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GEOGRAPHICAL  
AND  
STATISTICAL HISTORY

OF

Steele County

FROM ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO THE  
PRESENT TIME.

Embracing Leading Incidents of Pioneer Life, Names  
of Early Settlers, Nature of Soil, Advantages to  
Settlers, &c., &c.

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BY W. H. MITCHELL.

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MINNEAPOLIS:  
TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY.  
1868.

RAILROAD

EATING HOUSE

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C. T. McNAMARA, Proprietor,

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OWATONNA, - - MINNESOTA.

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This house is located at the junction of the Milwaukee, St. Paul & Minneapolis, and Winona & St. Peter Railroads, and the trains on both roads stop half an hour in going each way. The house is supplied with all the conveniences for the accommodation of guests.

*Tables Supplied with the Best the Market Affords.*



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## PREFACE.

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An *entirely* correct history of any country or of any train of events, would be "something new under the sun," as the memory of men differ according to the different stand points from which they view the events as they occur. And we have not the vanity to suppose that the following sketch of Steele county will be that rare thing in literature—a *perfect* history. Yet we have endeavored to gather from the mass of events that cluster around the first settlement such items as would be of interest, to treasure up for future reference. We have taken great pains to glean all the important incidents of pioneer life within the boundaries of the county, and to chronicle them in such manner as may be most useful and entertaining for the future enquirers after the *first* things of this new country. Yet we cannot but apprehend that there are many matters of interest that we have failed to produce, as we have been unable to see *all* the early settlers in person, and consequently *many* items may have been left ungathered.

The events we have here chronicled may seem of little or no importance to the present actors, but having been rescued from the deep pool of forgetfulness, we believe that in future years they will not be looked upon as wholly insignificant. We have endeavored to give a truthful representation of the present and prospective conditions of the country, and to faithfully record such incidents of pioneer civilization as we have been able to gather from the actors themselves.

We have visited most of the towns in person, and obtained as far as possible, the kind and amount of business carried on in each. Those towns we have not visited we have employed others to visit, who were acquainted with the locations, and from them learned the incidents recorded in these pages. We take this occasion to express our thanks to the many kind friends who have taken such interest in the success of this little volume, as to furnish us with items of information in regard to their respective localities.

## INTRODUCTION.

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In the early days of American civilization, when the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock, each and every event of actual life was treasured up in the memory of the actors, and by them handed down to succeeding generations, till the record of them at the present time seems like the rehearsal of some ancient tradition. History has not gathered the most minute and interesting portions of the soul-stirring incidents of that period. Printing Presses were things heard of in those new colonies, but whose advantages were not enjoyed, and newspapers were never seen save now and then when some good ship from the mother country brought the precious bundle of news from some kind friend across the sea. The art of printing had not arrived at that perfection that marks it at the present day, and no offices made their appearance in America for a long time thereafter. As a consequence the adventures and incidents of those times are still unrescued from the obivion of the past, many of which would be of deep and thrilling interest could they be accurately rehearsed to the present generation.

Of no less interest are the occurrences of pioneer life in the west; the adventures among savage hordes, and the trials and hardships and many privations incident to pioneer life, than those which marked the footsteps of civilization on the eastern shores of the American continent. And the advantages of the present day enable the faithful worker to gather them together and wrap them in a bun

able that shall be indisputable evidence of their identity and correctness.

The broad and mighty river, on whose bosom float ships and palatial steamers, burdened with active life and the wealth of nations, flows downward from some mountain spring in which it takes its source, and only by the aid of many another rivulet and stream does it become the river. The towering oak owes its origin to the tiny and insignificant acorn that ages before was trampled in the earth; and great and powerful nations spring from small beginnings and first settlements. Could we but trace their growth, step by step, with each of the leading incidents presented as they occurred, the wealth of a nation would not be sufficient to tell the value of the records.

To remedy as far as possible these disadvantages of the pioneers of the western continent in the past century, and group together the incidents of the opening up and development of civilization in the west, we have labored to collect such as we deemed of most interest to the future dwellers in this beautiful and fruitful country, which we present to those who may deem them worthy of their perusal, as our contribution to the HISTORY OF STEELE COUNTY.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MINNESOTA.

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Minnesota, the land of "sky-tinted waters," is one of the youngest in the sisterhood of States; the thirty-second daughter of the hale matron Columbia, who was received at the baptismal font on the eleventh day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight. Immediately after her confirmation, she shook hands with her elder sisters, and, like the fabled Minerva, who leaped from the brain of Jupiter, clad in mail, she stepped forth proud of her wealth and beauty, and in full consciousness of her power, has brought each year thousands of pilgrims to her feet, to bask in her smiles and grow rich upon her bounties.

Entering at once upon the duties of providing for her household and her guests, her laborers turned up the sod of the prairie, and scattered seed upon the bosom of the earth, and the generous soil in return gave back bountiful harvests, which filled the granaries of the farmers to overflowing, and furnished an abundance of sweet prairie hay for his horses, oxen and cows, and from a wild and unbroken wilderness, traversed only by savage hordes of Indians, the country became the home of the white man, and teemed with arts and civilization, and growing richer and more beautiful, year by year, till she has outstripped many of her older sisters who were the first born of their mother; and her green and pleasant prairies are so running over with the elements of wealth and material prosperity, that they only need to be tickled by the hand of the husband-

man to smile in gladness and proclaim to the world the fullness of their fatness.

Located midway between the two great oceans of the world, the Atlantic on the east and the Pacific on the west, Hudson's Bay on the north and the Gulf of Mexico on the south, its geographical position is the finest on the continent. Here all the products of agriculture attain their most perfect development, and the farmer receives the largest return for the labor bestowed. Bounded as it is on the north by Arctic frosts and ice glaciers, and on the south by arid sandy plains, its mean temperature is such as cannot fail to be productive, both of the fruits of the earth and of the elements of life to the physical system.

In the northern part of Minnesota is a high table land, rising several thousand feet above the level of the sea, and here issues from a cleft rock, a tiny stream, that flows along among the mosses till it meets with other streams, and together they find their way into and supply the waters of a little lake, from whence issues the Mississippi river. One could hardly imagine it to be so, as there it is but an insignificant stream; but as it winds its way along towards the tropics, other streams without number pay tribute, and it grows broader and broader till it becomes, in truth, the patriarch of the rivers, and like Pharaoh's lean kine, swallows up all which pay it tribute, and the mighty Mississippi is the channel through which all the waters of the north-west find their way to the Gulf of Mexico.

A short distance to the eastward the same process is enacted over again, and the rivers empty their waters into Lake Superior, from which they take their way, flowing through the chain of the great lakes, and leaving Lake Ontario, the noble St. Lawrence rolls on eastward to the Atlantic ocean.

To the west of Lake Itasca rises the Red River of the



North, receiving the waters of all that section of the country and discharging them into the Northern ocean. Does it occur to you then, that Minnesota is the summit of the American continent? the water-shed of all this vast territory which is so rapidly becoming developed and will soon acknowledge one government all over the continent of North America.

In 1860, Hon. W. H. Seward delivered a speech in St. Paul, in which he referred to this fact as follows: "Here spring up, nearly side by side, so that they may almost kiss each other, the two great rivers of the continent," the Mississippi and the St. Lawrence, as it were, within a stone's throw of each other, yet running in opposite directions—the one from its source across a mighty continent to the eastward, half way to Europe; the other towards the tropics, bearing the products of our Northern climes to the Gulf of Mexico, and bringing in return the gathered cotton of southern plantations to feed the factories of the Upper Mississippi.

Minnesota is likewise a State of truly magnificent proportions; extending from  $43^{\circ} 30'$  to  $49^{\circ}$  north latitude, and from  $91^{\circ}$  to  $97^{\circ} 5'$  west longitude, making it one of the largest States in the Union. It has an area of 84,000 square miles; or to bring it to acres, the sum total of 54,000,000 of acres, nearly equal to the combined area of those old and populous states of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

New England might be placed in Minnesota, and then leave room for a game of national base ball on each of the four corners. When looking over the vast territory of the west we do not wonder at the reply the Yankee gave John Bull, in response to the assertion that England was a mightier country than America, "Sho!" replied Jonathan, "you might roll England through the United States and never make a dent in the ground." The only avenue of

commercial intercourse between the east and west coasts is through Minnesota, and consequently the only practicable route for a northern Pacific railway. Lying across this commercial isthmus, it is the only outlet of the vast arable area to the north and west of us, to the eastern and south-states, and is emphatically the gateway between the eastern and western continents.

From its commanding physical position, it holds the key of the outlet of all this vast commercial and productive interest on the northwestern portion of the continent. Mr. Seward, in the speech referred to, says: "Here is the place, the central place, where the richest agricultural region of North America must pour out its tribute to the whole world. On the east, all along the shores of Lake Superior, and west stretching in one broad plain in a belt quite across the continent, is a country where State after State is yet to arise, and where the productions for the support of the old crowded States must be brought forth." And at no distant day those districts, large and fertile as they are, shall swarm with the industry and enterprise that founds empires, and pour their wealth into the lap of Minnesota, giving her material prosperity and significance second to no state in the Union, and no country of equal extent in the world. In the same speech Mr. Seward prophesies a brilliant political destiny for Minnesota, and says: "I now believe that the ultimate last seat of government on this great continent will be founded somewhere within a circle or radius not very far from the spot on which I stand, at the head of navigation on the Mississippi river." Such is the opinion of the far-seeing and clear-headed statesman, Wm. H. Seward; and if his prophetic eye saw the future as it is to be, glorious, indeed, among the sisterhood of States, is to be her destiny; and happy, yea! thrice blessed are those who obtain a heritage within her borders, in the early years of her existence.

## AGRICULTURAL CAPACITIES.

The Agricultural capacities of Minnesota are not surpassed by any State in the Union. Long ages of growth and decay of vegetable matter on the wide spread prairies of Minnesota, make up the organic ingredients of a soil abounding in all the most productive elements, the prevailing feature of which is a dark calcareous, sandy loam, with a strong admixture of clay. The silica which constitutes a chief part of the sand, is one of the most important features in the soil for the production of the cereals, and is what makes Minnesota stand pre-eminent as a wheat-growing State. The soil is of that soft, spongy condition, so much sought after by experienced farmers, and only obtained in other soils by expensive underdraining. In order to give a fair showing of the natural productiveness of the soil without manuring or other fertilizing agents, we subjoin the following table, showing the staple agricultural products of the State, and about the average yield per acre :

Crops.	No. of bushels per acre.	Crops.	No. of bushels per acre.
Wheat .....	23.05	Sweet potatoes.....	150.00
Rye.....	21.56	Beans.....	15.00
Barley.....	33.23	Hemp lint (lbs.).....	1.140.00
Oats.....	42.39	Flax lint " .....	750.00
Buckwheat.....	20.00	Sorghum (gals. syrup)	100.00
Corn.....	35.67	Hay (tons).....	2.12
Potatoes.....	208.00		

This table was compiled from the census reports of 1860, and gives the *average* yield for that year, and though the yield has been larger some years since, it has also been smaller other years, and taking the average of years it is, perhaps, a very correct estimate. Yet with proper cultivation, and having the land well fertilized in addition to being well cultivated, it might be made to produce a much larger crop. Under favorable circumstances wheat is produced at the rate of as high as thirty-five bushels to the

acre. In 1865 there was harvested from a field of four hundred acres, 10,000 bushels of wheat, being at the rate of twenty-five bushels to the acre, and many other fields were in proportion. Yet this was not considered as anything wonderful for Minnesota, nor was that year's crop considered as extraordinary. Wheat is considered the great staple of Minnesota, and has thus far been comparatively exempt from the various dangers to which it has been exposed in other localities—such as rust, smut, insects, &c. This is really a fortunate circumstance for this State, as the country is yet new, and with such a rapidly increasing population, it must necessarily draw more heavily on the productive qualities of the soil than in older settled localities with a less changing population. Thus far in the agricultural experience of the farmers of Minnesota the wheat crop has been considered a safe and sure one, and the farmer commits his seed to the earth with a feeling of almost certainty that he will reap a rich harvest of from twenty to thirty fold in return. There is probably no State in the Union where wheat is as safe and sure crop as in Minnesota, and not only is it a sure crop, but it averages a larger number of bushels per acre than the best of them. In 1850, the four States producing the largest average yield, were Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas and Florida; this did not exceed 15 bushels, while the other States averaged only from 5 to 12. The largest known yield of other States, as compared with the average of Minnesota, is as follows:

	Year.	Bu. per acre.		Year.	Bu. per acre
Minnesota.....	1860	22.5	Michigan.....	1848	19
Ohio.....	1850	17.3	Mass.....	1849	16

While we claim for Minnesota a pre-eminence as a wheat growing State, we must as frankly admit that it is inferior to other sections in milder climates for raising corn. Yet the second report of the Commissioner of Statistics claims that Minnesota is inferior to none of the States as a corn producing region.

Other grains grow with luxuriance and are generally a sure crop. Barley flourishes well on the same soil that produces wheat, as the principal ingredients that compose one enter into the other. Rye and buckwheat are generally considered a sure crop, yet very few farmers pay much attention to their cultivation. The average yield of these grains for the years 1860 and 1862 was as follows :

	1860.		1862.
Rye.....	21.56	bushels	24.00 bushels.
Barley.....	33.23	"	34.00 "
Buckwheat.....	15.73	"	26.00 "

Potatoes, in this climate, attain their highest excellence, and in flavor and rich farinaceous qualities are superior to those of almost any other section, especially those regions that are exposed to the rays of a scorching and forcing sun, in more southern latitudes, where all tubers are brought to fructification before they have had time to attain to their proper size, or receive the essential qualities proper for nourishment. Already are the Minnesota potatoes becoming a considerable article of export to the States in the Mississippi valley, where they are held in much esteem as a table delicacy. Garden vegetables are produced in great abundance and well repay the labor bestowed upon them.

#### FRUIT RAISING

has heretofore been considered as an experiment of very doubtful success, but the experiments of the past few years have decided in favor of fruit growing in Minnesota, and now the fact is well established that the hardier kinds of fruit can be cultivated with success. When we consider that many forms of wild fruit are indigenous to the soil, and are produced in great abundance in their wild state, it is not a great stretch of the imagination to see cultivated fruit upon our tables which are the products of our own farms and gardens. The country being yet in such an undeveloped state, and farmers generally turning all their at-

tention to wheat raising, the advantages of fruit raising are not as generally known and appreciated as they will be when the country becomes older and its resources more thoroughly developed. There is no natural reason to suppose that fruit, such as apples, crab apples, plums, grapes, currants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, cherries and the like, cannot be raised in as great abundance and possessing as delicate a flavor, here in Minnesota, especially in the southern portion, as in Wisconsin, Canada and New England in the same latitude, or even farther north. We have no idea that fruits indigenous only to tropical climates will be produced here otherwise than in hot houses; but we can conceive no reason why the hardier fruits and those produced in this latitude in any country should not be produced with equal success in Minnesota.

**THE HEALTHFULNESS OF THE CLIMATE** of Minnesota has long been a subject of comment and admiration, not only to the citizens of Minnesota but to the occasional visitor, the pleasure seeker, and the thousands of invalids who annually seek within her borders the health that has been denied them in less favored localities. The entire exemption of malaria and its attendant diseases, such as chills and fever, and all the train of bilious fevers, is an argument strongly in favor of the healthfulness of this climate; as a large proportion of the diseases which affect mankind are produced by the poisonous exhalations from the earth, and these are effectually destroyed by the low temperature of our winters that continue for a period of four months. But we do not propose to go into a scientific analysis of the atmosphere of Minnesota, though such an analysis would speak whole volumes in favor of the State, yet our limited space will only allow a mention of the fact which is supported by indubitable testimony that the climate of Minnesota is one of the healthiest in the world.

It is sustained by the testimony of thousands who have received benefits from its bracing and invigorating atmosphere, and recovered from diseases that had baffled the skill of the best physicians in other States, as well as by all the residents of the State for the past twenty years. The tables of mortality, when compared with those of other States, show a heavy balance in favor of Minnesota. As a beneficial resort for invalids it is probably not excelled by any in the Union, or any country on the globe. It used to be customary for physicians to recommend consumptive patients to go south; to some warmer climate—to Cuba, Florida, or some of the islands of the sea, but finding these changes attended with but poor success, they have changed their tactics, and now almost universally recommend a visit to Minnesota, which is generally attended with the most satisfactory results. As a

#### RESORT FOR PLEASURE SEEKERS

we also claim a pre-eminence for Minnesota. Its scenery has attracted the marked attention of the most eminent tourists, poets and painters. Its noble rivers, brilliant lakes and sparkling rivulets have been immortalized in song, and transferred to canvass have found a place among the gems of art of the great masters in the galleries of the Old World.

The tourist who seeks relaxation from the cares and perplexities of business, and a retreat from the hot pavements, dusty streets and din and noise of the city, can find here that repose that recuperates the physical, and invigorates and restores the material capacities to such a wonderful extent as makes it almost seem the most favored locality in the world.

"If thou would'st find a favored land,  
By Nature's chosen bounties blest—  
A fertile soil, a climate bland,  
Seek thor the regions of the West.  
Here is the farmer's paradise,

Rich harvests come with little care,  
While spreading rivers brimming rise,  
And to their marts these presents bear."

Not least, by any means, among the natural advantages of Minnesota, do we reckon its

#### MANUFACTURING FACILITIES,

which it possesses in a degree not excelled by the most favored locality of the known world. The immense water power of the Mississippi river at the Falls of St. Anthony is equal in extent to that of the whole water power of England and Scotland, and is said by experienced and competent engineers to be equal to 120,000 horse power. We give the following extract from the second report of the Commissioner of Statistics, showing somewhat the extent and capacity of this power alone :

"The available power created by this magnificent waterfall, is more than sufficient to drive all the 25,000,000 spindles and 4,000 mills of England and Scotland combined. The entire machinery of the English Manchester and the American Lowell, if they could be transplanted here, would scarcely press upon its immense hydraulic capabilities. But as compared with those great industrial centres, the Falls of St. Anthony possess one decisive advantage, which is to a great extent illustrative of the functions of the State as a commercial and manufacturing emporium, this splendid cataract forms the terminus of continuous navigation on the Mississippi; and the same waters which lavish on the broken ledges of limestone a strength almost sufficient to weave the garments of the world, may gather the products of its mills almost at their very doors, and distribute them to every part of the great valley of the Mississippi."

The falls of the St. Louis river, twenty-five miles from where it empties into Lake Superior are only second, and scarcely inferior to the Falls of St. Anthony in power and future availability. Situated as they are in the direct route



of the Superior Railroad from St. Paul, it cannot be long before they will be made to perform their share of the labor of the enterprising and go-ahead operatives of Minnesota. The St. Croix Falls are similarly, though somewhat less advantageously situated on one of the largest tributaries of the Upper Mississippi river. Besides these three great powers there are innumerable smaller rivers and streams, affording sufficient power to operate mills and factories, scattered all over the State. This is not really to be wondered at when we consider the fact which we at first mentioned, that Minnesota is the highest land on the continent of America, and from her prominent position very naturally overlooks all her sister States and the infant territories.

Not the least of the advantages possessed by Minnesota is the great facilities she possesses for sending her products to market. The richness of her soil and the blandness of her climate, and her immense water power would be comparatively valueless in a commercial point of view, were she not connected with the great commercial emporiums of the world by accessible and easy channels of trade. Lake Superior on the north; the great Pacific railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific; and the broad Mississippi sweeping downward to the Gulf of Mexico, bearing our exports of the products of the earth, and lumber from our forests, and in return bringing cotton to supply our factories, and the railroads to eastern cities, afford commercial facilities seldom if ever equalled.

## THE RAILROAD SYSTEM OF MINNESOTA

is extensive for any State in so early a stage of its existence. Congress made a grant to Minnesota, in 1857, of four and a half millions of acres of land, to aid in the construction of railroads; and in 1864 still another grant was made. By these grants ten sections, or 6,400 acres of land was given

for each ten miles of road constructed and put in operation, and projected under the provisions of these grants, which projected roads were designed to benefit all parts of the State. We give below a synopsis of the different land grant roads in this State :

### ST. PAUL & PACIFIC RAILROAD

extends from Stillwater, on the St. Croix river, via St. Paul and St. Anthony, to the western boundary of the State, to a point at or near Big Stone Lake. This line runs nearly through the centre of the State from the eastern to the western boundary, about 220 miles. The road is now in operation from St. Paul to Wayzata, a point about fifteen miles west of Minneapolis, and twenty-five miles from St. Paul. A branch line of this road is in operation from St. Paul, via St. Anthony and Minneapolis to St. Cloud, a distance of seventy-six miles. A line is also laid out from some point between St. Cloud and Crow Wing, on the above road, to Lake Superior, a distance of about 120 miles.

