope, progressing slowly, we must wait, wait in silence and awe for the fullness of knowledge, which may then be granted, until

"The gates of death are past."

But to those who come after us, we say, do not forget that it was in our day the greatest battles were fought for the preservation of civil and religious liberty and self-government, which blessings come down to us from our fathers, and it will be for those of the future to perpetuate and glorify the great heritage. They should not forget that we leave much of human knowledge and experience and great appliances and our fair and fertile fields, our young cities and busy marts of trade, our works of industry and our great inventions and the cause of education well advanced, and all our other acquirements for their benefit, and which may be what shall render possible that which they may achieve. They will have more means to work with than we had, and it is indeed a goodly inheritance for them.

In conclusion, we may all unite in the grand invocation, "That all things may be so ordered and settled \* \* \* upon the best and surest foundations" "for the safety, honor and

welfare of the people," and "that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us for all generations."

"And now, dear friends, farewell for many a day,  
If 'ere we meet again, I cannot say,  
    Together have we traveled o'er long years,  
    And mingled sometimes smiles and sometimes tears;  
Now droops my weary hand and swells my heart,  
I fear, good friends, we may forever part;  
    Forgive my many faults, and say of me,  
    He hath meant well, that writ this 'history'."

THE END.



# GENERAL INDEX.

This index does not purport to be full or complete, but refers only to a few of the names and events embraced in the volume.

Abbott, S. J. ....	265, 422, 445, 471, 472, 658	Census, see years 1857, 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1879.
Ackerman, A. ....	561	Chapel, John B. ....
Ackerman, D. J. ....	548, 561	Chapel, C. E. ....
Ackley, J. C. ....	51	Chesley, Philip. ....
Agricultural Society, Organization. ....	102	Chicken Shooting. ....
Agricultural Society, subsequent history.		Christle, J. L. ....
See each year.		Child, Jas. E. ....
Alvey, John. ....	516	Child, S. P. 332, 355, 362, 372, 377, 396, 434, 438, 671
Anderson, Anthony. ....	478, 653	Circus. The First. ....
Andrews, R. ....	372, 559	Civil War, The. ....
Assessors, The First. ....	81	Claggett, J. ....
Assessments, The First. ....	92	Clark Township. ....
Auditors, The County. ....	99, 646	Cleveland, G. K. ....
Austin, Horace. ....	106, 630	Comets. ....
Autumn, The. ....	411	Commissioners, The County. ....
		See each year.
Balcom, A. B. ....	434, 675	Conclusion. ....
Bar of Faribault County. ....	336, 471	Conrad, J. E. ....
Barber, C. ....	503	Conrad, Henry and George L. ....
Barber, B. W. ....	280, 870	Constans, H. P. ....
Barber Township. ....	544	Converse, G. S. ....
Barnes, S. T. ....	506, 507	Conventions, Political, The First. ....
Base Ball. ....	247	See each year.
Bee-Keepers' Association. ....	490	Cook, John. ....
Bible Society. ....	87	Court Commissioners. ....
Billings, Levi, Sr. ....	42, 51	County Seat. ....
Blair, Thos. ....	114, 123, 198, 365, 384, 515	County Attorneys. ....
Blackmer, Frank. ....	133	County, The—
Blue Earth City, (village). ....	45, 55, 68, 577	Location and Physical Characteristics,
Blue Earth City Township. ....	573	etc. ....
Bonwell, A. ....		Boundaries and Name. ....
90, 100, 110, 123, 148, 162, 198, 320, 647		First Settler. ....
Bonuses, The First. ....	270	Organization. ....
Botsford, Isaac. ....	133, 146	Officers, The First. ....
Bounties to Soldiers. ....	161, 160, 178	Government. ....
Bowen, T. ....	61	County Surveyors. ....
Branson, Lewis. ....	100, 630	Courts, District, First Term. ....
Brown, L. W. ....	299, 438, 583	See also each year.
Brown, F. P. ....	355, 393, 434, 461, 656	Court, Clerks. ....
Brown, O. D. ....	518	Court House, The First. ....
Brooks, A. ....	61	Coroners, The. ....
Brush Creek Township. ....	565	Crosby, E. ....
Bullis, A. H. ....	396, 468, 519	Cummings, A. ....
Burt, G. C. ....	59	
Burk, J. P. ....	556	Dancing. ....
Burmester, J. H. ....	561, 562	Davy, P. B. ....
Buswell, G. W. ....	270, 396, 414, 438, 471	Davis, A. B. ....
		Dean, J. A. ....
Cady, F. W. ....	198, 239, 648	Dearborn, C. H. ....
Catin, D. ....	393	

