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HISTORY  
OF  
Douglas and Grant Counties  
Minnesota

THEIR PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

CONSTANT LARSON  
Editor-in-Chief

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED

1916  
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## DEDICATION

To those whose hands planted the first homes in Douglas and Grant counties; whose love of religion and education established the first churches and schools; whose desire for good government led to the organization of civil townships and the selection of worthy public officials; whose wish for material prosperity has caused the building of mills and factories and the opening of virgin tracts of land to cultivation—to those who are gone, as well as to the many pioneers still living, is this record of their achievements dedicated.

## PUBLISHERS' PREFACE

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All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and sacrifice. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Douglas and Grant counties, Minnesota, with what they were six decades ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, they have come to be centers of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, educational and religious institutions, varied industries and immense agricultural and dairy interests. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, religious, educational, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception, is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to those who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Douglas and Grant counties, for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Douglas and Grant Counties, Minnesota," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.



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# DOUGLAS COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

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### CHAPTER I.

#### RELATED STATE HISTORY.

The greater part, or about two-thirds, of the territory embraced within the boundaries of Minnesota was included in the Louisiana Purchase, ceded to the United States by France in 1803. The remainder of this state, comprising the northeastern third part, lying east of the Mississippi river, was included in the country surrendered from Great Britain by the treaty of 1783, at the end of the Revolutionary War. In 1805 a grant of land nine miles square, at the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Peter (now Minnesota) rivers, was obtained from the Sioux Indians. A military post was established on the grant in 1819, and in 1820 arrangements were made for the erection of a fort, which was completed in 1822 and named Ft. Snelling, after the commanding officer, and the grant has ever since been known as the Ft. Snelling Reservation. In 1823 the first steamboat ascended the Mississippi as far as Ft. Snelling; and annually thereafter one or two trips of steamboats were made to this isolated post for a number of years.

This territory was held by the Chippewa or Ojibway and the Dakota or Sioux Indians, but adventurous pioneers had penetrated into the country along the streams tributary to the Mississippi river, and in 1836 Wisconsin territory was organized, comprising all the territory west of Lake Michigan, and including within its limits all the country west of the Great Lakes and north of Illinois, the west boundary of the territory being the Mississippi river.

#### INDIAN TREATIES.

In 1837 two important treaties were made with the native tribes of Indians. The first one was made by Gov. Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin, with the Ojibways, at Ft. Snelling, on the 29th of July, of that year, whereby

they ceded to the United States all their pine or agricultural lands on the St. Croix river and its tributaries.

On the 29th of September, of the same year, at the city of Washington, a treaty with the Sioux was made by Joel R. Poinsett, a special commissioner representing the United States, and about twenty chiefs, accompanied by Major Taliaferro, their agent, and Scott Campbell, an interpreter. Through the influence and by the direction of Governor Dodge, this delegation of chiefs had proceeded to Washington for the purpose of making this treaty, by which the Dakotas, or Sioux, ceded to the United States all their lands east of the Mississippi river and all its islands. The Indians were to receive as consideration for the same \$110,000 in cash, to be divided among the mixed bloods, \$90,000 in payment of debts owing by the tribes, and \$300,000 to be invested in five per cent. stocks, the interest of which should be paid to them annually.

In 1848 Wisconsin adopted a state constitution, but ignored the enabling act, and made the northern part of the western boundary of the state along the line of the St. Louis and Rum rivers, which was not accepted by the United States government, and the boundary line from the Mississippi river to Lake Superior became fixed, as in the enabling act, on the line of the St. Croix river and in a direct line to the mouth of the St. Louis river.

After the acceptance of the Wisconsin constitution, in May, 1848, the territory north and west of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers being practically without a government, the Hon. John Catlin, claiming to be still secretary and acting governor of Wisconsin territory, issued a proclamation for a special election, to elect a delegate to Congress. The election was held on October 30, and Hon. H. H. Sibley was chosen delegate, and after some delay was admitted as such into the Congress of the United States.

#### TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED.

On March 3, 1849, Congress passed an act to establish the territorial government of Minnesota. It fixed the seat of government at St. Paul, and established the southern boundary of the territory along the north and west boundary line of the state of Iowa, from the Mississippi river to the Missouri river, the western boundary through the middle of the channel of the Missouri river to the mouth of the White Earth river, and up the middle of the channel of the White Earth river to the boundary line between the United States and Great Britain, the northern boundary running thence easterly and southeasterly on the international boundary line to Lake Super-



ior, and the eastern boundary running thence in a straight line to the northernmost point of the state of Wisconsin, and following the north and west boundary of said state down the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers to the place of beginning. At this time the population of the territory was mainly in the section east of the Mississippi river, and the settlers were almost entirely engaged in lumbering. The territorial government was declared fully organized, June 1, 1849, by Hon. Alexander Ramsey, who had been appointed first territorial governor. The year 1848 was noted as the year of excitement from the discovery of gold in California, and the eyes of many thousands of people throughout the east were turned westward, where opportunities were opening for the growth of new states. Although at the organization of the territory there was scarcely a thousand people, within a year the census of 1850 gave to the territory a population of 6,077. Of this number, however, 1,134 residents were credited to the northernmost part of the territory on the Red River of the North, many of these being half-breeds, and the early pioneers engaged in the fur trade, brought there through the influence of the Hudson Bay Company.

The first territorial election was held on August 1, 1849.

The first session of the territorial Legislature commenced in St. Paul, September 3, 1849, during which counties were established and a code of laws enacted. The second session was commenced in January, 1851, at which time the capitol was located at St. Paul, the university at St. Anthony, and the state prison at Stillwater.

#### THE COUNCIL AT TRAVERSE DES SIOUX.

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In 1851 three treaties were made with the Sioux and with the Ojibway bands of Indians, whereby large tracts of lands were relinquished to the United States. In view of the great extent of country desired, and the importance of the transaction, and the long continued friendship of the Dakota nation, President Fillmore departed from the usual mode of appointing commissioners, and deputed the Hon. Luke Lea, the commissioner of Indian affairs, and Gov. Alexander Ramsey to meet the representatives of the Dakotas, and to conclude with them a treaty for such lands as they might be willing to sell.

On the 27th of June, 1851, Commissioner Lea arrived in St. Paul on the steamboat "Excelsior," and on the 29th he, in company with Governor Ramsey, landed at Traverse des Sioux, where the great council was to be held and the treaty consummated with the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands

of Sioux. Great delay in the proceedings was caused by the non-arrival of certain Sioux chiefs from the upper country, and it was not until the 18th of July that the council convened and the preliminaries to the treaty commenced. During this interval of about twenty days they all entertained themselves as best they could with races, dances, suppers, sham fights, and all sorts of fun.

On the 18th of July, all the chiefs having arrived, proclamation was made, and being convened in grand council and the pipe of peace having been passed around, the council was opened by an address from Governor Ramsey. On the 23rd of July the treaty was concluded and signed by the chiefs, by which they ceded to the United States all the lands claimed by these bands east of the Sioux Wood (or Bois des Sioux), and Big Sioux rivers and Lake Traverse to the Mississippi, excepting a reservation one hundred miles long by twenty miles wide, on the upper part of the Minnesota river. By this treaty the Indians were to remove within two years to the reservation; to receive from the government, after removal \$275,000, to enable them to settle up their affairs and to become established in their new home; and \$30,000 was to be expended in breaking land, erecting mills and establishing a manual training school. They were also to receive for fifty years from that time, an annuity of \$68,000, payable as follows: Cash, \$40,000; civilization fund, \$12,000; goods and provisions, \$10,000; education fund, \$6,000.

About a week later, on the 29th of July, Governor Ramsey and Commissioner Lea met the chiefs and leading men of the Med-ay-wakanton and Wah-pay-koo-tay bands of Sioux at a grand council at Mendota, to negotiate another treaty for the sale of other lands, which was concluded on the 5th of August, being signed by sixty-four chiefs, head men and warriors. In the treaty these bands of Indians ceded and relinquished all their lands in territory of Minnesota and state of Iowa, and in consideration thereof the United States was to reserve for them a tract of the average width of ten miles on either side of the Minnesota river, and bounded on the west by the Tehay-tam-bay and Yellow Medicine rivers, on the east by the Little Rock river, and a line running due south from the mouth to the Waraju river; and to pay them the following sums of money: For settling debts and aid in removal, \$220,000; for erection of buildings and opening farms, \$30,000; civilization fund, to be paid annually, \$12,000; educational fund, paid annually, \$6,000; goods and provisions, annually, \$10,000; cash, \$30,000. The annuities were to continue for fifty years from the date of the treaty.