### THE MINNESOTA VALLEY RAILROAD

is a line of road from St. Paul, up the valley of the Minnesota river to Mankato, thence in a southwesterly direction to the Iowa state line, to make connections at this point with a railroad from Sioux City, the terminus of the northwestern branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. The road is completed and in operation from St. Paul to Le Sueur, a distance of about 60 miles, and will probably be finished to Mankato the present season.

### THE WINONA & ST. PETER RAILROAD

extends from Winona on the Mississippi river to the western boundary of the State, a distance of about 250 miles, and running through one of the most fertile regions of the

far-famed Minnesota. The line is completed and in operation to Waseca, 105 miles from Winona, and will probably be completed to the Minnesota river early the present summer. This road runs through a country boasting of as fine scenery as one will find in a day's travel. Ascending from the lovely basin or valley where rests the beautiful city of Winona, by an inclined track placed on trestle-work, sometimes ninety or a hundred feet above the level of the ground; then winding around the edge of a bluff, with overhanging cliffs on one hand and a yawning chasm a hundred feet below on the other; again plunging through "deep cuts," whose precipitous rocks on either side exclude the rays of the sun, when all at once the iron horse, puffing and blowing, emerges into the glorious sunlight, and rocky gorge and defile and pleasant valley are all left behind, and a scene of unrivalled magnificence and splendor lies spread out to the gaze of the enraptured beholder. Miles on miles away in the distance, in either direction, extend the broad and fertile prairies, and as far as the eye can reach, covered with fields of wheat. And here and there, dotted over the prairie, the farmhouses of the pioneers nestled among the growing wheat and corn; while to the westward are thriving villages and bustling cities, filled with commerce and the busy hum of industry and active life.

**THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA RAILROAD** is in operation as far as Rushford, in Fillmore county, about thirty miles from La Crescent, its point of starting. The line of the projected road extends from La Crescent through the southern tier of counties in Minnesota to the western boundary of the State. Its length is somewhat over 250 miles, extending as it does through the entire State. The

**HASTINGS & DAKOTA RAILROAD**

is a projected line from Hastings through the counties of

Dakota, Scott, Carver, and McLeod, to such point on the western boundary of the State as the legislature may determine. The road is in the hands of an active company, and the work will be prosecuted the present year, though there is none of the road in operation.

### THE LAKE SUPERIOR & MISS. R. R.

is a line extending from St. Paul, on the Mississippi river, to the head of Lake Superior, with authority to connect with a branch to Superior City, Wisconsin. The head of Lake Superior is a distance of 150 miles from St. Paul, though the distance is only 133 miles to the navigable waters of the lake. The work is in active progress and some fifty miles are already fitted for the ties and laying of the track, and will no doubt be supplied with rolling stock and fully equipped the present year.

### THE MILWAUKEE, ST. PAUL & MINN. R. R.

commences both at Minneapolis and St. Paul, with a junction at Mendota, and runs through the towns of Farmington, Northfield, Faribault, Owatonna, Austin, &c. to the Iowa line, then through Iowa to McGregor, and through Wisconsin to Milwaukee. It is made up of the Minnesota Central in Minnesota, McGregor Western in Iowa, and the Milwaukee & Prairie du Chien in Wisconsin, all of which are consolidated and operated by one company under the name of the Milwaukee, St. Paul & Minneapolis Railway. This is at present the only all rail route to the east from any part of Minnesota, and is a very popular line of travel. This company operates 215 miles of road. The passenger cars and rolling stock are of the most approved styles in use, and we can feel proud that we have so fine a railway under the control of such gentlemanly and efficient management.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE STATE.

Though comparatively in her infancy Minnesota has taken long strides in the right direction, in the educational department, and will even at this early stage of her existence, compare favorably with many of the older States. Possessing as she does the most munificent endowment for educational purposes of any State in the Union; two sections of land to each township in the State are set apart, either for sale or lease, to aid in sustaining common schools—1280 acres to each township in the whole State, amounting in the aggregate to over two and a half millions of acres. We give below a few figures in relation to this department, which we gather from the last annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

Number of districts in the State in 1867.....	2,207
“ children between 5 and 25.....	114,421
“ teachers employed in 1867.....	2,685
Amount of money paid teachers.....	\$254,936 76
Number of school houses in the State.....	1,406
Amount received from State school fund .....	\$167,863,50
“ expended for school purposes.....	\$736,532,67
“ remaining in district treasuries.....	\$50,556,09

For a State that has been known as a State less than ten years, and has had hardly a recognizable white population for twenty years, we think that the expenditure of three fourths of a million of dollars per year for school purposes alone, indicates a high standard in the educational department. The State University, located at St. Anthony, is a fine stone edifice, capable of accommodating a large number of pupils; is ably conducted and in a flourishing condition, affording all the facilities for a first-class education.

Private enterprise has also located many excellent schools, both classical and commercial, which add greatly to the educational facilities of the State. A Normal school is already in operation at Winona, and it is anticipated

that another will be opened at Mankato the present season. A grant of 120,000 acres of land has been made to the State for the establishment and endowment of an agricultural college, which will probably soon be opened in connection with the State University.

An institution for the education of the deaf, dumb and blind is in very successful operation at Faribault, and is fully meeting the wants of those for whom the State has made this very liberal provision. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in his last report says: "No civil institution more unmistakably exhibits the Christian character of our civilization than this, which seeks to let the light of knowledge into the minds of such as never failed to touch the sympathy, or receive the healing word of the great Worker of Miracles.

At St. Peter is the asylum for the insane, one of the noble and benevolent institutions of the age, and one that adds to the testimony that Minnesota is not behind any of her sister States, according to her age, in providing for the helpless and unfortunate of her citizens.

### THE SOCIAL STATUS

of Minnesota is of course, an object of interest to all who may wish to locate in or even visit the State, and we can safely say that in point of education, refinement and morals, is scarcely inferior to that of the most refined and intelligent New England communities. Some localities have a large foreign population, and in others the population is nearly all of New England origin, and we may safely challenge New England or any other portion of the world, to produce a more healthy and industrious class of people than can be found in Minnesota. Everybody works, either with head or hands. The climate is so invigorating and exhilarating that all must have exercise in order to give

vent to that spirit of western enterprise that is sure to pervade all, even before they are aware of it.

The population is increasing so rapidly that it is almost useless to try to keep any track of it. A census would have to be taken as often as once in six months in order to form even an approximate of the population. Yet with all this increase, year by year and month by month, there will be land enough for all for many years to come.

Then come along, come along, don't be alarmed,  
For Minnesota's broad enough for each to have a farm.

The very wise and benevolent action of Congress, as expressed in the passage of

### THE HOMESTEAD BILL,

has done much to help in the development of the rich agricultural lands of Minnesota, as well as provide homes for many poor men who could ill afford the means to pay for the land that through this beneficence he is allowed to cultivate, and in time call his own, allowing all his means and labor to support his family and improve his farm. Nearly 40,000,000 acres of land are yet open to settlement by this class of settlers, should they choose to avail themselves of the privilege. According to this law each settler who shall occupy land for five years shall be entitled to a patent of 160 acres by paying the sum of \$10 and the fees of the land office; and further provides that no land acquired under this law shall be liable for any debt contracted prior to the issuance of the patent therefor. In view of all these advantages offered to settlers, it is not strange that thousands of emigrants from the old countries and the crowded cities of the east are annually seeking homes in Minnesota, and that the land is being rapidly taken up and converted from a wild and unbroken wilderness to fruitful fields and blooming gardens. The State is well watered by numerous rivers and beautiful lakes, that swarm with the best of

fish, which renders this region almost a sportsman's paradise. The demand for labor is always great notwithstanding the great influx of people from all parts of the globe, and the over-worked and poorly fed laborers of the eastern cities will find that here they can procure much more pay for less work, as a general thing, than they can there.

The vast pine forests in the northern part of the State afford an extensive field for winter labor, while the mills, factories and farms offer the best of wages in the summer season. The various railroads that are being put in operation also give employment to thousands of men, as well as other branches of industry. None should stay away for fear of a lack of employment, for when there is no work to be done in Minnesota there will be a general stagnation everywhere.



## STEELE COUNTY.

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The transformation of this section of country from the past wildness of an uninhabited prairie and timber land to its present condition of cultivated and fruitful fields, and the home of industry, wealth and refinement, has not been accomplished by any work of enchantment, though the rapidity of the change suggests to the dull plodders of the east the effects of a fairy's wand, or that of some powerful magi, performed while people slept. Yet it is only the product of human muscle and energy, working out the problem of western life and the progressive spirit of the age; the result of resistless and determined conflict with necessity and privation; where persevering industry has, single-handed and alone, fed the hungry, sheltered the houseless and clothed the naked; built roads and bridges; established schools and churches; built up towns and cities, and welded the markets of the east and west together by bands of iron; has brought the trained lightning along the electric wire to talk with us at our own doors; has opened up a highway of commerce with the markets of the world, and given to labor and its results the legitimate claim to wealth and aristocracy of position.

Steele County lies somewhat centrally in Southern Minnesota, with Rice county on the north, Dodge county on the east, on the south is Freeborn county, and Waseca on the west. Its present boundaries comprise only twelve townships, according to government survey, being three in width from east to west and four from north to south. Yet

there are thirteen towns as organized, as the central township of the northern tier is divided into the towns of Medford and Clinton Falls, each containing only eighteen sections of land instead of thirty-six. The surface is somewhat diversified with timber lands, openings, prairie and marshes. The timber and openings predominate, covering nearly or quite two-thirds of the county. The heaviest body of timber is found in the northern part on the eastern side of the Straight river, which flows through the entire length of the county from south to north, affording several fine water powers in its course. The towns of Medford, Clinton Falls, Owatonna and Deerfield are perhaps the most bountifully supplied with the heavy timber, while oak openings prevail more in the other towns. Crane creek runs through the towns of Meriden, Deerfield, Clinton Falls and Medford, emptying into the Straight river at the village of Medford. Maple Creek rises in Rice Lake, in the eastern part of the town of Dover, and runs in a westerly direction, and empties into the Straight river at Owatonna. Various other small streams help to make up the Straight river, and contribute to proper watering of the country. Hay marshes abound more or less in all parts of the county, except the timber lands, affording special advantages for procuring hay for stock. The county is well watered. The soil is somewhat varied, in some parts being composed of deep, black loam with clay subsoil, while in other parts it is a lighter loam with an under strata of gravel, and yet other portions a sandy loam for a considerable depth. Yet in all its varieties it is very generous in its supply of the productions of the earth, whose seeds are committed to its care, returning sometimes ten, sometimes fifty and sometimes an hundred fold. The year 1867, though considered by all as one of the poorest seasons ever known in Minnesota, marked the products of the soil in Steele county as follows :

Wheat, average yield per acre	15½ bushels.
Oats, " " "	34 "
Corn, " " "	38 "
Potatoes, " " "	110 "

### ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

Steele county was organized on the 1st of August, 1855, and divided into three election precincts, called Owatonna, Le Sueur and Swavesey precincts, and the county-seat located at Owatonna. Medford precinct was added to the trio at an extra session of the county commissioners, held on the 25th of the same month. The county officers for this year were all appointed by the county commissioners, who were themselves appointed by the Governor. The first meeting of the commissioners was held at the residence of A. B. Cornell, who was one of the commissioners, on the 1st day of August, 1855, the day of the organization of the county.

Owatonna Precinct was made up of the following territory: Townships 105, 106, 107, 108, north of range 20 and 21 east. Dexter Carlton, Obed Gaines and Leonard F. Case were appointed judges of elections.

The Second or Swavesey precinct comprised Townships 107 and 108 north, in ranges 22, 23 and 24 west, of which Messrs. A. J. Bell, — Wyman, and — Johnson were appointed judges of elections.

Le Sueur, the Third election precinct, consisted of Townships 105 and 106, of ranges 22, 23 and 24 west. The judges of election were A. B. Sutliff, Christopher Scott and a Mr. Plummer.

Medford precinct was made up of Township 108, north of ranges 20 and 21 west, formerly a part of Owatonna precinct. F. F. Adams, William Allen and Orlando Bartholomew were appointed to act as judges of elections.

John Jenkins was appointed Justice of the Peace for Le Sueur precinct, and John Jenning, constable. Wm. P. Ide was appointed Justice for Swavesy precinct.

The first election after the organization was held on the 9th of October, 1856, at which time O. A. Thomas was elected as member of the Territorial Legislature; David Lindersmith was elected Sheriff; David Sanborn, Treasurer, who had held the office by appointment since July, 1855; John W. Park, Register of Deeds. The County Attorney was G. W. Green; Basil Meek was chosen Judge of Probate; H. W. Peck, County Surveyor; Thomas Kinyon, Coroner; Z. B. Morse, County Auditor, and Ezra Abbot, Superintendent of Schools. The Assessors this year were George Hankenson, P. Sanford and P. Headley. S. B. Smith, Wm. Allen and Wm. P. Ide were elected County Commissioners. The business of the Commissioners was mostly confined to laying out roads and preparing for the active life the county was about to enter upon, and sessions were held as often as the circumstances and the rapid development of the country seemed to demand them.

At the spring session of the Board of Commissioners, 1857, several other election precincts were organized, and judges of election appointed: yet the records are so imperfect that we have been unable to give the names. Jas. E. Child, Benjamin Arnold and Wilbur Fisk were appointed Assessors for the county. At the election in the fall of 1857 Wm. F. Pettit was elected County Commissioner; G. W. Danforth, Register of Deeds; Joseph W. Morford, Treasurer, which office he held till January 1st, 1861; Walter Morris, County Auditor; S. M. Yearley, County Attorney; O. W. Pollock, County Surveyor; W. B. Evans, F. A. Stevens and A. B. Clark, Assessors; and Seth H. Patterson and Zachariah Scribner, Road Commissioners.

The report of the Treasurer for January, 1858, showed

that the whole amount received by him was \$1,364 10; of which there had been paid out on vouchers, \$733,46; on commissions of two per cent., \$27,28; leaving a balance in the treasury of \$598,36. The official report of the finances of the county showed there was an outstanding indebtedness amounting to \$2,129,68, and due on the tax rolls but not collected \$4,148 04.

The following named persons have served the county as State and county officers since its organization :

SENATORS:—Wm, F. Pettit, Owatonna; M. A. Dailey, Owatonna; F. J. Stevens, Meriden.

REPRESENTATIVES:—O. A. Thomas, Clinton Falls; H. M. Sheltz, Owatonna; Smith Johnson, Medford; George Pettie, Aurora; G. W. Green, Clinton Falls; Amos Coggs-well, Aurora; Wm. F. Pettit, Owatonna; James C. Magoon, Merton; J. B. Crooker, 2 yrs., Owatonna; W. H. Wiford, Somerset; W. R. Kinyon, Owatonna.

The county officers have been elected as follows :

REGISTER OF DEEDS:—J. W. Park, G. W. Danforth, M. A. Dailey, Walter Morris, C. S. Crandall.

TREASURER:—David Sanborn, J. W. Morford, W. W. Finch, B. F. Melvin.

AUDITOR:—Z. B. Morse, Walter Morris, A. N. Stoughton.

SHERIFF:—Wm. F. Pettit, David Lindersmith, Wm. H. Willsey, S. O. Williamson, Seth H. Patterson, M. J. Toher.

JUDGE OF PROBATE:—Basil Meek, R. W. Lincoln, (8 years), J. J. Aiken, A. A. Harwood.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:—G. W. Green, S. M. Yearley, A. A. Harwood, S. B. Searles.

CLERK OF COURT:—W. F. Dunn, John N. Kelly, A. M. Kinyon.

COUNTY SURVEYOR:—H. W. Peck, O. W. Pollock, S. B. Beach, John H. Abbott, J. M. Finch.

COURT COMMISSIONER:—B. F. Melvin, R. G. Lincoln, A. A. Harwood.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:—A. A. Harwood, A. C. Hickman, J. F. Stevens.

CORONER:—Thomas Kinyon, Gordon Smith, John Austin—each of the latter named being the present incumbent.

Hon. N. M. Donaldson was elected Judge of the Fifth Judicial District in 1857, and re-elected in 1864, which position he now occupies.

### THE RESOURCES

of the county are abundant. In addition to the general agricultural products it has an immense supply of timber, sufficient to supply all the inhabitants of Steele and adjoining counties with fuel and fencing for a century to come. Large hay marshes or natural meadows abound in various parts, and beds of peat occupy quite a tract in the eastern portion of the county.

When we reflect that the germs of the future, in latent embryo, lie hidden in the present, that to-day is giving color to the doings and shaping the destinies of to-morrow, we have only to examine the immense resources of wealth and prosperity that yet lie undeveloped in the garner of nature's great storehouse; the raw material with which the country is supplied, and the aptitude of western men to lay hold of all these advantages that lie spread out before them, and convert them into material for wealth and power, to form something of an idea of what is in store for Steele county when her entire resources have been developed and brought into active use.

Men of independent mind and effort, with a full realization of what lies before them; men of strong nerve and iron muscle, willing to work out the great problem of life, determined to conquer and overcome any and all obstacles that lie in the way of progress, have looked out this beautiful country and built for themselves homes on the fertile

prairies, beautiful openings and majestic timber, that diversifies and beautifies the landscape. With the light of science to illuminate and develop the progressive energies that tend to bring into action the vital principles, enduring strength and substantial wealth of the community, coupled with the material elements of prosperity which are so boundless, it takes no prophet's eye to discern a glorious future in store for the young county that is now in its embryo state of civilization, wealth and greatness

As yet but an insignificant fraction of the resources of the county are developed; each and every avenue of communication that is opened to eastern markets, or western and northern grain fields and lumber regions, gives a fresh impetus to the tide of trade, commerce and prosperity.

### THE FIRST SETTLEMENT

of Steele county was made in the fall of 1653, at Medford, by Smith and Orlando Johnson, Chauncey Lull, Lewis M. Howard and A. L. Wright, who built houses and moved into them. Wm. Colling also came into the town in the winter of 1753-4, and David and John Sanborn in the spring of 1854, and a settlement soon sprang into existence on the banks of the Straight river, at the present site of the village of Medford. Other settlers soon followed and located in other parts of the county. Dr. Finch, Mr. Avery W. Adams, Messrs. Williamson, and others located at Clinton Falls, and still further up the river at the break in the timber bordering the Straight river, where now stands the city of Owatonna, Wm. F. Pettit and A. B. Cornell had made claims, and Mr. Cornell had built a habitation of poles and sticks and covered it with the wild hay cut on the prairies, making an exceedingly primitive but very comfortable home during the summer season, as the long grass of the prairies affords an excellent protection from

the storms. This served them till the fall following, when Mr. Cornell built a log house and moved his family into it, Mr. Pettit boarding with him. The house is still standing, and is one of the most ancient landmarks of civilization in Steele county.

At this point there was soon a rapid increase in the population. Hon. G. W. Green, from Beaver Dam, in Wisconsin, built a log house in the winter following, in the northern part of what is now the city, though he did not remove his family until the fall of 1854. Messrs. J. W. Park and S. W. Smith made a claim just north of Mr. Pettit's, and had also built a log house, so that there was quite a village in embryo. These houses are also still standing and occupied; the former by Mr. Hanks and the latter by Mr. Murray. Accessions to the settlements were constantly being made, not only at Owatonna but at Medford, Clinton Falls and other points in the county, so that the year 1854 was an important year in the opening up and settlement of the county. Yet it was also a year of hardship and privation to all or nearly all who had ventured upon the experiment of pioneering in this new and almost unexplored country. All provisions had to be brought from St. Paul, a distance of about seventy-five miles, and by a course that, at that time, teams must travel something more than a hundred. But sometime in the summer of 1854, Dr. W. W. Finch, of Clinton Falls, who was appointed with two others to locate and mark out a road from St. Paul via Straight river valley to the Iowa line, entered upon the duties of that undertaking, and the course for immigrants to pursue was marked through the timber by blazed trees, and across the prairies by poles stuck in the ground.