- De La Vergne, A. F. .... 250, 366  
 Delavan Township ..... 513  
 Delavan, Village..... 302, 518  
 Depot, The First..... 280  
 Dickinson, D. A. .... 303, 631  
 Dow, Simon..... 55, 67  
 Dunn, Andrew C. ....  
     ..... 5, 58, 66, 67, 82, 177, 422, 471, 640  
 Dunbar, W. F. .... 499  
 Dunbar Township..... 498  
 Dunbar, C. S. .... 335, 409, 414, 456, 563  
 Dunham, W. N. .... 80, 82, 83  
 Dunham, J. H. .... 123, 145, 167  
 Dustia, Wm. .... 145, 177, 651
- Easton, Village..... 363, 385, 311  
 Easton, J. C. .... 512  
 Eclipse..... 284  
 Election, The First ..... 60  
 Election Returns. See each year.  
 Elmore Township..... 604  
 Elmore, A. E. .... 606  
 Emerald Township..... 569  
 Fairs, Annual, The First..... 110  
     See each year.  
 Faribault, J. B. .... 35  
 Faribault, Alex. .... 36  
 Faribault County. See County.  
 Festivals, Soldiers..... 189  
 Financial Crisis. See 1857 and 1873.  
 Fisher, F. (Homicide)..... 51  
 Fishing..... 138, 398  
 Floods, see 1858 and 1867.  
 Foley, T. R. .... 80, 81  
 Foster Township..... 560  
 Foster, R. R., Dr. .... 548, 562
- Game, In Early Days..... 41, 135  
 Garretson, C. .... 55  
 Gillitt, J. B. .... 80, 81, 673  
 Gilman, H. H. .... 434, 438, 448, 453, 530  
 Goodnow, G. H. .... 100, 102, 109, 110, 669  
 Goodrich, D. F. ....  
     ..... 305, 423, 445, 448, 453, 471, 472, 578, 655  
 Gray, B. .... 540  
 Grangers..... 249, 368  
 Graham, S. W. .... 405, 422, 456, 471, 581  
 Grasshopper Invasion, 365, 386, 391, 405, 431, 441  
 Green, M. W. .... 409, 448  
 Grout, L. P. .... 68, 69
- Harvests, see each year.  
 Harlow, F. F. .... 250, 670  
 Healy, O. U. .... 510  
 Hibler, S. V. .... 45, 48, 61, 654  
 Holley, H. W. .... 133, 156, 435, 453, 473, 518  
 Holland, A. .... 553, 554  
 Holidays—  
   New Years Day..... 164  
   St. Valentine's Day..... 182  
   Washington's Birthday..... 229  
   St. Patrick's Day..... 325  
   Good Friday..... 344  
   Easter..... 347  
   May Day..... 363  
   Norwegian Independence..... 380
- Memorial Day..... 400  
 Fourth Day of July..... 423  
 Hallow Eve..... 448  
 Thanksgiving..... 462  
 Christmas..... 484  
 Holmes, Thos. .... 38  
 Homestead Exemption..... 271  
 Home, The..... 275  
 Homestead Taxation..... 232, 253  
 Homicides ..... 51, 61, 171, 311, 370  
 Hunting..... 135  
 Huntington, Carr. .... 587  
 Huntington, H. M. .... 352, 537  
 Huntley Village..... 476, 535  
 Hutchins, E. H. .... 332, 362, 393, 397  
 Hyatt, N. B. .... 145, 640
- Indians..... 30, 77  
 Indian Outbreaks..... 70, 77, 152, 168
- Jackson, J. M. .... 80, 81, 632  
 Jail, The First..... 298  
 Johnson, A. .... 69, 80, 81, 110, 114, 650  
 Johnson, R. B. 215, 250, 289, 332, 372, 461, 469, 652  
 Jo Daviess Township..... 593  
 Judges District Court..... 630  
 Judges Probate Court..... 634  
 July Fourth, First Celebrations..... 90  
 Jurors, First to Serve..... 101  
 Justice of the Peace, The First..... 48
- Kaupp, O. .... 448, 652  
 Kiester, J. A. .... 81, 90, 96, 202, 289, 622  
 Klester Township..... 621  
 Kimball, C. S. .... 461, 675  
 Kingsley, Geo. B. .... 5, 47, 48, 49, 54,  
     80, 81, 82, 83, 123, 385, 472, 473, 481, 581, 632  
 Knapp, W. W. .... 635, 639  
 Kremer, N. J. .... 503, 504  
 Kremer, Peter ..... 504
- Land Office..... 132, 279  
 Latimer, J. A. .... 96, 177, 269, 289, 529  
 Lawsuit, The First..... 73  
 Leavitt, E. S. .... 355, 434, 461, 667  
 Legislation, See Summary each year.  
 Lent, Frank ..... 239, 268, 305, 655  
 Le Sueur, M. .... 9, 575, 576  
 Lincoln, A. .... 205  
 Lura Township..... 509
- Mail, The First U. S. .... 54  
 McCormick, John ..... 510  
 McArthur, Geo. D. .... 96, 162, 473, 609  
 McCrery, J. L. .... 85, 96, 99, 594  
 McClure, G. .... 598  
 Metropolitan, The First Hotel..... 55  
 Minnesota, see Introduction.  
 Minnesota Lake Township..... 502  
 Minnesota Lake, Village of..... 506  
 Minute Men ..... 156, 160, 196  
 More, A. R., Sr. ....  
     ..... 269, 291, 335, 398, 409, 414, 459, 469, 602  
 Moore, Geo. D. .... 416  
 Mound-Builders..... 28