These two treaties of 1851 at Traverse des Sioux and Mendota acquired

for white settlement nearly 24,000,000 acres of the finest lands in the world. The cessions were mostly in Minnesota, but included about an eighth part, or nearly 3,000,000 acres, in the state of Iowa, between the line of the old "neutral ground" and the northern and western boundaries of the state. That tract of country, and generally all lands in Iowa, claimed by the Sioux, were therefore embraced in the articles of cession of both treaties.

The Senate of the United States, on the 23rd of June, 1852, ratified the treaties, with amendments to each, which amendments were subsequently accepted by the Indians, and on the 24th of February, 1853, President Millard Fillmore issued his proclamation accepting, ratifying and confirming each of the said treaties as amended. The total lands in the present state of Minnesota relinquished to the government by these treaties exceeded 19,000,000 acres; and they also ceded about 1,750,000 acres in South Dakota, besides the tract described in Iowa.

The third treaty of 1851 was effected by Governor Ramsey with the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibways at Pembina, by which they ceded certain territory, sixty-five miles in width by one hundred and fifty miles in length, intersected by the Red River of the North. This treaty was not ratified by the government.

After the ratification of the treaties with the Sioux, a great wave of immigration set in from all the eastern states, and an era of speculation started which probably has never been excelled in any portion of the west. A census, taken in 1857, gave a population of 150,037.

#### INDIAN HUNTERS CAUSE TROUBLE.

Notwithstanding there was an abundant supply of good land outside of the limits of the land ceded under these treaties, the adventurous spirit of the pioneers led many of them to settle on the extreme limits of the grant, and in immediate proximity to the Indian settlements. In the southwestern portion of the state, particularly, settlements were made close to the boundary line of Iowa and north and west of Spirit lake. Some were in Iowa and some were in Minnesota, and all were within the jurisdiction of the Indian agent resident in the territory of Minnesota. Although the Indians were living on the reservation lands west of these settlements, in their hunting expeditions they were accustomed to return to the ceded lands. In a general way the Indians were civil, and committed only petty depredations; but their visits were at times annoying. Among the Indians there was a single band, under the leadership of Ink-pa-du-ta, or the Scar-

let Flann, of about fifteen lodges, which had been for many years an independent band and of a thieving, vagabondish character (really outlaws from the Sioux nation, and not represented in the treaties of 1851), who had taken possession of a strip of land running on both sides of the boundary line of Iowa and Minnesota, and extending to the Missouri river. In March, 1857, a few of these Indians were hunting in the neighborhood of Rock river and one of them was bitten by a dog belonging to a white man. The dog was killed by the Indian, and in return the owner of the dog made an assault upon the Indian, and afterward gathered his neighbors, and they went to the Indian camp and disarmed them. The arms were afterward returned to them, and the party moved northeast, arriving at the Spirit Lake settlement about the 10th of March, where they massacred the men and took four women into captivity. Other settlements were attacked, and altogether fifty-seven settlers were killed. Two of the women were afterward rescued through the efforts of Hon. Charles E. Flandreau, then the Indian agent. An effort was made to punish this band of savages, but all escaped except the eldest son of Ink-pa-du-ta, who had ventured into the camp of other Sioux, near the agency, and was killed in an attempt to capture him.

#### TOWN-SITE SPECULATION.

In 1855 and 1856 town-site speculation became the absorbing thought, and when the panic of 1857 set in, Minnesota was soon in a deplorable condition. The demand for an extensive railroad system and a state government had originated in the flush times of 1856 and 1857, and on February 26, 1857, Congress passed an act authorizing a constitutional convention, and granting a large amount of lands in aid of public schools. On March 3, 1857, an act of Congress was approved making a large grant of lands in aid of railroads.

The election of members of the Constitutional Convention was held on June 2, 1857, and the result was an almost equal division representing the Democratic and Republican parties. So close was this division, and there being some contested seats, when the convention assembled, on July 13, two distinct organizations were made, each proceeding to frame a Constitution, but finally, by conference committees, they united in one document, which was submitted to a vote of the people on October 13, and was adopted almost unanimously. By this Constitution the boundaries of the state were changed on the west, making the Red River of the North the line up to the Bois des Sioux, and thence extending along that river and

through Lake Traverse and Big Stone lake, and by a direct south line to the north boundary of Iowa.