Adventures were but few, of a startling nature; the struggle was a hand to hand conflict with stern necessity, and the disadvantages that must be met before the means



of subsistence and the necessaries of life could be supplied from the cultivation of the soil. Many a time was the meal to furnish the family with bread manufactured in a coffee mill, and oftener still was the wheat or corn boiled and eaten without grinding in any manner.

In the earlier days of the settlement, before any post routes were established in this section, it was only occasionally that the people received any mail matter, and when they did it was generally through the kindness of some of the settlers who would go to Faribault, which was the nearest post office, and bring the bundle for all the settlers. A. B. Cornell was usually the messenger, and at such times as the river was swollen so that teams could not ford it, he used to swim across the river and go on foot and procure the mail, and on returning, when he reached the river he would tie the letters and papers in a bundle and attaching a stone thereto, would throw the bundle across the river and then swim across and deliver the mail to those to whom it was directed. The news in those times was fully appreciated by all who were so fortunate as to have letters from friends.

In the summer of 1855 there was a still larger increase in population. All over the country immigrants were coming by scores and hundreds; among these John H. Abbot, a civil engineer, came in July, and purchased the claim of Mr. Pettit, the latter soon after buying one-half of Cornell's claim, lying directly south of the one just sold to Abbot. Mr. Abbot having had considerable experience in railroads, very naturally began to look about to ascertain the prospect for a railroad to visit the new city which all had determined to build. Upon examination of maps and charts that he had previously made, it seemed evident that a railroad from St. Paul south, on the west side of the Mississippi, must go far back into the interior in order to avoid the

deep ravines and high ridges formed by the Zumbro and Root rivers; that in the interior were the Cannon and Straight rivers flowing north, the latter interlocking with the Cedar river flowing south, and that manifestly in the valley of these streams there was not only a leading railroad route, but fine timber, excellent water power, and a good agricultural district. Then, too, this place lay in a direct line from Winona to the south bend of the Minnesota river, which route was already looked out, and a charter granted to the Transit company.

Railroads they must have, and strenuous efforts were made to put the scheme in operation. Parties went to St. Paul to attend the session of the Territorial Legislature, of 1856, and succeeded in getting a bill introduced incorporating the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley Railroad. Section first of this bill provided that "Franklin Steele, Isaac Atwater, D. M. Hanson, James F. Bradley, Ezra Abbot, R. P. Russell, A. M. Fridley, H. H. Sibley, John W. North, James Shields, Alex. Faribault, John C. Ide, Chas. Jewett, F. W. Fisk, Benj. L. Arnold, Wm. F. Pettit, John H. Abbott, A. B. Cornell, A. Town, A. B. Vaughn, H. O. Billings, Orlando Wilder, and such other persons as may become associated with them," were created "a body corporate, by the name of the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley Railroad Company." Section four appointed Henry H. Sibley, at Mendota, Franklin Steele, at Minneapolis, James Shields, at Faribault, Wm. F. Pettit, at Owatonna, and A. B. Vaughn, at Austin, commissioners to open books and receive subscriptions to the capital stock of the company. The charter also provided that when \$50,000 of stock should be subscribed, the commissioners should meet at Faribault for the purpose of apportioning the stock among the subscribers, and also call a meeting of the stock-holders to choose directors. The stock was mostly subscribed for

in Owatonna and Northfield, and was generally referred to as "Owatonna straw stock," the people having little or no faith in the success of the enterprise. The first meeting of stockholders was held at Mendota in February, 1857, at which time the following named directors were elected: Ezra Abbot, of St. Anthony; Franklin Steele, Fort Snelling; H. H. Sibley, Mendota; J. W. North, Northfield; James Shields, Faribault; Wm. F. Pettit, Owatonna; and A. B. Vaughn, Austin—Ezra Abbot, Treasurer; Franklin Steele, Secretary, and J. H. Abbott, Chief Engineer. In June Mr. Abbott and Mr. L. Kellett commenced surveying the route, and by the close of September the location was made and the estimates for construction, &c., completed. In May, at the extra session of the Legislature, that body made to this road a munificent grant of lands, according to the act of Congress of that year, which was much more liberal than that heretofore granted to any State or Territory. But the great financial crash of 1857 followed, and men of reputed wealth, who had thought themselves wealthy, were reduced from affluence to poverty, and in this western country the pressure was very severe. In 1858 all the companies in the State did a large amount of grading and other work, on the lines of the roads, stimulated thereto by the action of the Legislature in passing the "Five Million Loan Bill," and its ratification by the people. Of the one hundred and ten miles of the Cedar Valley Railroad to the State line, seventy-two were graded and a large amount on other portions of the road.

In the fall of 1860 the election contest was an exciting one, the main question at issue being the location of the Transit, (Now Winona & St. Peter,) Railroad. Hon. Wm. F. Pettit being the candidate of those who favored Owatonna as a point, and Hon. G. W. Green of the opposing party. Mr. Pettit was elected by a handsome majority, and at the

following session of the Legislature the land grants were disposed of to solid companies, upon conditions that a certain number of miles of road should be completed, and the cars running thereon each year, under penalty of forfeiture of the whole grant to the State. But the rebellion breaking out that spring, work was delayed on all the roads. Yet it was resumed again in 1863 and 1864, and in 1865 the Central road was put in operation as far as Faribault, and the Winona & St. Peter as far as Kasson, about sixty-five miles west from Winona. In August, 1866, both roads were completed to Owatonna, and the struggle and anxiety of the people received their legitimate reward in the improved business and increased value of property. The Central, (now Milwaukee, St. Paul & Minneapolis,) company have good depot buildings and a fine grain elevator, with a capacity of some 60,000 bushels; and the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company have also good depot buildings and an elevator with a capacity of about 75,000 bushels. We understand that the two companies will build a Union hotel the present season, for the accommodation of the traveling public.

### COUNTY NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper published in Steele county followed so close upon the track of the pioneers that it seemed almost to be cotemporary with the introduction of civilization. In 1854 was the first settlement, and in 1856 a newspaper was established. Few enterprises at the present day are undertaken and carried out to a successful completion without having invoked the all-powerful and magic influence of the press. No town or village is complete without its weekly journal, and in this busy, driving West, people would as soon think of establishing a county seat, or carrying an election without the aid of voters and

a population, as they would without the aid of a printing press and newspaper.

THE WATCHMAN AND REGISTER was the first paper started in the county, and was established in July, 1856, by Messrs. J. H. Abbott and A. B. Cornell, who purchased the press, type and fixtures of Major W. A. Hotchkiss, at that time editor and publisher of the *Northwestern Democrat* at St. Anthony. Mr. Cornell acted as editor and business manager for a time, when the services of H. M. Sheetz, an experienced newspaper man was secured as editor. The word *Watchman* was dropped from the name sometime in 1857, and the *Owatonna Register* was published till sometime in the winter of 1857-8 with Abbott & Cornell and Wm. F. Pettit as proprietors, and H. M. Sheetz as editor, when it was discontinued. It had been "a power in the land" while it was published, and did its full share in moulding the public mind in the State.

THE MEDFORD VALLEY ARGUS was the next journal to lay claim to public favor as a public retailer of the doings and sayings of Steele county. It was published at Medford, dating its first appearance about the middle of August, 1858, and was under the control of Messrs. Francis & Sully. It was printed with the same material which was used in the publication of the *Register*, said material having been purchased of the company by Wm. F. Pettit and by him sold to Mr. Bartholomew, of Medford, and by Mr. Bartholomew leased to Messrs. Francis & Sully. Mr. Sully soon after sold his interest to Mr. J. R. Lucas, and the publication was continued for a few weeks when the enterprise was abandoned, and the material was rented to H. M. Sheets and by him removed back to Owatonna, and the

OWATONNA JOURNAL made its first bow in public under the guardianship of H. M. Sheetz as editor and proprietor.

It was a seven column sheet, neatly printed and ably edited, and was received with marked favor by its patrons. Republican in politics and the earnest and devoted advocate of all reforms. In October, 1859, Mr. Sheetz died, and the *Journal* was carried on by his widow for some time thereafter. Hon. Wm. F. Pettit, at that time State Senator from Steele county, had started a project to allow Mrs. Sheetz, who was a woman of considerable literary ability, to retain the office as a mark of esteem from the public, whom her husband had so faithfully served, and had already received \$150 from his fellow members of the Senate to aid in carrying out this benevolent project, when upon returning home he found that the office had been sold to Mr. A. B. Cornell, which at once put a stop to the publication of the *Journal*.

THE NEWS LETTER embarked upon the sea of journalism soon after the suspension of the *Journal*, under the protecting care of A. B. Cornell, who kept up the enterprise till 1862, when he took a sutler's position in the army, and Mrs. Cornell continued the publication of a small sheet, some three or four columns in width, till 1863, when Dr. Kelly, editor of the *Plaindealer* purchased the good will of her paper and job office, and the paper was discontinued.

In the summer of 1860 Messrs. Wm. F. Pettit and John H. Abbott assisted J. W. Crawford in the purchase of an office from Mantenville, in Dodge county, and the OWA-TONNA REPRESENTATIVE was launched upon its trial trip among the breakers of public opinion and literary criticism. The *Representative* was an eight column sheet and was very ably conducted and well printed, reflecting much credit upon the enterprise and go-aheaditiveness of the citizens of the county who sustained it as well as those who conducted it. It was continued for about eighteen months, when Mr. Crawford entered the army, and Messrs. Pettit and Abbott

sold the material to James E. Child, of Wilton, in Waseca county.

THE OWATONNA PLAINDEALER was first published in April, 1863, by Dr. L. H. Kelly, and as the town was growing rapidly and business crowding in, the patronage kept increasing, till the *Plaindealer* was one of the best paying offices in the State. Town, county and State patronage kept the driving wheels properly lubricated and the concern was running so easily that in the spring of 1866, the Dr. enlarged it to an eight column sheet, and in the following fall sold to Messrs. Tappan, Higbee & Hathaway, who thereupon commenced the publication of the

REPUBLICAN JOURNAL, which is now published under the care of Messrs. Higbee, Spellman & Bickham, with the name of *Owatonna Journal*, a large eight column sheet and one of the leading papers in the State. It has swallowed up or "driven out" three other papers within the past two years.

THE OWATONNA REGISTER was started by A. B. Cornell soon after his return from the army, which was published in an independent, neutral manner, consequently meeting with poor success, yet continued to drag out an existence for some little time, when its sun set in rather a thick darkness, and it died for the want of proper sustenance.

THE OWATONNA DEMOCRAT was the next aspirant for public favor, and was received with considerable enthusiasm by the Democracy, as it was a purely democratic paper. Capt. T. D. Woods was editor and proprietor; yet it did not receive the support that would fill the treasury, and after trying the experiment for about a year it was discontinued.

THE VIDETTE, a seven column paper, was started as an independent Republican paper, by J. A. Spelman some-

time in the spring of 1867, but was continued only for a short time, when it was merged with the *Journal*, and Mr. Spelman became one of the proprietors in connection with Messrs. Higbee and Hathaway. In the winter of 1867-8. Mr. Hathaway sold his interest to Mr. Bickham, who still remains one of the proprietors.

In 1867 another Democratic paper was started, which was called the *Owatonna Register*, under the contrroll of Mr. C. F. George, who continued its publication for about one year, having one side printed in some other city and filling the remainder at home. It proved to be a pecuniary loss and the office was removed to Faribault, after an existence of about one year.

All of the papers published in the county have been Republican in politics except two, and the only one now published by either party is the *Owatonna Journal*, a large eight column sheet, that claims and exerts its share of influence in moulding the public sentiment of the country. The present proprietors of the *Journal* are Messrs. Higbee, Spelman & Bickham.

### CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH of Owatonna was organized in October, 1856, with the following persons as members on probation : Wm. B. Norman, Sarah J. Norman, Amelia Oliver, James M. Soper and Emily Soper, in all five persons. On the 7th of August previous, Rev. Solomon Wetzel had been appointed by the M. E. Conference, in session at Red Wing, to take charge of the Owatonna Circuit, which was at that time just organized. Mr. Wetzel was a man of untiring energy and perseverance and who knew no such word as fail, and when he put his hand to the plow did not look back repiningly, but with faith and confidence performed his duty, trusting in God. Find-



ing that the amount likely to be received from the Church would not be sufficient for his proper support, he labored with his hands to supply the temporal needs of himself and family, and with the active energies of his brain to meet the spiritual demands of his congregation.

The meetings were first held in the school house, the Methodists and Baptists alternating with each other in the use of the house. At the next session of the Conference Rev. A. Mattison was appointed to take charge of the interests of the Church on this circuit. Services were held for a time in the old log school house and afterwards in a part of a house owned by Mr. Stoughton, and still later their place of worship was a building afterwards used by Mr. E. McClure as a jewelry store, and which is still standing on Broadway.

The Church prospered rapidly under the labors of Mr. Mattison, and many members were added to it, not only to the class at Owatonna but also to other points under his charge. John Odell was the first class leader of the Church in Owatonna. In 1859 Rev. John Rogers was appointed to the pastorate charge of the Church, and the meetings were held first in the school house, afterwards in Morford's Hall. Mr. Rogers was succeeded as pastor in 1860 by Rev. Robt. Hoover who was in turn succeeded by Rev. Mr. Cornwell, who remained something less than a year, when he was appointed Chaplain of one of the Minnesota regiments, and went into the field to look after the spiritual welfare of those who were fighting for the preservation of the government, leaving the church without a pastor for the remainder of the conference year. In 1862 Rev. J. H. Richardson was appointed by the Conference as pastor of the Church, and remained for two years, when he was succeeded by Rev. T. McClary, who also remained two years, after which time Owatonna was made a station and Rev. E.

R. Lathrop was selected for the pastorate charge. The present pastor is Rev. S. F. Sterrit.

The society have held meetings in the school house, Morford's Hall, the Baptist Church, and Dresser's Hall. In the summer of 1867 a neat chapel was erected on lots owned by the society, on the corner of Main and Elm Streets, at an expense of about \$2,000. The first M. E. Sunday School was organized in the spring of 1865, with the following officers: Superintendent, A. C. Hickman; Assistant Superintendent, John Odell; Secretary, C. F. Andrews; Librarian, Orrin Greeley; Treasurer, Wm. F. Pettit; and soon grew in numbers until the officers and teachers were twenty with 218 scholars enroiled, and an average attendance of 128, with a well selected library of 370 volumes. The church has increased in numbers from five probationers in 1855 to 175 members in good standing in 1867.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Owatonna was organized on the 22d of October, 1857, by Rev. O. A. Thomas, assisted by Rev. J. C. Strong, of Bradford, Iowa, with the following members who were admitted upon showing letters of recommendation from other churches to which they had formerly belonged: George W. Danforth, A. N. Stoughton, Wait Stoughton, Malcolm C. Burr, George W. Hall, Mary J. Stoughton, Naomi L. Stoughton, Lydia H. Hall, Emeline Hall, and Charles A. Strong. Jesse B. Gaylord and O. E. Walden not having received their letters were each vouched for by those who had and were duly admitted. A sermon was preached by Rev. O. A. Thomas and the church was duly organized with twelve members.

The first preliminary meeting was held in September previous, when resolutions were passed to invite the Fairbault, Medford, and Clinton Falls churches to meet in council for the purpose of affecting a church organization, which was carried out on the 22d of October, with the fol-

lowing constitution for the guidance and government of its members:

ARTICLE. I. The church shall be called the First Congregational Church of Owatonna.

ART. II. Its government shall be Congregational, according to the form and usage of Congregational Churches.

ART. III. Such modification of the usages of Congregational Churches as may be demanded by our circumstances or views, may be adopted by the Church and embodied in "Standing Rules," to be passed, amended or abolished at any regular meeting, three months' notice having been previously given.

ART. IV. The officers of this Church shall be a pastor and as many deacons as the Church may from time to time deem necessary.

ART. V. The constitution shall only be amended or altered by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at a meeting regularly convened after three months notice for that purpose.

The following Articles of Faith being short and varying somewhat from those adopted by other Churches of the same denomination, will be of interest to those who care to know anything of the history of the Church.

ARTICLE I. You believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are given by the inspiration of God, and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

ART. II. You believe in one God, the Creator and Ruler of the Universe, existing in a divine and incomprehensible Trinity—the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, each possessing all divine perfections.

ART. III. You believe in the fall of our first parents, the consequent apostacy and entire depravity and lost condition of the human race.

ART. IV. You believe in the incarnation, death and

atonement of the Son of God, and that salvation is attained only through repentance and faith in his blood.

ART. V. You believe in the necessity of a radical change of heart, and that this is directed through the truth by the agency of the Holy Spirit.

ART. VI. You believe that the moral law is binding on all as the rule of life, and that obedience to it is the proper evidence of a saving change.

ART. VII. You believe that a credible evidence of a change of heart is an indispensable ground of admission to the privileges of the Christian Church.

ART. VIII. You believe that the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, together with the Christian Sabbath, are of perpetual obligation in the Church.

ART. IX.—You believe in the future judgment, the general resurrection of the dead, and the endless happiness of the righteous and the endless misery of the wicked.

During the winter all the churches met in union meetings and quite a number were added to the church. At this time A. N. Stoughton was chosen deacon, and C. A. Strong, clerk. A series of Church prayer meetings were also organized which have been kept up ever since. Bev. Ozro A. Thomas held service with this church on alternate Sundays till 1863. In the summer of 1858 A. N. Stoughton fitted up a room in his house where meetings were held till the fall of 1859. Wait Stoughton, A. N. Stoughton and R. Mills were chosen trustees of the church. In 1864 Rev. C. T. Tappan commenced preaching and remained with the church for two years. In August, 1866, Rev. L. L. Griggs was called to the pastorate and is still pastor of the church. One hundred and fifty-six persons have joined the church, forty-two have taken letters, leaving a membership of one hundred and fourteen. In the summer of 1867 the society commenced the erection of a house of

worship, 38x60 feet, with a tower 12x12 and an extension in the rear 7x8 for a pulpit, with height of side walls of 22 feet. The building was enclosed and fitted for holding service, though not yet completed. The whole cost of the building when finished and furnished will probably be somewhere between \$7,000 and \$8,000. In 1865 a Sabbath School was organized, and Dr. L. H. Kelly chosen superintendent, which has been successfully continued till the present time. The present average attendance is about 150. There has not thus far in the history of the church, been a single instance of death of one of its members to record.

**BAPTIST CHURCH.**—The First Baptist Church of Owatonna was organized on the 27th of June, 1857, with the following members who were admitted upon letters from other churches to which they had previously belonged: Adolphus Town, Ann Town, Albert D. Low, M. O. Low, J. M. Finch, R. J. Tousley, and Wm. H. Woods. Some time in the fall L. B. Town, Daniel Burch, and S. W. Breese were also admitted by letter.

The first Baptist meeting held in Owatonna or Steele county, was on a Sabbath about the last of April, 1856, at the residence of A. B. Cornell, about fifteen persons being present, and Rev. Adolphus Town preaching the sermon. Meetings were held in the log school house during the year 1857. In January, 1858, a religious awakening took place and fifteen were added to the church. On the 23d of January Mr. Hiram Robinson received the rite of baptism at the hands of the pastor, Rev. A. Town, which was the first baptism of which any knowledge is had in this section of the country. In 1858 preliminary steps were taken for building a church. On the 11th of September of this year the churches of Ashland, Wasioja and Faribault, met with the Owatonna Church and organized the Minnesota Central

Baptist Association, said association reporting at the time of its organization 120 members, and in 1867, 566 members. In 1859 Elder Town resigned the pastorate, and Elder Edgar Cady, of Lake City, was chosen to supply the place, who was followed in 1860 by Rev. A. D. Low, who remained as pastor until February, 1861. In consequence of a difference of opinion among the members, a vote was taken in one of the church meetings to disband the organization, and a portion of the members left. Those who remained chose Elder Town as their pastor, and regular meetings were held until October, 1863. During which time Elder Town supplied the pulpit once in two weeks, and succeeded in getting the church building completed which had been standing unfinished during the time of the church difficulty. The house of worship was dedicated on the 13th of October, 1863. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. D. S. Dean, of Illinois, who accepted the pastorate of the church and remained until April, 1865, when by a mutual understanding the two churches united into one.