- Neal, H. J. .... 268, 269, 305, 355, 434, 633  
 Nelson, O., (Houga) ..... 512  
 Newspapers ..... 171  
   Blue Earth City News, The First, 1861.. 133  
   Southwest Minnesotan (Blue Earth  
   City), 1862. .... 149  
   Whig of '76 (Winnebago City), 1863. .... 171  
   Blue Earth City Advocate, 1864. .... 185  
   Free Homestead (Winnebago City), 1864 185  
   Minnesota Southwest (Blue Earth City),  
   1866. .... 232  
   Blue Earth City Post, 1869. .... 280  
   Prairie Bugle (Wells), 1869. .... 286  
   Wells Atlas, 1870. .... 293  
   Winnebago City Press, 1870. .... 297  
   Wells Real Estate Advertiser, 1870. .... 311  
   Blue Earth City Mail, 1871. .... 330  
   Winnebago City Advertiser, 1872. .... 343  
   Delavan Bee, 1872. .... 350  
   Faribault County Leader (Wells), 1874.. 391  
   Church Messenger (Wells), 1874. .... 379  
   The Bee (Blue Earth City), 1874. .... 393  
   Vedette (Blue Earth City), 1875. .... 397  
   Wells Gazette, 1875. .... 411  
   Wells Advocate, 1877. .... 440  
   The Sun (Winnebago City), 1879. .... 470  
   Winnebago City Times, 1879. .... 483  
 Nichols, A. R. .... 41, 528  
  
 Pfeffer, S. .... 321, 335, 416, 468, 578  
 Pierce, F. M. .... 393, 396, 530  
 Pilot Grove Township. .... 597  
 Pond, T. G. .... 372, 377, 546  
 Population, see 1857, 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875,  
 1879.  
 Postmaster, The First. .... 54  
 Potter, W. W. .... 375  
 Powell, J. W. .... 58, 366, 536, 537, 584  
 Powers, A. .... 553, 554  
 Pratt, James C. .... 633  
 Pratt, Jno. K. .... 198, 633  
 Pratt, David. .... 617  
 Pratt, M. B. .... 395, 448, 672  
 Prairie Fires ..... 369, 479  
 Prescott Township. .... 539  
 Preston, Amos. .... 123, 162, 177, 215, 393, 397, 636  
 Prior, Jas. .... 565  
 Probate Court and Judges. .... 634  
  