The present Baptist Church of Owatonna was organized January 31st, with fifteen members; and recognized by a council of the Minnesota Central Baptist Association February 3d, 1863. The church met once in two weeks for worship, being supplied by Rev. J. F. Wilcox with preaching. On the 8th day of April, 1865, the two Baptist churches in the place consolidated with a united membership of sixty-four, and took the name as above. Rev. J. F. Wilcox continued as pastor of the church till June, 1866, when his labors closed. In July, 1866, Rev. A. L. Cole came to Owatonna and commenced preaching, and in October the church gave him a unanimous call to the pastorate, which he accepted and still holds. The church is self-sustaining, paying a salary of \$800. Baptisms have occurred

every year except one; in 1863, four, 1864, none, 1865, two, 1866, three, 1867, forty and in 1868, forty three; total baptisms, ninety-two. Whole number connected with the church since its organization, 216; number of deceased, 4; present membership, 167. They have a church edifice 32 by 58 feet, with a tower in front in which hangs a bell weighing 1000 pounds—the only one in the city. The house was built in the fall of 1867, costing \$4,159.64, and was dedicated Dec. 22d, 1867. Preaching every Sunday morning and evening; prayer meeting every Thursday evening; church meetings on Saturday before the first Sunday in each month; Lord's Supper first Sunday in each month. Church officers are J. B. Crooker and Walter Stebbins, deacons, and P. Bliss, clerk.

ST. PAUL'S PARISH.—The first Episcopal services in Owatonna were held early in the summer of 1858 by the Rev. J. Lloyd Breck, D. D., and the Rev. D. P. Sanford. Services were kept up every other Sunday by the latter of these clergymen until the following spring, when, after a short interruption, they were continued by Rev. Solon W. Manney, D. D. At that time there was no Church edifice in the village. Our first service was held in the office of Maj. M. A. Daily, on Mill street; subsequently services were held in the wing of the residence of Mr. Stoughton; afterwards in the school house, and still later in Morford's Hall.

St. Paul's Parish was organized the 19th of August, 1860; David Potwin, and John Crozier were chozen wardens, N. M. Donaldson, S. M. Yearly, John Odell, W. A. Ware, W. H. Kelly, and W. A. Dailey, vestrymen.

Services continued to be carried on by the Rev. Dr. Manney, assisted by other clergymen of the Bishop Seabury Mission, established at Faribault. This had been considered a station of the Faribault Mission from the first. The

Rev. Dr. Manney was succeeded by the Rev. Geo. C. Tanner for a short time, when the work was placed under the charge of the Rev. S. S. Burleson. In the fall of 1864 the Rev. Mr. Burleson resigned the charge of the parish, and the Rev. J. A. Babcock, of New York, removed here and took charge of the parish. He continued to minister to the people till the fall of 1866, when the parish again became vacant; services were discontinued for winter, excepting at the occasional visitations of the Bishop. In March, 1867, Rev. Geo. C. Tanner resumed services, and in June removed with his family to Owatonna.

The chapel in which the congregation now worship is a neat church-like edifice at the corner of Cedar and Mill streets. This chapel was built by the exertions of the present rector, amid many discouragements. The cost of the building was about \$1,400. The lot had been purchased by the Bishop Seabury Mission several years before at a cost of fifty dollars. This chapel was consecrated on Friday, Nov. 15, 1867, by the Rt. Rev. H. B. Whipple, Bishop of the Diocese of Minnesota, a large number of the clergy of the diocese being present, and assisting in the services. The present number of communicants is thirty.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OWATONNA.—For the following sketch of the Presbyterian Church, we are indebted to Ezra Abbott, Esq., of Owatonna:

“The Presbyterian Church of Owatonna was organized by Rev. Harvey Chapin, who came here during the winter of 1855-6, a hard-working pioneer minister of the Gospel. By a general invitation of its few citizens he was induced to settle in this place for the following year, dividing his labors, however, between this village and several other places. In Dodge City, East Prairieville and Ashland he organized churches. For several years his place of preaching in Owatonna was a log school house, until the year



1863, when, principally through the indefatigable labors and influence of Mr. Chapin, a church was commenced, and in 1864 was completed. In this small but neat church Mr. Chapin continued to preach until the spring of 1865, when he left for Tipton in the State of Missouri. In about a year, by a mournful Providence, his ministerial labors were suddenly brought to a close. His house caught fire, and in an effort, as was supposed, to save important papers, he perished in the flames.

Mr. Chapin was succeeded in Owatonna by Mr. H. F. Nelson, who supplied the pulpit the ensuing nine months. In October, 1866, Rev. J. Faries, who had come to Minnesota in search of health, was most earnestly solicited to become the stated supply of the church, so far as his health might permit. In the following May his failing health deprived the church of ministrations which had been so eagerly sought and eminently useful.

On the 22d of July, 1867, Rev. R. H. Cunningham accepted an invitation from the church and continued his very useful labors until the following May, when he accepted a call to Rushford, leaving in Owatonna a church of thirty-eight members, a Sunday School of an average number of fifty scholars, a fine organ and, generally, a good congregation.

UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.—There is quite a large number of believers in Universalism in this county, but there is no organized society except in Owatonna. In November, 1866, Rev. S. Wakefield, then pastor of the Universalist Society in Rochester, visited Owatonna, and preached the first Universalist sermon ever preached in the county. In May, 1867, a society was organized; a society which, however, remained inactive till March, 1868, when, by invitation of the society, Rev. S. Wakefield became its pastor. In April he removed from Rochester to this place. The society now is quite large and in a very flourishing

condition. As soon as meetings were permanently established, a Sabbath school was organized, which is now in a very flourishing condition. Its numbers are quite large and are rapidly increasing. Measures are now being taken to organize societies and support preaching in all the principal towns in the county. The society in Owatonna intend to build a church the coming year.

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.**—The first Catholics in the county were Thomas and John Bergan, Michael Bangs, Joseph Keisel, a German Tailor, at whose house the first mass was celebrated in the county, James McLaughlin and James Lornegan. There are at the present time about fifty families living in the city. The town of Merton has probably thirty or forty families, some of whom have resided there ten or twelve years. Mr. Francis McAndrew and Hugh Murray were among the first. The Rev. Father Keller has mass in the settlement about once a month; he also has mass each month in the towns of Owatonna and Somerset, where there are some seventy-five catholic families of Germans and Bohemians. Every town in the county has some Catholic families, whose spiritual welfare is looked after by Father Keller, who speaks the different languages and can converse with all.

A church committee has been organized to take steps for the erection of a church edifice. M. J. Toher is president and treasurer; the balance of the committee are as follows: James Lornegan, Joseph Kaplin, and Charles Schoen, of Owatonna, and Wm. Leary, of Merton. They have purchased a fine site of two and a half acres on Cedar street, for the location of a church building, and made a contract for the stone and sand for the foundation, which is to be completed immediately. It is the intention of the committee to complete the church for Divine service this fall. They have also purchased five acres of land in a very

desirable location, three-fourths of a mile south of the church site, for a Catholic cemetery.

We are indebted to Sheriff Toher for the above information in regard to the Catholic church and its members.

### SECRET SOCIETIES.

**MASONIC.**—*Star in the East Lodge* No. 33, A. F. & A. M., was organized in Owatonna, Steele county, Minn., December 16th, A. D. 1859, by Bro. J. C. Whipple, G. J. W. of Faribault Lodge, No. 9. First stated communication held U. D. Jan. 23rd, 1860.

Officers—J. C. Whipple, Faribault Lodge No. 9, W. M., E. M. Morehouse, S. W., Joel Wilson, J. W., Nelson Morehouse, Treas., John Kelso, Sec. First election of officers under charter Oct. 29, 1860. W. R. Kinyon, W. M., E. M. Morehouse, S. W., W. H. Wilsey, J. W., J. W. Morford, Treas., John Kelso, Sec.

Second election, Dec. 25, 1861. Eli M. Morehouse, W. M., W. H. Wilsey, S. W., L. B. Tanner, J. W., J. W. Morford, Treas., J. N. Kelley, Sec.

Third election, Dec. 24, 1862. W. R. Kinyon, W. M., J. W. Morford, S. W., J. N. Kelley, J. W., Eli M. Morehouse, Treas., W. H. Wadsworth, Sec.

Fourth election, Dec. 23, 1863. J. W. Morford, W. M., Joel Wilson, S. W., W. H. Wilson, J. W., W. R. Kinyon, Treas., W. H. Wadsworth, Sec.

Fifth election, Dec. 24, 1864. J. W. Morford, W. M., W. R. Kenyon, S. W., W. H. Wilsey, J. W., Jac. Oppliger, Treas., R. C. Ambler, Sec.

Sixth election, Dec. 13, 1865. J. W. Morford, W. M., Wm. H. Kelley, S. W., H. C. Eldred, J. W., Jac. Oppligar, Treas., Jac. Newsalt, Sec.

Seventh election, Dec. 26, 1866. J. W. Morford, W. M.,

H. J. Lewis, S. W., A. B. Webber, J. W., Addison Phelps, Treas., Smith H. Stowers, Sec.

Eighth election, Dec. 27, 1867. J. W. Morford, W. M., H. J. Lewis, S. W., Elias Scanel, J. W., A. M. Kenyon, Treas., John A. Robey, Sec.

The number of members now belonging to the Lodge is seventy-nine.

GOOD TEMPLARS.—Owatonna Lodge, No. 31, I. O. of G. T. was organized on the 12th of October, 1865, by Rev. Reuben Gregg, District Deputy from the Grand Lodge of the State. There were seventeen charter members as follows: H. C. Eldred, E. Durham, L. S. Padgham, Frank Dickinson, Jas. D. Beers, T. E. Hughes, J. H. Donaldson, H. M. Brown, D. D. F. Brown, Daniel Thom, J. W. Smith, Albert A. Crandall, Mrs. Mary Durham, Mrs. L. A. Eldred, Miss L. J. Kellogg, Miss Mary Blair, J. E. Bush.

The following list of officers were chosen for the first quarter: W. C. T., L. S. Padgham; W. V. T., Miss L. J. Kellogg; W. S., Frank Dickinson; W. F. S., J. H. Donaldson; W. T., Miss Mary Blair.

During the first quarter there were six initiated, and a clearance card granted to one, leaving twenty-two members in the Lodge. The second quarter increased the number of members to fifty-four, and during the third quarter ten more were added. At the close of the year the number had increased to one hundred and eight. Each quarter added to the list of members, until at the close of the second year there one hundred and thirty in good standing in the Lodge, most of them good working members who joined the order for the sake of the good they might do, and consequently their numbers kept steadily increasing till at the close of the third quarter of the third year, April 30th, 1868, there stood on the rolls as true and tried ones, the names of two hundred and forty-nine. Officers and mem-

bers have worked diligently to forward the temperance movement, and with marked success. The popular current now runs in a temperance channel, and consequently the result is beneficial to society. The present officers of Owatonna Lodge are W. C. T., J. M. Sullivan; W. V. T., Mrs. E. J. Wadsworth; W. S. M. A. Dailey, jr.; W. F. S., J. Q. Braden; W. T., Mrs. M. E. Hughs.

ODD FELLOWS.—On the 9th day of August, 1864, J. Newsalt, then a member of Prairie Lodge, No. 7, Winona, Minnesota, proceeded to Rochester, Minn., with Messrs. E. K. Smith, P. J. Smith, and R. C. Ambler, who were initiated by Rochester Lodge, No. 13, and received all the degrees appertaining to a subordinate lodge of Odd Fellows. Through the kindness of Rochester Lodge the regular fees were refunded, with which a charter was procured, December 28th, 1864, and Star of the West Lodge, No. 14, I. O. of O. F. was duly instituted by M. W. G. M., C. D. Strong, assisted by P. G. M., O. J. Noble. The charter members were J. Newsalt, Wm. Hamburg, E. K. Smith, P. J. Smith, Eben Durham and W. H. Twiford. The first officers elected and installed were J. Newsalt, N. G.; E. K. Smith, V. G.; W. H. Twiford, Secretary; William Hamburg, Treasurer.

On the evening of the organization of the Lodge, D. B. Marble, A. C. Hickman, and James Lee were admitted by card; L. Bixby, G. W. Shaw, and R. Joos by initiation. W. H. Twiford resigning his office of secretary, L. Bixby was elected to fill the vacancy and duly installed. During the first term of six months three members were admitted by card and twelve by initiation. The officers elected and installed for the second term commencing July 1st, 1865, were: E. K. Smith, N. G.; L. Bixby, V. G.; A. C. Hickman, Sec.; D. B. Marble, Treas.; J. Newsalt, D. D. G. M. During the second term two were admitted by card and six by initiation.

The officers elected and installed for the third term commencing January 1st, 1866, were: L. Bixby, N. G.; D. B. Marble, V. G.; A. T. Mygatt, Secretary; G. W. Shaw, Treasurer. During the third term five members were admitted by initiation.

The officers elected and installed for the fourth term commencing July 1st, 1866, were: D. B. Marble, N. G.; G. W. Shaw, V. G.; P. T. Smith, Secretary; Wm. Pepper, Treasurer; E. K. Smith, D. D. G. M. During the above term four members were admitted by card and four were admitted members by initiation. During this term the amount of fifty dollars were paid for the relief of brothers.

The officers elected and installed for the fifth term commencing Jan. 1st, 1867, were: L. Bixby, N. G.; P. T. Smith, V. G.; G. H. Tyrrell, Secretary; P. McCrastle, Treasurer. During the term there were admitted to membership by card, one; and by initiation five. Paid for the relief of brothers, ten dollars.

The officers elected and installed for the sixth term, July 1st, 1867, were: G. W. Shaw, N. G.; Wm. Scruby, V. G.; J. J. Thomas, Secretary; R. T. Smith, Treasurer; L. Bixby, D. D. G. M. During the term, J. J. Thomas resigned, and C. S. Crandall was elected secretary and served the balance of the term. There were initiated during this term eight members, and admitted as an ancient Odd Fellow, one. During the term Bro. Wm. H. Wadsworth died.

The officers elected and installed for the seventh term, Jan. 1, 1868, were: G. H. Tyrrell, N. G.; W. H. Reynolds, V. G.; C. S. Crandall, Secretary; Alson Sellick, Treasurer. During the early part of the term, G. H. Tyrrell resigned the office of N. G.; and L. Bixby was elected to fill the vacancy. During the term three members were admitted by initiation and two by card.

Total number of members, at present, is 55. The Lodge

is in a fine, prosperous condition at the present time. We have labored under some difficulties in procuring a suitable hall, but are at present in a comfortable hall over Seaton's book store. We expect to start a camp here this summer.

During the first term there was organized a Rebecca Lodge, in which all scarlet degree members are entitled to membership, also the wives of Scarlet Degree members. The object of this degree is for the special benefit of the wives of members. The Rebecca Lodge meets on the first Friday evening of each month and is in a prosperous condition, and adds largely to the interests of the regular Lodge.

### MILITARY RECORD.

When the call "to arms" resounded over the country, the patriotic hearts of brave men in Steele county rose up to meet the demand, and not once was the call repeated but her quota was more than filled with men already in the field. We shall enter upon no eulogium of the brave hearts who perilled their lives for their country's sake, as their memory is engraven upon the hearts of the nation too many of them, alas! died to save. We simply give a list of the names of all who entered the service from Steele county, as we found them recorded in the Adjutant General's office in St. Paul.

#### AURORA.

Annis Levi  
Berg Jacob  
Bixby J S  
Curtis Geo H  
Lopping Henry  
Green William  
Myers Felix  
Morin Patrick  
Morin Dennis  
Pettie David  
Pettie C B  
Pettie G C  
Cook Albert T  
Fling Geo A  
Snyder Wm J

McDaniels R C  
Thimson Nils P  
Roberts John L  
Johnson Wm J  
Howe Samuel  
Dickenson Christopher  
Olmsted Samuel B  
Roberts James L  
Weed Clark  
Siverson Halleck  
Richards Alonzo  
Danchy Arthur H

#### BERLIN.

Chase Levi  
Chase, Dudley  
Chase, Timothy

Hanson, William  
Pitcher, Eli F  
Reese, Isaac  
Trow, Francis  
Roberts, Eugene W.  
Willson, William

#### DOVER.

Chambers, Frank  
Curtis, Manly M  
Dubois, James L  
Emery, Geo W  
Jones, Anthony  
Jones, Anthony W  
Jones, Isaac W  
Patterson, Martin  
Strotham, J E

Tiffany, Oscar  
 Warfield, John M  
 Webster, Joseph R  
 Bunns, Wm H  
 Elliott, Gilbert W  
 McCarelin, John  
 Bailey, Richard S  
 Bloomer, Henry  
 Minthorne, Henry F  
 Hart, Allen  
 Anderson, John  
 Hudson, Charles  
 Jones, Charles  
 Willis, John  
 Giles, S F

## CLINTON FALLS.

Baker, Ozias B  
 Barnhard, William  
 Barnhard, James  
 Bortley, John H  
 Cressey, R W  
 Curtis, Thomas  
 Green, Geo W  
 Hunt, Andrew M  
 Hays, Sandford E  
 Morrison, Wm Hdgar  
 McNitt, Truman E  
 Parsons, Henry  
 Sanborn, Benj O  
 Williamson, Daniel W  
 Ritchie, Joseph  
 McIntire, Sanford H  
 Morrison, Samuel  
 Warner, Martin

## DEERFIELD.

Condon, Patrick  
 Gypson, Benjamin  
 Hodgson, William  
 Lilly, Samuel  
 Morse, Henry N  
 Rosenthal, William  
 Star, William  
 Winchell, Demster L  
 Williams, Charles H  
 Carter, Henry G  
 Arnold, Wm W  
 Houston, Cyrus M  
 Parker, Newton  
 Fleury, Joseph

## LEMOND.

Beach, Samuel B.  
 Bagg, Aaron S  
 Huston, Thomas  
 Johnson, Nelson  
 Kinney, Newcombe  
 Kinney, Stillman W  
 Tasker, Daniel  
 Tatro, Joseph  
 Tatro, John  
 Gould, Samuel T  
 Bragg, Henry W  
 Davis, Edward  
 Gibbons, James  
 Sorenson, Ingbert

## MEDFORD.

Barney, John L  
 Bliss, Calvin G

Bissell, Warren P  
 Davis, John L  
 Davis, Thomas E  
 Drake, Richard M  
 Eastman, Adoniram  
 Francis, Albert B  
 Fowler, Francis W  
 Fowler, Loren  
 Freeman, Samuel M  
 Guile, Samuel M  
 Haskill, Augustus  
 Heath, Isaac P  
 Heath, John A  
 Jeffrey, Charles  
 Kendig, George  
 King, John H  
 Lincoln, Aug. A  
 Moore, Ambrose  
 McCrory, William  
 McCrory, John  
 McKinney, Albert  
 Melvin, F L  
 Miller, M D L  
 Pike, Elias G  
 Pomeroy, Charles  
 Pasco, William  
 Ring, Eugene P  
 Shaw, Jotham  
 Strong, M L  
 Sawyer, George B  
 Thurston, Geo H  
 Thurston, H N  
 Wentworth, John W  
 Wheeler, Walter W  
 Wilkins, Walter W  
 Howard, Lewis M  
 Stoddard, James S  
 McClure, Nelson  
 Wilkins, William W  
 Hoyt, Moses  
 DeReimer, James H

## MERRIDEN.

Bradley, Henry  
 Bradley, William  
 Fitzsimmons, Charles  
 Fitzsimmons, Lewis  
 Green, L J  
 Tuthill, Wm S  
 Williams, Byron J  
 Mosher, Asa  
 Baker, Samuel W  
 Cooney, Thomas  
 Ritchie, Henry  
 McNitt, James R  
 Teed, John A  
 Kern, James W  
 Ross, Cornelius F  
 Carr, Francis H  
 McCabe, William  
 Bradley, James  
 Jordon, Anthony J  
 Tuthill, John D  
 House, Charles S  
 Hawes, Philo  
 Anderson, John L  
 Kidney, William H  
 Middaugh, Valentine V

Harris, William A  
 Lewis, Jacob  
 Smith, Adelbert  
 MERTON.  
 Adams, James H  
 Barns, James J  
 Burns, Alvin  
 Baker, Chas B  
 Carpenter, Joseph  
 Curtis, Samuel J  
 Condin, Patrick  
 Carpenter, Thomas  
 Eastman, Alphous R  
 Flake, Levi  
 Henry, Michael W  
 Henry, Miles  
 Irvin, Fredrick J  
 Jones, Henry B  
 Jones, Oliver T  
 Kendall, Frank L  
 Lane, John  
 Mosher, Norman  
 Martin, Willard E  
 McAndrews, Patrick  
 Norton, Sewal P  
 Naylor, George  
 Naylor, James  
 Reed, Andrew W  
 Thompson, Franklin  
 Taylor, Emmons P  
 Williams, Theodore  
 Willey, Geo H  
 Welch, Melvin H  
 Molley, Lawrence W  
 Barnard, Warren  
 Dodge, Daniel, jr.  
 Casler, Smith  
 Curtis, John W  
 Curtis, Henry L  
 O'Toole, Terence  
 Conlia, Thos J  
 McAndrews, Michael  
 Pennick, Wilmot H  
 Thom, Robert  
 OWATONNA.  
 Ambler, R C  
 Arnold, E M  
 Bill, Fredolin  
 Burr, John D  
 Barnett, P D  
 Barney, Michael  
 Burns, Hugh  
 Babcock, L F  
 Burr, Murdock P  
 Case, M B  
 Crooker, Geo W  
 Colyer, Andrew H  
 Caverdale, D L  
 Carter, J T  
 Crawford, J W  
 Crandall, O S  
 Case, Simeon  
 Carlton, Dexter  
 Conwell, F A  
 Ernst, A W  
 Elliott, Jeremiah  
 Fillmore, E D



Fletcher, Harvey  
 Flinn, J N H  
 Foster, Norman T  
 Gordon, Walter  
 Goodwin, James A  
 Grear, John  
 Hall, James F  
 Hooker, J B  
 Hadley, J A.  
 Hess, Jacob W  
 Haynes, Asa S  
 Hartz, William  
 Hammond, Chas F  
 Kelley, Thomas  
 Kerrott, E M  
 Livingston, Frank  
 Lindersmith, Oliver  
 LaGro, Ebenezer  
 Morford, S D  
 Moessner, C F  
 Mills, Geo M  
 Morford, Joel G  
 Moore, Orlando S  
 Minthorne, T C S  
 Miles, Richard  
 Morris, John  
 Northop, E W  
 Nichols, Jacob  
 Norman, John B  
 Odell, Geo W  
 Phillips, E P  
 Phelps, Alvin  
 Patten, M R  
 Phelps, Addison  
 Parsons, Fred  
 Phillips, Horace H  
 Pasco, Richard A  
 Presley, William  
 Russell, W H  
 Rideout, Andrew J  
 Sawyer, James T  
 Schimek, Austin B  
 Sherman, W H  
 Stowers, Smith H  
 Scott, Wm B  
 Thom, George  
 Towle, Daniel G  
 Thompson, Hamilton R  
 Thomas, James S  
 Town, Julius A  
 Wheaton, Willard  
 Wood, Alanson B  
 Winchell, Nathaniel  
 Webster, Wm

Winchell, Wm B  
 Ware, Marcus  
 Yearley, Zeus S  
 Thompson, Thomas  
 Brigham, Henry D  
 Epla, Samrel S  
 Howard, C E  
 Bettig, Samuel, jr.  
 Crooker, Geo W  
 Coon, John D  
 Harsh, Hiram  
 Hulett, Ebon  
 Robinson, Hiram  
 Thenig, Geo W  
 Vail, Allen S  
 Young, Joseph,  
 Lipsey, John F  
 Bradley, William  
 - Lindersmith O  
 Peebles, Jacob  
 Siars, Benjamin  
 Tasker, Daniel L  
 Tiffany, Oscar  
 Tyler, Ezra A  
 Ameigh, Erin H  
 Brooks, Geo W  
 Clark, Wm H  
 Giles, Charles  
 Jones, Charles A  
 - Jepson, John  
 Lyons, Wm B  
 Marshall, David P  
 Rock, John M  
 Sweatt, Methia  
 Walrod, Jacob W  
 Wickham, John O  
 Young, John  
 Hopkins, George N  
 Chase, Russell  
 Middaugh, Solomon  
 Sherpy, James M  
 Chambers, George  
 Buck, Edwin P  
 Andrews, Theodorus J  
 Enny, Joseph  
 Hickock, Franklin K  
 McPelt, Michael  
 Morrison, Daniel R  
 Pitch, Wesley W  
 Stevens, Lafayette  
 Wilcox, John  
 Ramsey, Nathaniel  
 Wildrich, John  
 Slocum, Melvin B

Reece, Isaac  
 Peggs, Joseph E E  
 Gardner, Charles W  
 SUMMIT.  
 Fredenburg, Jeremiah  
 Farrell, John  
 Smith, James A  
 Winchell, George  
 Wheeler, Benjamin S  
 Benedict, Harvey, jr  
 Davis, Hanson M  
 Fredenburg, Alvin  
 Austin, Freborn L  
 Colanhour, Archibald  
 Heath, Roswell F  
 Smith, David V  
 Scram, Wm T  
 Barrett, Isaac S  
 Ellis, Mortimer R  
 Loomis, Daniel A  
 Work, Adolphus C  
 Warner, John M  
 SOMERSET.  
 Borchat, Henry  
 Borchat, Ferdinand  
 Card, William N  
 Curtis, Charles C  
 Gross, Oscar  
 Thompson, Arza B  
 Breidenstein, Wm N  
 James, Thos G  
 Lunn, John  
 Buckner, Joseph  
 Bailey, Albert  
 Ellison, Charles  
 Gross, Gilbert  
 Kenyon, Thos E  
 Maynard, David L  
 Saikora, Franta  
 King, James S  
 Smith, James B  
 Sawyer, Philo  
 Steele, Charles A  
 Onfcleson, Ole  
 Powers, Byrum  
 Pletcher, Henry A  
 Carvey, Steven  
 Johnson, Herman A  
 Knowlton, Charles R  
 Howe, Lafayette  
 Anderson, Silas  
 Hamson, Wm W  
 Mitchell, George  
 Walcott, Theodore

## TOWNS.

### MEDFORD.

The town of Medford is only three miles in extent from north to south and six from east to west, embracing only eighteen sections of land instead of thirty-six, about three fourths of which is covered with timber. Nearly all on the east side of the Straight river is covered with a good growth of fine timber suitable for lumber or rails. The soil of the timber land is of a black sandy loam, very deep, with a clay subsoil, adapted to all kinds of cereals or vegetables. On the west side of the river the soil is of a lighter loam and produces the best quality of wheat, though not always of the largest yield. The town is well watered by the Straight river running through it from south to north, as well as several small streams that flow into it.— There is one fine water power on the river as yet unimproved, and a steam saw mill in successful operation, owned by the Abbott Brothers.

The first claims were made in the summer of 1853, by Smith and Orlando Johnson, A. L. Wright, L. M. Howard Chauncey Lull, who staked off their claims, and in September Mr. Howard turned over the first prairie sod in what is now Steele County. The Messrs. Johnson commenced breaking on their claims that fall, but did not build their houses or remove their families to this place till the following spring. Messrs Wright and Lull built a log house in which they spent the winter, which was probably the first abode for civilization within the limits of the county. In the winter or early spring of 1854 John Sanborn brought

his family with him and located in the southern part of the town, Mrs. Sanborn being the first white woman to find a home in that vicinity. Mrs. Wm. K. Colling was the next white woman to take up her residence in the infant colony, which she did in the following spring. Soon after her arrival she gave birth to a son which was the first birth of a white child in either town or county. The first marriage that was solemnized in Medford was that of A. L. Wright and Miss Phebe Ann Hays, Rev. O. A. Thomas sealing the contract with the authority and sanction of the church. Mr. William Woolford was the first to embark on the voyage

"To that unknown and silent shore  
Where all shall meet as heretofore  
Some summer morning."

In the spring of 1856 Miss Flora Sawyer, now Mrs. Isaac Sanborn, opened a select school in one room of her father's house, which was the first public effort at teaching the youth of that town how to climb the hill of science.—Religious services were held as early as 1854. Mr. Wm. Colling, a man of real practical piety, though not an ordained minister, frequently gathered his neighbors together and explained the scriptures, exhorting his audience to live sober and useful lives. At a meeting of the settlers to consult upon a name wherewith to christen the town Mr. Colling said that he had a son who was born on board the ship Medford, and was named Medford in honor of the ship and proposed that the town should be named Medford in honor of the boy, which proposition was unanimously adopted.

Medford was organized on the 11th of May, 1858, and commenced the exercise of her new powers by the election of the following town officers:

*Supervisors:* F. B. Davis, J. D. Sanborn, O. Bartholomew.  
*Town Clerk:* A. O. Francis. *Assessor:* W. P. Francis.

*Treasurer:* Edwin Drake. *Overseer of Poor:* E. Sanborn.

*Justices:* K. Prescott, Joel L. Pound.

*Constables:* D. T. Eastman, S. M. Freeman.

Since that time the following named persons have served the town in the capacity of Chairman of Supervisors and Town Clerks:

*Chairman of Supervisors,*

F. B. Davis,  
K. Prescott,  
B. F. Melvin,  
W. F. Lewis,  
Orrin Lee,  
W. P. Bissell,  
Wallace Wilkins,

*Town Clerks:*

A. O. Francis,  
W. P. Francis,  
O. Bartholomew,  
B. F. Melvin,  
S. H. Stowers,  
R. Miies,  
Charles Pomeroy,  
W. P. Bissell.

In the fall of 1857 Smith Johnson was elected to the Territorial Legislature. B. F. Melvin was elected County Treasurer in 1862 which position he has held till the present time, having been twice re-elected. O. Bartholomew has been County Commissioner since 1865.

In the spring of 1858 the town officers let a contract to B. F. Melvin and J. P. Rideout to build a bridge across the Straight river, for the sum of \$900, the County to pay \$600, on condition that the town of Medford should pay the other \$300, O. Bartholomew and others were sureties that the town would pay this sum, and on the 19th of June a special town meeting was called to take formal action for the town to assume the liability. The vote stood 42 for paying the debt to 38 against it.

In 1862 the report of the Town Treasurer, as to the liabilities of the town was as follows: "The Town owes not one dollar, that we know of and there remains in the hands of the Treasurer a ballance of \$218,68."

In 1863 a special Town Meeting was called to vote on

the proposition to purchase the School house on the west side of the river for a Town House, but the project failed and in 1867 the building was bought by the Free Will Baptist Society and removed to the east side of the river and fitted up for a Church, which by an arrangement with other denominations is now used as a Union Church.

In 1862, at the time of the Indian massacres on the frontier, the people of Medford became somewhat excited in relation to their own safety, and the town appropriated \$5 to purchase powder to burn in their defence, and for some time pickets were stationed about the town. But as the Indians very wisely confined their operations to the more remote settlements, the powder was burned to celebrate the fall of Richmond or the capture of Jeff. Davis.

In 1866 the spring floods carried away the bridge across the river, and in May a special town meeting was held to authorize an appropriation to build a new one. A majority decided in favor of the project, and a committee consisting of Smith Johnson, L. M. Howard, George Hankerson, W. Wilkins and Alfred Sanborn, were appointed to select a location that would be most favorable to the building, and the best accommodate the people of the town. The committee selected a point about forty rods above the old one. The report of the committee was adopted, and an appropriation of \$1,500 made to pay the cost; the county appropriating \$1,000, making \$2,500 in all. Another special meeting was called and the vote on the report of the committee reconsidered, and it was decided to build on the old location, and on motion of Smith Johnson, an appropriation of \$500 additional was made to the fund. The contract was let to a Mr. Alden, who commenced the work but failed to go through with it, and the town board finished it. Another special meeting was called in July to add \$650 more to the bridge fund, and this sum proving insufficient,

a further appropriation of \$500 was made in the November following, making a sum total of \$4,150, which completed a fine structure that will probably withstand the effects of any floods that will be likely to visit that region. In the summer of 1855 the Messrs. Abbott Brothers built a fine steam saw-mill, which furnished most of the lumber for the new town. The mill was removed after running a year or two. In 1856 Messrs. Melvin, Rideout and Hall built a fine saw-mill a short distance below the village site, which, after being run for two or three years, was burned. In 1865 Messrs. Abbott and Merrill built another steam saw-mill which is still in successful operation.

The first store was built in 1856 by Alfred McKinney, who put in a stock of goods the same season. The same year Smith Johnson built a hotel and furnished it for the accommodation of the traveling public. After the expiration of the *Owatonna Register* the office was bought by Messrs. Sully & Francis and removed to Medford, where a paper was started, called the *Medford Valley Argus*, sometime in the fall of 1858. Mr. Sulley soon sold his half of the establishment to James R. Lucas, who, after continuing the publication for a few months, sold his share to H. M. Sheetz, and Messrs. Sheetz & Francis removed the office to Owatonna. This is the only newspaper enterprise ever started in the town.

The privations that attended this new settlement were much such as attended other towns. Hardships and inconveniences in various ways were met with and overcome with such energy as is only begotten of pioneer life. At one time, soon after the arrival of Mr. Howard and his family, Mrs. Howard was taken sick, and as there was no physician near on that side of the river, Mr. Howard swam the river and went some distance and procured advice and medicine for his sick wife. At another time a man came

to the usual fording place to cross, but the river was so swollen by recent rains that it was impossible to ford it, and as the man could not swim the case seemed desperate, as there was no boat to be had. But westerners never stand idly by while any one is in need of assistance, and Smith Johnson, taking with him a rope, swam over the river and attaching the rope to the stranger swam back again to the other side, towing him alongside.

The village of Medford is located in a beautiful little valley, through which flows the Straight river, and contains fifty-three dwelling houses, five stores, one hotel, two blacksmiths, two wagon shops, one shoe shop, one attorney and a post office.

Merchants—Jones & Bissell, D. C. Hemkins, L. Fowler, L. W. Sherman, Bailey & Bryant.

Blacksmiths—E. Woodworth, — Dutton.

Wagon Shops—S. Hawkins, I. D. Beeman.

Attorney—L. Hazen.

Postmaster—D. C. Hempkins.

The village also contains a fine two story Union school house, erected at an expense of about \$3,000; also two churches—the Union church and the Congregational—the latter of which was built and dedicated in 1864 and immediately furnished with a bell. The church was organized in 1856 with fourteen members, by Rev. Ozro A. Thomas, who remained as pastor till 1863. The present membership is 47, Rev. Edward Brown, pastor.

The culture of fruit trees has received considerable attention. Mr. A. A. Hubbard has a fine nursery, with choice native and imported trees and shrubs, that seem to indicate a maturity of fruitfulness.

### CLINTON FALLS.

In the fall of 1854, Mr. Avery W. Adams made a claim

near where is now the center of the town, and the following winter erected a house for his family, and soon had them domiciled with him, ready to try the pleasures of pioneering on the Minnesota prairies. The summer previous Dr. Wm. W. Finch, as one of the commissioners appointed to survey and locate a road from St. Paul to the Iowa line, via the valley of the Straight river, had succeeded in getting the work so far accomplished as to have the ground explored and way-marks erected at intervals to guide the immigrants in their course. This was of vast benefit to those who were seeking homes in the interior, as they could then, by crossing the Mississippi at Prairie du Chien, proceed with teams and cattle directly through the country to their destination, where they had before been obliged to go up the river to St. Paul and from there into the interior. Soon after Mr. Adams settled Mr. David Sanborn, who had selected a claim sometime in the summer of 1854, came and took possession and brought his family with him. They were soon followed by Dr. W. W. Finch, Jas. W. Finch, Isaac Sanborn, Francis Adams, James and Sanford Hays and others, making quite a settlement in the course of the year 1855.

In 1856 Dr. Finch commenced building a dam across the Straight river, for the purpose of securing sufficient water power to operate mill machinery, but one half interest to two brothers, named Williamson, who were to build a grist mill, and Dr. Finch a saw mill; the grist mill to be completed within a year. But the Messrs. Williamson failing to get the grist mill completed, Dr. Finch sent to Chicago and procured a run of stone, or what is called "a portable mill," and put it in operation in his saw mill. This mill was truly a God-send to the settlers, who had frequently been under the necessity of resorting to their coffee mills to manufacture their meal to make bread. Wheat thus



ground was very appropriately called meal, as it could not be reduced fine enough to be called flour. In 1857, Hon. G. W. Green, from Beaver Dam, in Wisconsin, purchased an interest in the grist mill and it was pushed forward to completion, under the faithful superintendence of Moses Hutchinson, the only practical millwright this section of country then afforded. D. R. Morrison was established as miller, and the housewives of the vicinity soon began to manufacture their snowy wheaten loaves out of flour of home production. In a short time Judge Green purchased the remaining interest of the Messrs. Williamson, and still owns and operates the mill. The mill has two run of stone, with a capacity of about 500 bushels per day. In 1863 the saw mill was purchased by Mr. Green who still owns it.

The first birth that occurred in Clinton Falls was that of Frank Adams, a son of Avery W. Adams, on the 6th of April, 1855. In the spring of 1856, David Morrison, an old gentleman and father of D. R. Morrison, died; this being the first death of a white person in the town. The marriage rites were first performed for the benefit of Mr. William A. Williamson and Miss Lucretia Finch, daughter of James M. Finch. The first school was taught in the summer of 1856, in a small house owned by Dr. Finch, by Miss Mary Morrison, now Mrs. Charles Williamson. The first religious service was held by Rev. T. R. Cressy at the house of David Sanborn, in the spring of 1856. The town was organized in 1858. The number of votes cast at the first election was thirty-five; Geo. W. Green was elected Chairman of Supervisors, and Geo. E. Rex, Clerk. The following named persons have served the town in the capacity of Chairman of Supervisors and Town Clerk since its organization:

*Chairman of Supervisors.*

G. W. Green, 4 years,  
 W. W. Finch, 2 years,  
 D. Sanborn, 4 years,  
 J. W. Morrison,  
 Newton Parker,

*Town Clerk.*

D. S. Kimball,  
 Jas. M. Finch, ap'd,  
 G. W. Green,  
 G. W. Knapp,  
 C. M. Williamson, 3 yrs  
 C. M. Huston,  
 David How,  
 T. B. Chase, 3 years  
 A. C. Finch.

The town has been represented in the Territorial Legislature by O. A. Thomas and G. W. Green. The first church bell in the county was purchased by the Ladies' Sewing Society of Clinton Falls, in June, 1863. In 1867, the people voted to build a good and substantial bridge across the Straight river, and raised by tax \$2,000, and the county giving \$1,000 more, a covered bridge was erected, with solid abutments and spanning the entire width of the river.

An extensive stone quarry lies on the west bank of the river, which is said to be superior for building or burning into lime to any other found in this section of country.

The business of the place now consists of one store, owned by Dr. W. W. Finch; one hotel, one grist mill and one saw mill, owned by Judge Green; one blacksmith shop operated by Isaac Tuttle; one lawyer, G. W. Green; and one physician, W. W. Finch. The Methodists have built a neat and comfortable parsonage for the pastor's residence, the present of whom is Rev. W. P. Coffin. Rev. Mr. Williams is pastor of the Baptist church. Both denominations hold service in the school house, there being no house of worship yet erected.

**MERIDEN.**

For most of the following sketch of the town of Meriden

we are indebted to Mr. F. J. Stevens, Superintendent of Schools for Steele county, and an early settler in Meriden :

The first settler in the town of Meriden was Mr. A. M. Fitzsimmons, who came into the town and settled in the south-east corner of section thirty-six, in June, 1855. The first person born in the town was a daughter of Mr. O. H. Wilker, in March, 1856. The first marriage was that of Mr. W. F. Dunn, (now Colonel in U. S. Army,) to Miss Roxie Henshaw, which took place at Mr. Austin Vinton's, on the 24th of September, 1856. Rev. H. Chapin, of Owatonna, performed the ceremony. There being no horses in the neighborhood, the guests were all conveyed in farm-wagons drawn by oxen. The first death was that of a Mr. Simmons, son-in-law of Mr. Fitzsimmons, the first settler of the town. He was killed by lightning while sitting in his house, in the summer of 1858. The first school was taught in the summer of 1858 by Miss Leroy, daughter of Henry Leroy, Esq. The first religious service was held at the house of Mr. Wilker, in the summer of 1857; the preacher was a German Methodist.