 Quotas—Credits ..... 182, 212  
  
 Railroad, The First Bonuses. .... 270  
 Railroad, The First in the County. .... 292  
 Railroad, Grand Opening (1879) ..... 482  
 Register of Deeds. .... 653  
 Religious Services, The First. .... 56  
 Reynolds, B. G. .... 433, 472  
 Richards, E. W. .... 335, 434, 461, 660  
 Robertson, W. J. C. .... 85, 177, 635  
 Roberts, Henry. .... 41, 528  
 Rome Township. .... 612  
 Rose, A. J. .... 250, 289, 372, 674  
 Rose, C. A. .... 377, 438  
 Roster, Grand of Soldiers. .... 217  
  
 Sailor, Moses. .... 5, 37, 48, 60, 65, 80, 81  
 School Lands. .... 199  
 School Superintendents. .... 657  
 Scott, W. M. .... 42, 60, 65, 438  
 Settlers, The First, see Township His-  
 tories.  
 Severance, M. J. .... 631  
 Seely, P. C. .... 145, 617  
 Seely Township. .... 616  
 Sheriffs, The. .... 667  
 Shirk, J. E. .... 616  
 Shillock, D. G. .... 162, 198  
 Shultis, Allen. .... 69, 81, 110, 409, 609  
 Sisson, J. R. .... 239, 268, 434, 668  
 Blocum, C. H. .... 379, 406, 445, 456, 459, 536  
 Society, Old Settlers. .... 479  
 Spencer Spier. .... 45, 47  
 Sprout, J. H. .... 250, 289, 332, 372, 472, 578, 641  
 Spring, The. .... 115  
 Squires, F. A. .... 376  
 Summer, The. .... 328  
 Statistics, see years 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1879  
 Stoddard, H. T. .... 5, 42, 48, 81  
 Sunday. .... 315  
 Sunday School Association. .... 294  
 Supervisors, The Town. .... 496  
  
 Taylor, A. L. .... 500  
 Temperance Society, The First. .... 120  
 Temperance Union, W. C. .... 474  
 Temple, Frank W., 376, 393, 397, 414, 437, 541, 583  
 Thompson, C. W. .... 306, 322, 453, 553, 556  
 Trapping. .... 135  
 Treasurers, The County. .... 649  
  
 Voting. .... 308  
 Verona Township. .... 532  
  
 Waite, F. W. .... 384, 630  
 Wakefield James B. ....  
   5, 45, 48, 60, 65, 80, 81, 82, 123, 132, 215, 239,  
   268, 279, 408, 414, 438, 448, 453, 469, 472, 578  
 Walker, H. R. .... 42, 53, 223, 392, 481  
 Walnut Lake Township. .... 547  
 Way, W. A. .... 110, 177, 239, 674  
 Weddings, The First. .... 81  
 Weir, G. A. .... 305, 393, 666  
 Weir, J. L. .... 96, 640  
 Welch, J. H. .... 114, 123, 664  
 Wells, Village. .... 555  
 West, J. P. .... 372, 377, 385,  
   393, 396, 409, 414, 438, 448, 453, 461, 469, 472  
 Whallon, G. W. .... 305, 322, 332  
 White, W. W. .... 268, 305, 355, 393, 434, 461, 550, 648  
 Wilson, C. W. .... 42, 60, 65, 80, 81, 92, 604  
 Wilkinson, M. S., 268, 445, 456, 472, 478, 559, 642  
 Williams, W. W. .... 280, 379  
 Winnebago Indians. .... 523  
 Winnebago City. .... 58, 67, 523  
 Winnebago City Township. .... 522  
 Winter, The. .... 466  
 Woesner, Andrew. .... 545  
 Wroolls, T. S. .... 461, 469  
  
 Young, E. C. .... 51  
 Young, H. P. .... 409