There are now five districts in the town in which schools are taught, and several new districts which have not yet had a school. The only church is a German Lutheran, many of the inhabitants belonging to churches in Owatonna and Waseca.

Meriden is bounded on the north by Deerfield, east by Owatonna, south by Lemond, and west by Wilton, in Waseca county. In the western part of the town is a slough or marsh, covering nearly two sections of land, and from which flows a small stream called Crane creek, running in a north-east direction, through the south-east corner of Deerfield and north-west corner of Clinton Falls, emptying into Straight river at Medford. The southern portion is covered to some extent with oak openings, while the north-

ern and central portions are as fine prairies as can be found in the State.

The town was organized in 1858, at which time A. F. Tracy was chosen Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and W. T. Drown, Town Clerk; since which time those offices have been filled as follows :

*Chairman of Supervisors,*

F. J. Stevens,  
Saml. Reemsnyder, 3 yrs.  
J. O. Waumett, 3 years,  
T. P. Jackson, 2 years,  
E. L. Scovill,

*Town Clerk.*

Samuel Reemsnyder,  
Jos. Grandprey, 3 years,  
Henry Leroy, 3 years,  
E. L. Crosby, 2 years,  
Robert Stevenson.

The last named are the present incumbents.

## LEMOND.

The first settlement in the town of Lemond was in the spring of 1856, by Samuel Thompson, Sandford Kinney and Erasmus Teed, who were followed in the succeeding summer by Samuel Hastings. Kinney made his claim on section three, in the north-east part of the town; Mr. Thompson located on section two. The settlement was not of rapid growth, but those who came were mostly permanent settlers, who had sought out this country to make a permanent home for themselves, and not to build up a home for others to occupy and enjoy.

The first birth in the town of Lemond was in the family of a Mr. Hughes. The first matrimonial alliance made and executed was contracted between Daniel Tuscan and Miss Cornelia Davis, the acknowledgement of which was taken by Sandford Kinney, Esq., in May, 1859. No deaths occurred in this town till 1860, when Mr. Wm. Manson died in November of that year. The first school was taught by Mr. Stillman Kinney, in the winter of 1858-9. The first religious service was held in January, 1858, Rev. Mr.

Moses was the officiating clergyman. There are no church buildings in the town, and the different denominations hold service in the school houses. Two good school houses have been built, in which schools are taught during the school terms of the year.

The soil is about the same as characterizes the other portions of the county, and produces excellent crops. The town is well watered though it has no manufacturing facilities. Lawyers and doctors have never as yet found any inducements for settlement here.

The organization of the town took place in April, 1858, and the following officers were chosen to administer the laws of the new town:

*Chairman of Supervisors*—S. M. Hastings,

*Supervisors*—E. D. Teed, Sandford Kinney;

*Town Clerk*—E. Dampier; *Assessor*—J. E. Hughes;

*Collector*—Jerome Coon; *Overseer of Poor*—E. J. Coon;

*Justices of the Peace*—S. M. Hastings, Sandford Kinney.

Since that time the following gentlemen have served as Chairman of Supervisors and Town Clerk:

*Chairman of Supervisors,*  
 S. M. Hastings, 3 years,  
 S. G. Townsend,  
 Hugh Murray, 3 years,  
 C. G. Hersey,  
 S. M. Hastings,  
 Charles Knowlton,

*Town Clerks:*  
 Edward Dampier,  
 S. F. Gould, 2 years,  
 S. M. Hastings, 2 yrs.,  
 Sandford Kinney, jr.  
 S. M. Hastings,  
 S. F. Gould,  
 S. M. Kinney,  
 S. H. Stowers.

### SOMERSET.

Somerset, lying directly south of Owatonna, was first settled in the year 1856, on the 27th of May, by three brothers, Levi, E. W. and Albert Bailey, from Pennsylv-

nia, and a Mr. Savins, who located near the center of the town, on the west side of the Owatonna or Straight river, built their shanties and commenced breaking up the soil preparatory to putting in seed for a crop. They sowed buckwheat and planted potatoes that year, as the season was too far advanced to sow wheat and oats, before they could get their breaking done. The brothers Bailey broke up a considerable tract and fenced it, ready to put into wheat the following season. Within a few days after the Baileys made their claim, Dr. Thomas Kinyon, T. J. Clark, and Orlando A. Barnes came and located in the same neighborhood. Dexter Smith, Ebenezer Lagro, David Barnes, O. Fisher, Henry Catlin, John Catlin, Charles Ellison, Charles R. Knowlton, Warren Fisher, James E. Hughes, and several others made claims the same summer. Nearly all the settlers of that year in Somerset were natives of New York and Pennsylvania, and as all were from that section of country where science and culture had full sway, the neighborhood was made up of a more choice society than where the population is gathered from many different States and foreign countries.

Nearly one half of the surface of the town is covered with timber or oak openings, furnishing a full supply for fuel and fencing. The town is considered well watered, with the Straight river running in a north-west direction through it, and a large number of springs in various parts sending forth small streams which meander through the prairies, affording water to nearly all the farms in the township.

The first death in the town was that of a Mr. Manna Case, in July, 1856. The first birth was in the family of T. J. Clark, to whom was born a daughter in the summer of 1856, who was duly christened Ellen. The first marriage was that of Miss Rachel Bill to Mr. Alexander Hisam in July, 1858.

The northern part of the town is settled mostly by Bohemians and Germans, who are making good farms and cultivating the land, but not doing as much towards the educational progress of the town as in the central and southern portion. The low lands have a soil of black loam and sand, while the higher portion is a loam with clay subsoil. The low lands are not as subject to injury by drouth or even wet weather as the uplands, where the subsoil is of clay.

The number of school houses now is three in which schools are now taught through the usual school terms of each year, though there are seven organized districts. The first school was taught in the summer of 1856, in the attic of the residence of Dr. Thomas Kinyon, and by virtue of the elevated position of the room was denominated the "high school," Miss Phebe Kinyon officiated as preceptress. The walls and roof made classic by association are now used as a stable for horses, and a neat and commodious school house built at an expense of about \$1,400, invites the young searcher after knowledge to mount the first rungs of the ladder of science.

The first church service was had in the autumn of 1857, at the residence of Deacon Sibley, the name of the officiating clergyman was Harney.

The township of Somerset, according to government survey, is 106 north of range 20 west, and bounded on the north by the township of Owatonna, east by Aurora, south by Summit, and west by Lemond. The surface is slightly undulating, and about one third covered with timber and openings; the other two-thirds is an open prairie. The soil in the timber and oak openings is of a rich clay loam, which is considered by the farmers to be the best quality for raising wheat and other cereals. The prairie land is mostly composed of a deep, rich, dark loam, of almost in-

exhaustible fertility, while a narrow belt of land along the banks of the Straight river is composed of sand loam. In many places the river is bordered by natural meadows of considerable extent, making it an easy matter to secure any desirable quantity of hay for wintering stock.

The principal stream in this town is the Straight river, which flows in a northerly course, affording in several places a fair water power, none of which are improved. Two small tributaries flow into it from the east, called Turtle Creek and Willow Run, with Wasecca Run from the west.

The town was organized on the 11th of May, 1858, and T. C. Minthorn elected Chairman of Supervisors, and W. H. Sherman, Town Clerk. The names of those who have subsequently held the office of Chairman of Supervisors are as follows: Thomas Thompson, W. H. Sherman, J. W. Doolittle, Seth Hotchkiss, Thomas Kinyon, H. M. Bill, F. B. Doolittle, Augustus Theile, and Dexter Smith. While the office of Town Clerk has been filled as follows: W. H. Sherman, Phelps Case, Manley Curtis, Charles Ellison, and John Anderson.

We are indebted for many of the items in relation to this town, to Dexter Smith, Esq., who says: "The prevailing characteristics of the inhabitants are industry, honesty and independence in thought and deed. The medical profession was at one time represented by Drs. Thomas Kinyon and W. H. Twiford, but owing to the 'alarming healthfulness' of this locality their 'pill bags' were years ago consigned to the cabinet of antedeluvian curiosities, and they have taken to farming as a more lucrative business. The legal profession has no representative, the people have too much sense to spend their substance in litigation for the benefit of that fraternity.

"The pioneer settlers in this town were without exception poor men, and suffered all the privations incident to the



opening up of a new country. For several years our wardrobes and larders seldom contained anything but the absolute necessities of life; and I might cite you to more than one case where to 'keep the wolf from the door,' we subsisted ourselves and our little ones on forage only suited to the cattle on the hills; but in hope and faith, and trust in the promises, and the vigorous strokes of our good right arms, we struggled on, and the seasons as they came and went never wholly failed to leave some token for the encouragement of renewed effort."

There are no special business points in Somerset. The business of the inhabitants is entirely agricultural, and a host of finely cultivated farms are the surest signs of prosperity and the best evidence that the people will not have to subsist themselves upon husks, but from their overflowing granaries and well filled cellars, will hereafter live upon the fat of the land.

### DEERFIELD.

In the north-west corner of Steele county, with Rice county on the north, and Waseca on the west, and bounded on the east by Medford and Clinton Falls, with Meriden on the south, lies the town of Deerfield. Its location is very favorable in an agricultural point of view, being ten miles from the city of Faribault and only seven from Owatonna, the real railroad center of Southern Minnesota, with the little village of Medford within three miles, which affords a market and freighting facilities for all who may desire to dispose of their wheat and other grains at this place, without carrying to a point more remote by teams. The south-west portion of the town finds an easy and convenient market at Waseca, on the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, so that in almost any direction the people may find a market for all their grain and produce at a very short distance from their doors.

The soil for the most part is a deep clay loam, rich and very fertile in the production of all the small grains, such as wheat, oats, rye, barley, &c. Grass grows more luxuriantly than on most prairie land, as the soil is heavier and the grass is not so easily injured by close grazing.

The population of the town is made of Americans and Germans about evenly divided as to numbers, and a few Irish, and are an industrious and temperate people, who are seeking for wealth by digging it from the fruitful soil. There is a good supply of timber for fencing purposes and fuel, though this town, like all the others, is destitute of pine that furnishes the principal part in all buildings. In the south part of the town is a belt of timber bordering on Crane Creek, of about two miles in width, which extends along the west side of the town the whole length, with occasional small prairies intervening, while it is but a short distance to the large timber belt of the Cannon and Straight rivers on the east and north.

There are no mills in this town, yet there are those of easy access at Clinton Falls, Medford, Warsaw, Morristown, and other places, so that the facilities for having grain ground, or procuring a supply of oak, maple or basswood lumber, are sufficient for all practical purposes.

Deerfield was first settled about the 12th day of May, 1855, by Edward McCartney, from Elgin, Ills., who with his family of wife and three children and a brother of his wife, located on the north-west quarter of section eight. He remained about two years, when he sold out and returned to Illinois, but soon came back to Minnesota and located at Morristown in Rice county, but becoming discontented went to California. and after spending a time in the land of gold, returned to Minnesota, sold his property and emigrated to Cass county, Nebraska, where he now resides. Other settlers followed Mr. McCartney into the town,

and a neighborhood was soon established.

The first birth in town was a daughter in the family of Mr. Hobaugh, residing on section twenty-six, in September, 1856, who was duly christened Caroline Hobaugh. The first death was that of a Miss Austin, a young lady of some seventeen or eighteen years of age. The first couple to embark on the sea of matrimony from this port were Mr. William B. Evans, formerly of Doyleston, Pa., and Miss Fredrica C. Williams, from Guilford, Conn., which embarkation was celebrated on the 16th of June, 1859, at the residence of the bride's mother—Washington Morse, a Justice of the Peace, tying the knot that no less a dignitary than a district judge could untie. The first school taught in town was in the summer of 1857, in what is now school district, No. 20. The teacher was Miss Elizabeth Hodgson, formerly from Taunton, Mass. The first religious service was had in the town at the funeral of a Mrs. Anderson, and was conducted by Rev. Washington Morse, a minister of seventh-day advent creed, who took the occasion to enlighten his audience as to the particular and distinctive tenets of his religious views. There are two church organizations—the Adventists and the German Methodists—though neither of them have a church edifice, but hold their service in the school houses.

The town was organized in the spring of 1858.

### MERTON.

The town of Merton was first settled in the year 1856 by Messrs. C. W. Curtis and L. E. Thompson, in the western part of the town. About the same time Mr. Magoon and a family of the name of Naylor, arrived and located in the south-east part of the town, where they still reside. Two young men by the name of Taylor and a Mr. Kendall made claims in the north part of the town.

The first death was in the family of Mr. Oscar Searles, in February, 1862, when that dread scourge of children, diphtheria, visited the place and took two of the loved ones God had given him; little Alice was the first to go, and soon after her sister Marion. During the months of February and March the grim messenger made frequent visits to the neighborhood. His next call was at the happy home of Mr. Henry Maw, and a sweet child of nine summers, their darling Adelaide, and a little boy, Bertie, went away to make their home among the angels. Daniel McNitt's family was next called upon to be divided, and three of the children of their household band went to the other side of the dark river, there to await the coming of the mourning ones left on this side, and still waiting.

The first school taught in the town was in the northern part in what is now known as the Rock School House. The house deriving its name from the fact that a very large rock, and the only one for miles around, rises high above the ground near the site of the school house. There are now four school houses in the town, in which schools are taught during the school season of each year.

No church edifices have as yet been erected in the town, but the Methodists and Baptists hold service in the school houses. The Catholics are somewhat numerous and hold occasional service at the residence of some one or other of the members.

The town was organized in 1858; L. E. Thompson was chosen Chairman of Supervisors, and a Mr. Miller, Town Clerk.

The soil is a rather light loam with clay sub-soil on the low lands, and on the higher or rolling prairie a gravel or sand sub-soil. The town is mostly prairie, though there is a small patch of timber in the northern part, and in the southern portion a small amount of oak openings. Natu-

ral meadows are scattered around on nearly every quarter section, though the principal part of the land is entirely suited to agriculture, and produces the best quality of crops of all kinds, and is not behind any of the other towns in the quantity produced.

In the summer of 1859, sometime in June, considerable excitement was created in the settlement by the appearance of a large brown bear in their midst, which had made its way from the timber in the north-west part of the town; and was probably on an exploring expedition. The settlers turned out *en masse* to give him a cordial reception, and in lieu of a regular band of music greeted him with pitchforks and such other implements of warfare as could most readily be found, and after a weary march in which the people undertook to keep up with his bearship, one sturdy farmer poked his rifle through a fence within a short distance of Mr. Bruin, and gave him such a pressing invitation to tarry with them that he yielded to the importunity and "caved in."

In 1856 a Mr. Colburn opened a store in the north-east corner of the town and christened the embryo city "Dodge City," but the country was so sparsely settled that he concluded to sell out at once and not wait the slow process of retailing. A man by the name of O. T. Jones was the purchaser, but kept the store but a short time, when he found that "the thing wouldn't pay," and as that is the motive power of all westerners he concluded to close up. This was the downfall of all the hopes of the enterprising citizens of Dodge City, some three or four families.

The town of Merton is in the north-east corner of Steele county, comprises thirty-six full sections of land, of an average quality, and is devoted especially to agricultural pursuits. There are at the present time no stores, hotels, blacksmith shops, or carpenter shops, and thus far the peo-

ple have kept whisky shops out of their midst, and are consequently contented and happy, and growing rich upon the produce of their farms.

### BERLIN.

Berlin is the south-west town of Steele county. It was first settled in July, 1856, the first settlers being William Shay, C. V. Brown, Hiram Pitcher, Levi Chase, Thomas McCormick, Robert Reynolds, H. S. Howen, Enfin Enfinson, Joseph Gordon, D. T. Gordon, Marshall Warren, and a Mr. Winchell, who all settled near the center of the town, and within a few weeks of each other. Berlin is considered one of the finest agricultural towns in the State, and not excelled by any for the beauty of its natural scenery. Near the center of the town is Beaver Lake, a perfect gem of beauty, with water clear as crystal and clear sand bottom. It is the favorite resort of bathers for many miles around.

The first birth in this town was that of Fred. Brown, a son of C. V. Brown, in January, 1857. In December, 1859, Mrs. Joseph Gordon died, which was the first death of a white person that occurred in the town.

The first marriage was celebrated in the spring of 1857, the parties being Mr. J. O. Culver and Miss Jane Gordon. The ceremony was performed by Hiram Pitcher, a Justice of the Peace. This being the first time the justice had performed the ceremony he varied a little from the usual form, and the groom was made to promise to obey the bride instead of the bride obeying the groom.

A post office, called Adamsville, was established in 1856, and Hiram Pitcher appointed postmaster. He also carried the mail from Owatonna, generally on foot, and in winter on snow shoes.

The first school taught in Berlin was in the winter of

1857-8, in a deserted claim shanty, by Mr. Dwight T. Gordon. The first religious service was held at the residence of Levi Chase, in the fall of 1856, when prayer meetings and a Sabbath school was established. In the fall of 1857 Rev. Mr. Kirkpatrick and Rev. S. N. Phelps commenced preaching on alternate Sabbaths. The first ground broken for a crop was done by Levi Chase, in the summer of 1856, and the second marriage in the town was in August, 1857, when Mr. Chase gave his daughter, Sarah A. Chase, to the keeping of Mr. Ashbel Ingerson, the Rev. Mr. Chapin ratifying the contract by performing the usual ceremony. There are now in the town three school houses, and one blacksmith shop, operated by Geo. Goodrich.

### SUMMIT.

In June, 1856, G. W. Knapp, with his family, located in the town of Summit, which is the center town of the southern tier, being flanked on the east by Oak Glen, and on the west by Berlin, with Somerset on the north, and Freeborn county on the south. The northwest corner of the town has considerable timber; sufficient to supply the balance of the town with all necessary fuel and fencing. A branch of the Straight river runs across the northwest corner, in a northeasterly direction, while another branch, taking its rise in a little lake lying partly in the town of Oak Glen, flows in a northwesterly course across the entire town, making an abundant supply of water for stock. The land is somewhat rolling, of a light but very productive soil, of about the same nature of that in other portions of the county. No water power in the town, that is available for the purpose of driving machinery.

When Mr. Knapp made his claim, he immediately pitched his tent, which he carried with him, and Mrs. Knapp went at once to "housekeeping," two straw beds

occupying nearly all the tent, but by putting one on top of the other in the daytime, a little room was left for standing or sitting down. The cooking and all other work was done in the open air in front of the tent.

One stormy night, soon after their arrival, they had five guests to accommodate with lodgings, and of course only one bed for the five; but necessity knows no law, and no bounds, and they all undertook to sleep in the tent, each pre-empting as much of the bed as would answer for a pillow, and so much more as by dint of crowding he could obtain possession of. Yet all found themselves pretty thoroughly wetted, before morning, in consequence of the numerous ejections that each had received from under the tent-cloth.

Mr. Knapp lived in his tent only a few weeks, when he built a log house and removed his family to somewhat more ample accommodations. John Bennett built a house very soon after the completion of Mr. Knapp's. There were also several families moved into the southern part of the town that fall.

The first birth in the town was that of Adelbert Heath, son of Roswell Heath, in 1857. The first marriage took place in December, 1858, the parties being Benjamin Wheeler and Miss Delia Fredenburgh. The first death occurred in 1860, Mrs. Delora Fredenburgh, wife of Jeremiah Fredenburgh, being the first to pass from this to the thither shore of the dark river.

The town was organized at the same time as nearly all the other towns of the county—the 11th of May, 1858.

#### DOVER.

Dover is one of the eastern tier of towns; bounded on the north by Merton, on the east by Dodge county, south by Aurora, and west by Owatonna.



The first settlement was made in 1855 by Chas. McCarty, Wm. Burns, Wm. Close, and Robert Adair, George Dennis, Newton Parker, and D. C. Tiffany came in 1856. All commenced farming operations and built them houses to shelter their families.

The first birth that occurred in Dover was that of John Adair, a son to Robert Adair, in 1855, the same fall of the arrival of the family in town. The first death was that of Mrs. Newton Parker, in November, 1856. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Wetzel, which, it is believed was the first religious service in the township. The first matrimonial venture was entered into by Mr. Frank Hickock and Miss Elizabeth McCaslin, in the fall of 1857; D. C. Tiffany, a Justice of the Peace, and took due acknowledgment of the contract. The first school was taught in the summer of 1857 by Miss Elizabeth McCaslin, now Mrs. Frank Hickock.

Little of interest transpired within the limits of the town other than the usual round of seed time and harvest, and the labors consequent thereon. Hard times came to the pioneers occasionally, but with an unflinching determination to succeed they persevered and grasped each opportunity till success was the result. The Winona & St. Peter railroad runs through the town from east to west, the nearest station being Claremont on the east and Owatonna on the west. It is mostly a good agricultural district, though some portions are rather wet and swampy. There are no stores or shops in the town.

## AURORA

The town of Aurora lies in the eastern tier of towns, and is bounded on the north by Dover, east by Dodge county, south by Oak Glen, and west by Owatonna. The first settlement dates back to June of 1856, at which time Capt. J.

M. Ball, now a resident of Winona, A. B. Clark, G. W. Grimshaw, and Charles Adsit, made claims and commenced farming operations. Soon after their arrival Amos Coggs- well, Steven A. Sargent, Harvey Eastman, Oscar King and a Mr. Perham put in an appearance and laid claim to a share of the soil of Steele county, and commenced at once preparing to receive a return for their investments and labor, and the ever generous soil repaid them without stint of measure for their care and trouble.

About one fourth of the land in this township is marsh land which in dry seasons affords the best of hay for stock, yet is nearly unavailable in very wet seasons, as the county has not yet become so thickly settled up as to pay the expense of draining. The soil of the marshes is of a deep and very rich alluvial deposit, which, when drained, will probably prove the most productive of any of the lands in the county. The other three-fourths of the town is composed chiefly of oak openings, with here and there fine patches of prairie land, with gently undulating surface, sufficiently so to make it of easy tillage.

The Milwaukee, St. Paul & Minneapolis Railroad runs through the entire length of the town and has a depot near the centre, making it an easy and convenient point for the shipment of wheat and other products. The town contains no stores or hotels; has two school houses and one blacksmith shop, which latter has been put into operation the present season by H. H. Richards. This shop is near the depot and at present the only building in the vicinity.

The first white child that was a native of this town was Miss Helen Coggs- well, daughter of Hon. Amos Coggs- well; who was born on the 6th day of March, 1857. Joseph Branning and Miss Laura Pettie were the first to start on a trial trip in the matrimonial life-boat. Mrs. Steven A. Sargent first passed through the dark valley and embarked

upon the ever-flowing river of returnless tide, on the 1st of September, 1856. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Harvey Chapin, which was the first religious service in the town.

The first school was taught in the summer of 1858, in a log school house, near Mr. Coggswell's, by Miss Jane Arnold, now Mrs. W. Odell, of Owatonna. Nearly all the religious denominations are more or less represented, though the Lutherans are the most numerous. There are no church buildings and only occasional religious services. The people are energetic and enterprising farmers who have never yet allowed a whisky shop to be established within the limits of the town.

The 11th day of May, 1858, it first had an existence as an organized town, when the people elected their town officers to run the official machinery. Aurora has been twice represented in the Minnesota Legislature, by George W. Pettie and Amos Coggswell, the latter of whom was chosen speaker of the House of Representatives.

### OAK GLEN.

The organization of Oak Glen as a town did not transpire until 1867, it having previous to this time been attached to the town of Aurora for all business purposes. At the time of the organization, Cyrenus Pettit was elected Chairman of Supervisors, and A. J. Snyder Town Clerk. There has been but one election since, at which time J. C. Carey was elected Chairman of Supervisors, and Mr. A. J. Snyder re-elected Town Clerk. The soil is about the same as found in other parts of the county, though there is considerable marshland in some parts of the town—probably not more than two or three sections in all.

The town derives its name from a deep glen, in which is a little lake surrounded by a heavy growth of oak. There

are three of these lakes, one covering somewhat over a section of land, and each of the other two about 100 acres. About one-third of the town, in the north-west portion, is covered with scattering oak, or oak openings, while the balance is rolling prairie or marsh.

Wheat is the staple production in this as in all the other towns, and in fact nearly all over Minnesota. Mr. Geo. M. Topliff has a hop garden of some five or six acres, on which he is trying the experiment of hop-raising. He has also discovered a valuable peat bed, some three miles west of the little village of Blooming Prairie, which is said to be of as good quality as any found in any country. Mr. Topliff has tested the quality to the depth of about eight feet, and finds it better at that depth than nearer the surface.

The town was first settled in 1857, by David Bagley, Thos. Bray, Levi Annis, J. J. Brackett, and Ira Foster, near what is called the Oak Glen station on the stage route from Owatonna to Austin. The first birth occurred in the year 1859, James Bray, a son of Thos. Bray. The first marriage was celebrated in 1860, between Mr. Ira Foster and a widow lady named Scott. The first school was taught in 1861, by Miss Hattie Layton, now Mrs. Joseph Carey. In 1860, the United Brethren held religious service, which is supposed to have been the first in this township. The Methodists and Baptists have occasional services in the school houses, but no denomination has any church buildings.

In 1867, when the Milwaukee, St. Paul and Minneapolis Railroad was put in operation, a station was made in the southern part of Oak Glen, called Blooming Prairie, which has attracted considerable business, and there are now some fifteen or twenty dwellings, and two stores, one kept by Charles Gardiner and the other by Sprout & Knudson.

The first stock of goods brought into the place was by Capt. A. C. Hawley, who opened and exposed them for sale in a tent, but soon thereafter removed to a room in the railroad grain warehouse, and in January, 1868, sold the entire stock to Mr. Charles Gardiner. Messrs. Sterling & Searles established a lumber yard in the fall of 1867. A blacksmith shop was also put in operation by Chas. Hartley. Mr. Jacob Noteman was established as station agent, by the Railroad Company, and D. Higley as telegraph operator. A meat market and general provision store is just being established by Thos. O'Neil. Christopher Balhardt opened the first hotel in the fall of 1867.

The country about the station is being rapidly developed into farms. This year, Selah Chamberlain and D. C. Shepard are opening up an extensive farm, and having several hundred acres broken and fitted for wheat the next season. Others are breaking smaller tracts, and business is growing finely.

### OWATONNA.

About the middle of May, 1854, Wm. F. Pettit, Geo. F. Pettit, A. B. Cornell, and F. Wilbur Fisk, left Sparta, in Wisconsin, for a visit to the far-famed prairies of Minnesota. Geo. F. Pettit had been at Faribault some time previous, and made such a glowing report of the country that those who had families took them along, determined to make their homes on the sunset side of the Mississippi. Seven wagon loads of people, furniture, supplies, &c., set out and were four weeks in reaching Faribault. A long journey, attended with toil, discomfort and fatigue, and one that none but strong, brave hearts would undertake and successfully accomplish.

Geo. F. Pettit settled at Faribault, F. W. Fisk on East Prairie, and Wm. F. Pettit and A. B. Cornell located on

the present site of the city of Owatonna. Mr. Cornell made his claim on the east side of the river and Mr. Pettit on the west side, being the farm recently owned by Judge Donaldson. Mr. Cornell built a somewhat primitive dwelling, which was constructed of poles covered with prairie grass, but it was sufficient to protect them from the storm and the scorching rays of the sun, and they were all contented to wait patiently till a more commodious house could be erected. This was the first residence and the first building in Owatonna. Mr. Cornell soon commenced the erection of the log house, (now standing just north of the bridge,) and had the logs raised ready to put on the roof when he sold his claim to Mr. Pettit, who had disposed of his own on the west side of the river to a Mr. Crehore, now of Chicago. Sometime in August Mr. Pettit had contracted with Cornell to build a house for him, similar to the one he was building for himself, but when he purchased of Cornell his claim, the contract was annulled and another made that he should finish the one already commenced. We give the contract in full, as it is probably the first one ever made in the county, which is as follows :

"It is agreed by and between William F. Pettit and A. B. Cornell that A. B. Cornell shall, previous to the 20th day of October next, build for said Pettit a log dwelling house, on the foundation said Pettit has already commenced; said house to be twenty-two feet long and eighteen feet wide, puncheon floor below, two doors and five windows, shingled roof, logs hewn inside up to beams and mudded on the outside; also, a cellar, fourteen feet by eighteen, dug so as to be six feet from bottom to sleepers; said house to be one and a half stories high and put up similar to said Cornell's, and the said Pettit is to furnish all nails, glass, sash, putty, and lumber for doors and the upper floor so as not to delay said job, and to pay for said building seventy-five dollars.

"W. F. PETTIT,  
A. B. CORNELL."

"August 3d, 1854.

The first track made across the prairies is the pioneer of civilization and the fore-runner, generally, of a crowd of immigration, and this was no exception to the general rule. Others followed the lead of Messrs. Pettit and Cornell, and several houses were built that fall. Hon. G. W. Green, of Beaver Dam, in Wisconsin, built the house now occupied by Mr. Hanks, the raising of which was accomplished on the 2nd of October, all the settlers in the vicinity assisting. In the winter following the log house now owned by Mr. Murray, just south of the railroad bridge, was built by Messrs. S. W. Park and S. B. Smith. Judge Green had not yet removed his family to this place and his house was occupied by John Dickering.

Immigration was rapid and quite a settlement soon sprang up in this locality. Addison Phelps, David Lindersmith, B. L. Arnold, Obed Gains, Basil Meek, John Wilcox, P. P. Carlton and Nelson Morehouse built houses, and cast their fortunes with those of the young settlement. Mr. N. Winship commenced hauling the logs for a hotel, which was soon erected and opened for the accommodation of the "traveling public." This was the first hotel built here, and is still standing and doing good service as the kitchen of the present Winship House. The summer of 1855 made large additions to their numbers. In addition to those already mentioned there came this year Charles and John Ellison, L. B. Town, James Cole, and James Cornell, Rev. A. Town, P. Sanford and J. Wilson made claims and returned for their families. During this summer Mr. Pettit built the first frame house in the county; the one now owned by Mr. Wm. H. Kelly, on the hill in the eastern part of the city. Mr. Pettit was obliged to haul part of the pine lumber from Red Wing with which to complete the house, which cost him \$107 per thousand, and the wainy-edged roof boards, procured at Faribault, cost \$60

per thousand. Such were the disadvantages under which the pioneers had to labor. Sometimes, too, a little fear of what the Indians *might* do crept into their minds to disturb their tranquility, yet the Indians were at peace with the whites, and at that time considered them their best friends. But at times circumstances would occur to arouse the suspicions of the people to a high pitch. As an instance of this we give the following incident:

The first year of the settlement all the provisions and supplies of all kinds were brought from St. Paul, and at one time Mr. Cornell went with his team to that town to bring in a load of provisions, &c., and was absent about a week, leaving Mrs. Cornell with only her children and a boy to keep her company. During his absence a party of Indians, a hundred or more, encamped for a time near Mr. Cornell's shanty. Yet they were very respectful and civil to the "white squaw," and did not venture into her house. One evening they gathered material and lighted huge bonfires a little back from the shanty, and commenced an Indian dance with all its wild accompaniments of songs and shouts, making night hideous with their antics and howlings. Just at this time Mr. Cornell with his load reached the hill about two miles north of the town, and as he gained the summit he saw the flames of the fires and the dusky redskins dancing in the lurid glare of light. His wife and children! Had they become victims to the savage thirst for blood? The thought came crashing through his brain with the rapidity of lightning. He did not stop long to gaze, but unhitching his team he stripped the harness from the fleetest horse and mounting him rode at the top of his speed, resolved to know the worst, and save his loved ones or perish with them. On reaching the ford his eyes were made glad at seeing his wife on the opposite bank awaiting his return, who assured him that all



were well and glad to see him returned as safe as they were. Thankful that he was the only one victimized, Mr. Cornell returned and got his load of provisions.

In the summer of 1855 Mr. Pettit sold his claim to John H. Abbott, and bought soon after an undivided half of Mr. Cornell's claim lying immediately south of the one just sold. It required but little argument to get all parties interested in building up a first-class town, and as usual among western men, when they had once decided to do it, they went directly to work to accomplish the object. Roads and bridges for the purpose of communication with other sections of the country, were the first things to be attended to, and with willing hearts and stout hands they went to work and opened up the roads, bridged the sluices and water courses, and soon had the satisfaction of knowing that at least an important thoroughfare was opened through their town. Mr. Cornell, with true western energy and perseverance, built a bridge across the Straight river, and travel was seemingly nearly constant. Not unfrequently were there from twenty to thirty or forty emigrant teams in the streets at one and the same time. Business flourished, and the high road to prosperity was opened and all seemed determined to travel therein. Every settler whose house was large enough to accommodate more than his own family had all the spare room occupied with strangers and those seeking homes. A village was platted, streets and lots marked out and speculation in city property was very active. A newspaper was established, and it was a live, energetic paper, just suited to the occasion, and one that did its full share in developing the resources of the country. In the spring of 1856 Mr. Ezra Abbott built a steam saw mill, which was put into operation, and the building interests were greatly accelerated by this addition to the power and material. The common lumber for most of the

new buildings was manufactured at this mill. In 1857 Messrs Wm. F. Pettit, John H. Abbott and A. B. Cornell built a mill just above the town, intended for a grist mill; but the demand for lumber was so great that machinery for sawing was soon put in operation, and the building interests were materially enhanced thereby. Immigration to Minnesota that year was literally immense, and every available space was occupied for hotel room. At one time the log house of Mr. Winship accommodated, or at least contained, some fifty persons. In the fall of 1855 a post-office was established by the name of Owatonna, from the Indian name of the river *Ouitunya*, which in the Sioux dialect signifies straight, as the general course of the river is straight, though in its meanderings one of the most serpentine to be found on the maps. The same name was given the town and the spelling corrected as now used, "Owatonna." In the winter the mail route was extended via Austin and West Union in Iowa to Dubuque, and the mail carried by J. J. Bracket, of Lakeville. Previous to the establishment of this route Mr. Pettit had put a line of daily stages in operation between Owatonna and Faribault for the purpose of bringing in all parties who were looking for locations. In September, Mr. Cornell and Mr. John H. Abbott laid out the town site, comprising 120 acres, about sixty acres on each of their claims. In November they went to Winona and pre-empted the land, and on the 26th of December filed the town plats in the office of Charles Ellison, Register of Deeds.

In October of this year, J. W. Park and A. B. Smith built the log house now standing just north of the Winship House, on Oak street, and filled it with a stock of goods, which proved of great convenience to the settlers. A very respectable log school house was also built this fall, though a school had been taught the previous summer by Miss Helen

Holbrook, a sister-in-law of P. P. Carlton, in, or rather under, a sort of bower made of poles and boughs of trees. Here on pleasant days the youth of the embryo city gathered together to take the initiatory steps in climbing the hill of science and mount the first rung of the ladder of fame. The old log school house performed a somewhat important part in the history of the place. Schools were held in it during all school terms; each of the denominations used it in turn as a house of worship. All the political meetings and elections were held there; singing schools, lyceums and prayer meetings occupied the evenings, so that it was kept in almost constant use until it was removed and its place supplied by the present second ward school house. The town proprietors donated about forty lots to those who would erect substantial and useful buildings. In April 1856, Messrs. Pettit, Abbott and Cornell bought of Messrs. Park and Smith five hundred acres of land lying on the north side of the town for \$8,000. This has since been known as the "Five Hundred Acre Tract," the purchasers being determined that no stone should be left unturned that would help build up the town. In the winter of 1855-6, B. L. Arnold built the Eureka House, the first frame hotel in the county. Mr. Adolphus Town built a small building on Bridge street and put in a stock of goods. In the fall of 1856 Nelson Morehouse built a saw-mill on the water power on the west bank of the river. Business really took long strides forward. In July of this year J. W. Morford and John Odell opened a store on Bridge street and somewhat later in the season, Dr. Harsha and Judge Donaldson, a drug and general provision store in the building now occupied by Harsha & Donaldson as a drug store; A. N. Stoughton and D. Potwin on Main street. Philo Sandford built the American House, and Mr. Winship built an addition to his hotel. People became elated

and real estate took an upward tendency, and transfers were of more than daily occurrence.

The first death in the town of Owatonna was that of a Mr. Presburg, who had lived about a mile north of the village in the timber. This death occurred in 1856, and a clergyman passing through the town officiated at the funeral. Mr. Morford made a claim about three miles east of town, and adjoining that of his partner, Mr. Odell. He lived on his claim yet attended to his business in town, generally going home each night when not detained too late by business. Whenever he was detained in town, Mrs. Morford would spend the night at Mr. Odell's. On one of these occasions, the 20th of November, 1856, Mrs. Morford having waited till somewhat late for her husband's return, started for her friend's house, which was distant about half a mile. After walking, as she thought, far enough to reach the house, she began to look about her, but could perceive no signs of the shanty. She wandered about for some time searching for the house, and finally concluded that she was lost on the prairie. But she did not despond, as she knew that she had not gone so far but daylight would set her all right again, and coming to a thicket she very philosophically wrapped her shawl around her and laid down to sleep. The weather being quite mild she enjoyed a good rest and awoke in the morning very much refreshed and started for home. Seeing a shanty she approached it, thinking she would make some inquiry as to her whereabouts. No one answering her repeated knocks she raised the latch and stepped in. Things looked strangely familiar to her, and upon a closer scrutiny she found she was in her own home that she had left the night previous; but so completely bewildered had she become on the prairie, that she did not recognize the place till she had got inside and saw the familiar furniture.

In July, 1857, the census of the county was taken by J. N. Kelly, Assistant U. S. Marshal, which showed a result as follows :

Owatonna,.....	614	Berlin,.....	193
Medford .....	440	Deerfield,.....	192
Union Prairie, now Mer-		Aurora,.....	138
ton .....	236	Lemond, .....	96
Lafayette, now Dover....	222	Summit, .....	45
Somerset,.....	207	Oak Glen,.....	22
Meriden, .....	193	Total in county,.....	2598

The following named gentlemen have served as Chairman of Supervisors and Town Clerks:

*Chairman of Supervisors,*

*Town Clerk.*

W. F. Pettit, 2 years,  
 Geo. B. Hall, 3 years,  
 John Odell,  
 George W. Shaw,  
 Gurdon Watson, 2 years,  
 Daniel H. Bliss,  
 J. B. Smith.

L. B. Town,  
 W. R. Kinyon, 4 yrs.  
 L. F. Babcock,  
 A. M. Kinyon,  
 T. C. S. Minthorn,  
 Alson Selleck, 3 yrs.

For the year 1867, after the death of Daniel H. Bliss, J. B. Smith was appointed Chairman of Supervisors.

At the session of the Legislature in 1855, a city charter was granted, and at the charter election held on the 4th day of April, the following officers were elected: Mayor, Geo. B. Hall; City Justice, A. N. Stoughton, City Recorder, A. M. Kinyon; Assessor, James M. Dresser; Aldermen, W. H. Wilsey, J. A. Oppligar, and Wm. Scruby for two years, and W. R. Kinyon, J. B. Crooker, and John Donaldson for one year.

School Commissioners at large: Dr. D. Harsha and C. L. Tappan.

Ward Commissioners: Seth Hotchkiss, A. Town, and D. B. Burch.

Justices of the Peace for the Wards: A. Chambers, J.

P. Requa, Philo Bliss,.

Constables: James Connell, Wm. Curtis, and J. B. Hooker:

The officers appointed by the Board were: J. B. Hooker, City Treasurer; J. B. Searles, Attorney; L. Bixby, Surveyor; W. Wheaton, Marshal; L. H. Kelly, Printer.

The following persons have since been elected to office: Mayor, A. N. Stoughton, S. B. Washburn, J. W. Morford.

City Recorder, A. M. Kinyon, C. S. Crandall, I. W. Barch.

City Treasurer, George B. Hall, Seth Hotchkiss.

City Attorney, J. B. Searles, 4 years.

Surveyor, L. Bixby, J. H. Abbott.

City Justice, M. A. Dailey, C. C. Cornell, H. H. Johnson.

City Marshall, M. J. Toher, J. B. Hooker.

Owatonna has frequently been represented in the Legislature of the State and in other public positions. The members of the Legislature from this town have been H. M. Sheetz, Wm. F. Pettit, J. B. Crooker, and W. R. Kinyon. Wm. F. Pettit and M. A. Daily, have been elected to the State Senate. Hon. N. M. Donaldson has occupied the bench in that judicial district since its organization. Hon. M. H. Dunnell, the present State Superintendent of public schools, is also a resident of Owatonna.

The city contains at the present time a population of nearly 3,000 and a business represented as will be seen in the Business Directory.

## Owatonna Business Directory.

### ATTORNEYS.

A A Harwood, Main street, Searles & Hickman, Central Block, Delos Higbee, Cedar street, Kinyon & Wheelock, Bridge street,		M A Dailey, Main street, J J Aiken, Bridge street, N. M. Donaldson, District Judge, east side public square.
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### AGRICLTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Lowth, Howe & Co., Cedar street, Allen & Dearborn, Cedar street, Fisk & Meda, Cedar street,		G W Payne & Co., Cedar street, J E Buxton, Broadway.
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### BOOTS AND SHOES.

Chase Brothers, Cedar street, Lord Bros. & Co., Cedar street, Cooper Bros., Cedar street, Morford, Willsey & Co., Central Block		G. F. Albertus, Bridge Street, J. Lornegan, Bridge street, Frank Yaneck, Cedar street, J E Griggs, Cedar street.
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### BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

C E Seaton, Bridge street.

### BANKERS.

Easton & Kinyon, Bridge street,		S Mills, Jr. & Co., Main Street.
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### BARBERS.

Jerry Pope, Broadway, J A Pierce, cor Broadway and cedar		Louis Teabeau, Cedar street.
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### BAKERIES.

Mrs J G Cochran, Broadway, George Chapman, near depot,		M J Whiteis, Main street.
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### BLACKSMITHS.

F H Cooper, Oak street, N S Quiggle, Oak street, P Schuster, Bridge street, C Hanson, Bridge street,		Hiram Cartwright, Cedar street, — Sherman, Vine street, — King, Broadway.
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### BREWERIES,

Mace & Co., Bridge street,

### CLOTHING DEALERS.

J G A Denerline, Cedar street, Friend & Newsalt, Bridge street G F Albertus, Bridge street, Soule Bros., Bridge street, Armstrong & Cottrell, Central Block,		J E Griggs, Cedar street, Marble & Co., Cedar street, Lord Bros. & Co., Cedar street, Cooper Bros., Cedar street.
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### COOPER SHOPS.

Peter Hanson, Bridge street.

### DRY GOODS.

Lord Bros. & Co., Cedar street, Cooper Bros., Cedar street. Arnston & Connell, Cedar street. Morford, Willsey & Co., Central Block Armstrong & Cottrell, Central Block.		Siebold & Hortsman, Broadway, Soule Bros., Bridge street, L Andrews, Bridge street, G F Albertus, Bridge street, Jo. Wilson, Broadway.
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## DENTIST.

G H Cole, Bridge street.

## DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

Harsha & Donaldson, Bridge street, | Bennett & Hubbard, Central Block,  
L Bixby, Bridge street,

## EATING HOUSES.

R. R. Eating House, C F McNamara, | Mrs. Cochrane, Broadway,  
Depot, | W C Bosworth, near depot,  
Mitchell Bros., Cedar street, | George Chapman, near depot,  
Hiram Cartwright, Cedar street, | M Lont, near depot.

## EARTHENWARE FACTORY.

C C Cornell, near the bridge,

## EXPRESS OFFICES.

Merchant's Union and American, Main street.

## FURNITURE DEALERS.

J F Hanna, Main street, | Charles Schoen, Bridge street.  
H & J Hickox, Cedar street,

## FLOUR AND FEED STORE.

Farmer Bros, Bridge street, | T J Clark, Cedar street,  
Kelly & Tyler, Main street, | Arnston & Connely, Cedar street,  
Marble & Co., Cedar street, | Newton & Gross.  
J. P. Requa, Cedar street,

## FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP.

Lowth, Howe &amp; Co., Cedar street.

## GROCERIES.

Kelley & Tyler, Bridge street, | Armstrong & Cottrell, Central Block  
S S Russell, Bridge street, | Arnston & Connely, Cedar street,  
Soule Bros., Bridge street, | Cooper Bros., Cedar street,  
G F Albertus, Bridge street, | Lord Bros. & Co., Cedar street.  
Joos & Boll, Bridge street, | T J Clark, Cedar street,  
L Andrews, Bridge street, | Wm. Cleator, Cedar street,  
Siebold & Hortsman, Broadway, | J Chambers, Cedar street,  
Morford, Willsey & Co., Central Block | H Cartwright, Cedar street.

## HARDWARE.

Cottrell & Hunkins, Central Block, | Thomas & White, Cedar street,  
J E Buxton, Broadway, | E Y Hunniwell, Bridge street.

## HARNESS SHOPS.

O M Hammond, Cedar street, | A Burch, Main Street,  
O A Albee, Bridge street,

## HOTELS.

Winship House, cor. Oak and Main, | Arnold House, Vine street,  
Barker's Exchange, north of Public | Scandinavian Hotel, Cedar street,  
Square, | Steele Centre House, Cedar street,  
National Hotel, Elm st., near depot, | Tilden House, near depot.  
American House, Broadway, | Owatonna House, Bridge street.

## HOOP SKIRT MANUFACTORY

W Holt, North Cedar street,

## JEWELRY SHOPS.

Ezra Abbott, Central Block, | J Hough, Bridge street,  
J F Young, Bridge street,

## LUMBER DEALERS.

Crooker, Bros. & Lamareaux, near de- | Backus Bros., Cedar street,  
pot. | Sterling & Searles, Cedar street,  
S B Washburn, Cedar street, | Dean & Co., Cedar street,

## LIVERY STABLES.

Twist &amp; Christie, Vine street, | C W Hastings, Broadway.



## MILLINERS.

Mrs. L H Kelly, north side Pub Square	Mrs. W Holt, Cedar street,
Mrs. Magoon, Broadway,	Mrs. M J. Myrick, Bridge street,
Mrs. White, Bridge street,	

## MEAT MARKETS.

J A Oppligar & Co., Bridge street,	Truax & Savage, cor. Pearl & Cedar,
Kowitz & Riedon, Bridge street,	

## PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

W W Ware, Cedar street,	L L Bennet, Central Block,
E M Morehouse, Bridge street,	D Bodle, Vine street,
L H Kelly, north side Public Square.	D S Harsha, Bridge street,
— Blood, School street,	J G Gilchrist,

## PHOTOGRAPHERS.

G W Chesley, Cedar street,	A F Simons, Bridge street,
Mrs J P Briggs, Main street,	

## PAINT SHOPS.

Hall, Beers & Co., Main street,	— — — — —, Oak street.
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## PLANING MILL.

Lamonte Gilbert, Elm street,	
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## REAL ESTATE DEALERS.

W H Kelley, Bridge street.	Ezra Abbott, Central Block,
B F Melvin, Main street,	Searles & Hickman, Central Block,
John H Abbott, Barker House,	Kinyon & Wheelock, Bridge street,

## TAILOR SHOPS.

J G A Dennerline, Cedar street,	Christopher Fahriess, Bridge street,
John Cottier, Bridge Street,	D B Marble & Co., Cedar street,

## TELEGRAPH OFFICES,

A H Lee, Operator at M. St. P. & M. Depot,
G H Merrill, Operator at W. & St. P. Depot.

## WAGON SHOPS.

P Schuster, Bridge street,	— — — — — Brown, Oak street,
Sherman & Brown, Oak street.	— — — — — King, Broadway.

# DR. G. H. COLE, PRACTICAL DENTIST!

OFFICE—No. 11, KELLY'S BLOCK,  
Bridge Street, - - Owatonna, Minnesota.

---

DR. COLE having had many years' experience in the art and practice of Dentistry, feels confident that he can safely assure the public that his work will compare favorably with the work of other first-class dentists either east or west, and far superior to that of itinerant quacks who can only obtain business by traveling from place to place.

A first class dentist seldom travels about the country seeking work, but remains and establishes himself where his work will speak for him.

**Hard Rubber or Vulcanite Used for Plates,**  
which is much preferable to gold or platina, and closely resembles nature in appearance:

---

**Particular Attention Given to Cleaning, Extracting and Filling Teeth.**

---

Irregularity of Teeth Treated with the Greatest Success.

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Persons from a distance allowed \$1 per day for board while being detained for the manufacture of artificial teeth.

*Dr. Cole Acknowledges no Superior in the Quality of His Workmanship.*

**NARCOTIC SPRAY USED IN EXTRACTING TEETH.**

---

## REFERENCES:

D. S. HARSHA,	D. B. MARBLE,	N. WINSHIP,
A. B. WEBBER,	SOULE BROS.,	LORD BROS.

**COOPER BROTHERS,**

DEALERS IN

**DRY GOODS!**

CLOTHING,

**Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes,**

**GROCERIES, &c., &c.**

CEDAR STREET, NEAR BROADWAY,

**OWATONNA, - - MINNESOTA.**

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**H. & J. HICKCOX**

Are offering for sale and inspection, at their rooms on  
**Cedar Street, Owatonna,**  
a new stock of

**Chairs and Bedsteads,**  
**SOFA AND COMMON LOUNGES,**

Hair and Sea Grass Mattresses,

**SPLENDID MIRRORS,**  
**CANE SEAT ROCKING CHAIRS.**

**Coffin Warehouse & Undertakers.**

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Our stock is new, and is not surpassed for finish or quality in Owatonna, and we will sell as cheap as any establishment.

**H. & J. HICKCOX.**

# MINNEAPOLIS WOOLEN MILL!

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

MANUFACTURES ALL KINDS OF

# Woolen Goods,

Fancy Cassimeres, Satinets, Flannels, Blankets, &c.

OUR GOODS ARE ESPECIALLY ADAPTED TO THIS CLIMATE, AND FOR DURABILITY AND FINISH ARE NOT EXCELLED.

SAMPLES OF CLOTH SENT WHEN REQUESTED.

The Highest Cash Price Paid for Wool or Taken in Exchange for Cloth.

**CHAS. KENT GLAPP & CO.**

**BEAL'S**

PREMIUM

**ART GALLERY!**

19 WASHINGTON AVE., MINNEAPOLIS.

Largest and Best Arranged Gallery in Minn.

**A SILVER MEDAL**

AND

**SIX FIRST PREMIUMS**

were awarded this Gallery at the last State Fair.

**The Largest Pictures in the West!**

OWATONNA  
Steam Furniture Manufactory



**J. F. HANNA,**

MAIN ST., OWATONNA, MINN.,

Manufacturer and Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

**FURNITURE**

of every description, including

**Lounges, Bedsteads, Chairs, Tables, Bureaus,**

**KITCHEN FURNITURE,**

**Parlor Setts, Picture Frames,**

**Mouldings, Cabinet-Ware, Wash-Stands,**

**MIRRORS, &c., &c.**

We manufacture all our goods and can therefore warrant them to be such as are recommended. We use

**THE BEST OF MATERIAL**

In all our manufactures, and employ none but first-class workmen. Our facilities for obtaining material are such that, with the advantages of improved machinery, we can

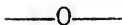
**Sell at Very Moderate Prices!**

Call on us for anything in the line of Furniture or Cabinet Ware, and we will fill your orders on short notice.

**Coffins of All Kinds on Hand or Furnished to Order,**



# NEW GOODS!



**MRS. L. H. KELLY**

has a large and very select stock of

## MILLINERY GOODS!

**BONNETS AND HATS,**

received direct from the eastern market,

**AND ALL OF THE LATEST SUMMER STYLES,**

which will be sold

**Cheaper than Ever Before Sold in this Market.**

My stock has been selected with great care as to quality and neatness of styles. Hats 50 cents and upwards, and other things in proportion.



## MILLINERS IN THE COUNTRY

Will find it to their advantage to call and examine prices whenever they wish to replenish their stocks, as a suitable deduction will be made to dealers.



## LADIES FASHIONABLE DRESS TRIMMINGS FOR SALE



## Dress and Cloak Making

done with exquisite taste.

*Ladies in the city and country are solicited to call and examine styles, quality and prices.*

Store on Broadway, North Side of Public Square.

**OWATONNA, MINN.**



**JONES & BISSELL,**

GENERAL DEALERS IN

**DRY GOODS!**

**CLOTHING,**

**LADIES' DRESS GOODS,**

**BOOTS & SHOES, HATS & CAPS,**

**GROCERIES,**

**Crockery and Glassware,**

and a general assortment and full stock of all goods in their  
line.

**MEDFORD, MINN.**

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**D. B. MARBLE & CO.,**

**Merchant Tailors**

AND DEALERS IN

**READY-MADE CLOTHING,**

**Cloths, Cassimeres, Vestings, Hats, Caps,**

**Gents' Furnishing Goods, &c.**

**EAST OF BARKER'S EXCHANGE, SIGN OF THE RED FLAG,**

**OWATONNA, MINNESOTA.**

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**N. B.--We will not be undersold.**

**S. MILLS, Jr. & Co.,**

(SUCCESSORS TO MILLS, FOLLITT & CO.,)

**BANKERS.**

CORNER MAIN ST. AND PUBLIC SQUARE,  
**OWATONNA, MINNESOTA.**

DEALERS IN

**Exchange, Specie and U. S. Securities.**

All Business Pertaining to Banking Promptly Transacted.

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**C. W. HASTINGS!**

calls the attention of the public to the advantages of the

**Pioneer Livery Stable!**

over all others in this vicinity, and assures all that at his establishment can be found everything in the line of carriages that is convenient and comfortable,

He always keeps the

**Best Horses and Carriages!**

and attentive and obliging ostlers and drivers.

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Persons wanting a "drive about town," or a trip into the country, either on pleasure or business, will find it to their interest to call and procure one of the

**Neatest "Rigs" in Minnesota,**

as he challenges the State to produce neater or more comfortable "turnouts" than he does.

**Stable on Broadway, North Side of Public Square,**

**OWATONNA, MINNESOTA.**

# Hoop Skirt Manufactory

Millinery and Ladies' Furnishing Goods.

**MRS. W. HOLT**

has opened a store for the sale of

Millinery, Ladies' and Children's Furnishing Goods,

**ALSO! HOOP SKIRT MANUFACTORY.**

where the same will be made to order or repaired in the best manner.

**CORSETS OF ALL VARIETIES.**

**DRESS AND CLOAK MAKING**

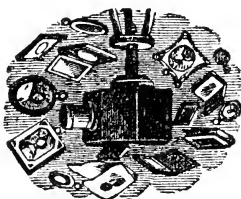
done in fine style and agreeable to the latest patterns.

**THE LADIES ARE RESPECTFULLY INVITED TO CALL.**

Store in Connell's new building, Cedar Street,

**OWATONNA, - - MINNESOTA.**

## Photograph Gallery!



**PHOTOGRAPHS AND PICTURES**

OF ALL KINDS AND SIZES, TAKEN AND PUT UP IN THE

**Latest and Most Approved Style!**

*AT CHESLEY'S ART GALLERY,*

Cedar Street,

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**CHASE BROS. & CO.,**

DEALERS IN

**Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps,**

**LEATHER AND FINDINGS,**

Gloves, Mittens, and Gents' Hosiery.

MANUFACTURERS OF

**GENTS' FINE CALF**

**Sewed and Pegged Boots and Shoes!**

Also, Repairing Neatly and Promptly Executed.

OWATONNA,

MINNESOTA.

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**THOMAS CARROL,**

The Boston Hatter, still keeps the best stock of

**HATS & CAPS**

to be found in Southern Minnesota, which he is willing to sell either at

**WHOLESALE OR RETAIL**

at prices which will discourage people from going further to buy goods.

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**The Only Genuine Hat Manufacturers in Southern Minnesota**

*All Kinds Made to Order on Short Notice.*

Send orders to

**THOMAS CARROL,**

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**J. G. A. DENNERLINE,**  
**MERCHANT TAILOR**

AND DEALER IN

**GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.**

Higbie's Building, Cedar Street,

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MINNESOTA.

**ISRAEL NASH & CO.,**  
**Importers and Jobbers**

OF

**T E A S I**

*IN ORIGINAL PACKAGES.*

**47 VINE ST., CHICAGO, ILLS.**

*All Orders from Dealers Promptly Attended to.*

**L. BERRY,**

DEALER IN

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PERFUMERY, TOILET ARTICLES,

**PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES, &C.**

Prescriptions Carefully Compounded.

No. 17, Morehouse Block, Bridge Street,

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**O. M. HAMMOND,**

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**WHIPS, &C.**

**CEDAR STREET. - - - OWATONNA, MINN.**

**Livery and Exchange Stable.**

ON VINE ST., OPPOSITE THE ARNOLD HOUSE,

OWATONNA, : : : MINNESOTA.

**TWIST & CHRISTIE, Proprietors.**

The Best of Everything in their Line Furnished at Short Notice  
and on Reasonable Terms.

JOHN S. RICKER.

R. P. OBER.

J. M. CROMBIE.

**RICKER, OBER & Co.,**

**Wholesale Grocers!**

287, 289 and 291 East Water Street,  
**MILWAUKEE, - - WISCONSIN.**

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**JERRY POPE,**

**Fashionable Barber & Hair Dresser**

**BROADWAY, OWATONNA.**

Will Attend to all Calls in His Profession in the Best Style of the  
Tonsorial Art.

Particular attention given to shampooing and dressing ladies' hair.

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**CLINTON FALLS STORE!**

Dr. W. W. FINCH, Proprietor.

A general assortment of

**DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES,**

and everything usually kept in a country store.

Clinton Falls,

Minnesota.

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**CLINTON FALLS MILLS!**

**J. W. GREEN**, Proprietor.

Custom Grinding Done Promptly and Satisfactorily.  
LUMBER, of Bsswood, Maple, Oak and Poplar,  
always on hand, cheap.

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**FIRST NATIONAL**

**Livery and Sale Stable!**

Washington Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.

Keep constantly on hand a First Class Stock of

**CARRIAGES AND BUGGIES.**

*Strict Attention Given to Buying and Selling Stock.*

**PARTIES AND FUNERALS SUPPLIED AT SHORT NOTICE**

**JULIUS F. YOUNG,**  
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DEALER IN

**WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELRY,**  
SILVER AND PLATED WARE,

Spectacles, Violin Strings, &c., &c.

Repairing Promptly Done and Warranted-Engraving Neatly Executed

No. 13, Morehouse Block, Bridge Street,

**OWATONNA, MINNESOTA.**

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**Barker's Exchange!**

**O. WALBRIDGE, Proprietor.**

NORTH SIDE PUBLIC SQUARE, OWATONNA, MINNESOTA.

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Omnibus to and from the Cars.

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**A. A. HARWOOD,**  
**Attorney and Counsellor at Law**

AND

**JUDGE OF PROBATE.**

Office with Register of Deeds,

**MAIN STREET, OWATONNA, MINN.**

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**J. W. COCHRANE,**  
**Phonographic Reporter!**

**OWATONNA, MINN.,**

Speeches, Lectures, Sermons, &c., reported promptly and correctly. All orders promptly attended to, and satisfaction given.

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**The Champion Barber**

OF ROCHESTER, MINN.,

**H. W. GRAY,**

at the O. K. Barber Shop.

O. M. ANDERSON.

W. W. MAYO.

**ANDERSON & MAYO,**

WHOLESALE & RETAIL

**DRUGGISTS**

BROADWAY,

**ROCHESTER, . . . MINNESOTA.**

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Physicians and Dealers from the country will  
find it to their interest to call and exam-  
ine our stock.



**CROOKER BRO'S & LAMOREAUX,**

DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF

**L U M B E R !**

Shingles, Flooring, Fencing,

**LATH, PICKETS, SASH, DOORS, BLINDS,**

**STORE FRONTS, &c.**

**OWATONNA AND AUSTIN.**

Grain Warehouse in connection with the yard, and the

**HIGHEST MARKET PRICE PAID FOR GRAIN.**

OFFICE AND YARD NEAR THE DEPOT.

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**S. B. WASHBURN,**

DEALER IN

**L U M B E R !**

**Lath, Pickets, Shingles, Sash,**

**DOORS, BLINDS, &c.**

Which Will be Sold as Reasonable as any in the Market.

**A FULL SUPPLY ALWAYS ON HAND.**

Office Near Depot.

**OWATONNA, MINN.**

J. W. MORFORD,

W. H. WILLSEY,

W. F. PETTIT

# MORFORD, WILLSEY & Co.

GENERAL DEALERS IN

## DRY GOODS,

HATS & CAPS,  
BOOTS & SHOES,  
GROCERIES,  
CROCKERY,  
GLASSWARE.

Are daily receiving Goods of the latest and most fashionable patterns and styles, that will please the eye of the most fastidious, and at prices to suit the times.

*SHAWLS,*

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