This Constitution provided for an election of state officers at the same time of voting upon the adoption of the Constitution, resulting, by a close vote, in the election of the Democratic nominees. The first state Legislature was convened on the 2nd of December, 1857, and continued in session until March 25, 1858, when a recess was taken until after the state should be admitted. Some doubts were raised as to the legality of the acts of the Legislature previous to admission by Congress. The act of admission was passed and approved, May 11, 1858. The Legislature again assembled in June, and finally adjourned, August 12, 1858. During this prolonged session the embryo state was without funds, and a loan of \$250,000 was authorized; but as the acts of the Legislature before admission were somewhat irregular, the loan could not be readily negotiated. To tide over the difficulty state warrants were issued in the form of bank notes, and passed current, with more or less discount, until the summer of 1858, when they were redeemed from the proceeds of the loan consummated after the admission of the state.

#### RAILROAD BONDS ISSUED.

The first Legislature worked diligently in what they considered the best interest of the state, and as the grant of lands by the United States in aid of railroads within the state had to be turned over to companies, a large part of the session was devoted to railroad legislation. The scheme of further aid to companies who might be willing to undertake the building of railroads was originated, and was commonly denominated the "Five Million Loan Bill," contemplating the loan of the credit of the state, to that amount, in such sums as would be paid upon the grading and final completion of certain miles of road. On a submission of this law to the people it was adopted by a large majority. The opposition at the time of the vote upon this measure was very bitter, and continued after bonds were being issued, and with the dissatisfaction arising from the small amount of work completed and the large amount of bonds issued, threatenings of repudiation advocated by leading men in the state caused a distrust in financial circles and a final collapse of the whole scheme, with the foreclosure of the mortgages taken by the state upon the railroad lands and franchises, and the abandonment of all railroad construction for the time being. The total amount of bonds issued under this provision of the constitution was \$2,275,000. By the foreclosure proceedings the state acquired about 250 miles of

graded road, the franchises of the companies and the lands, amounting to five million of acres, as indemnity for this issue of bonds. Notwithstanding the state had acquired all the rights, including the improvements of the railroad companies, the feeling against any settlement of the bonds was strong enough to secure an amendment to the constitution in 1860, prohibiting the passage of any law levying a tax or making other provision for the payment of the principal or interest of these bonds without having the same submitted to a vote of the people and adopted.

The two years following the crash of 1857 were replete with financial disaster and a shrinkage of inflated values in town-sites; but the country was filling up with farmers, and the rich soil of the state was giving abundant harvests. The political contest of 1859 was bitter, and resulted in the Republican party carrying the state, both for state officers and the Legislature.

The census of 1860 gave the state a population of 172,023. During this year there was great hope of a largely increased immigration into the county; but the political situation in the Union, starting with the opening of the presidential campaign of that year, soon indicated a disturbing element throughout the country, and distrust and depression were manifest on all sides which was not allayed by the result of the presidential election. The war period, commencing with the time of the President's proclamation in April, 1861, to the final close of the rebellion in 1865, did not permit any material growth in the state. About twenty-two thousand of her able-bodied citizens volunteered and were enlisted in the Union army.

#### UNREST AMONG THE INDIANS.

The Indian reservation set apart by the treaties of 1851, a tract twenty miles wide on the upper part of the Minnesota river, embracing some of the finest lands in the state, was becoming a barrier to settlements in the upper Minnesota valley. Settlers had taken lands close up to the reservation, and there was considerable complaint that Indians were coming off the reservation and committing petty depredations, and the Indians had more or less complaints to make regarding the extortions practiced by the post traders. The encroachments of the whites were viewed with suspicion by the Indians, and sooner or later, from these causes alone, a conflict would probably have occurred. The War of the Rebellion, calling away so many of the able-bodied men of the state, left the frontier settlements almost

defenseless, and doubtless caused the younger portion of the tribes to become more offensive to the settlers and more exacting in their demands.

The lands embraced within the reservation under the treaties of 1851 were in the very heart of Minnesota, and, considering the forests and streams, were the choicest of farming lands. The settlers on the border were anxiously coveting this "Garden of Eden." A sentiment was created throughout the state that the Indians should abandon the tribal relations and become civilized. To this end the head men of the Dakota nation were induced, in 1858, to go to Washington, under the charge of Hon. Joseph R. Brown, in whom they had great confidence, for the purpose of negotiating for the whole or a part of this reservation. Treaties were signed ceding the ten-mile strip on the north side of the river, upon the payment of \$140,000, and the government provided that every head of a family or single person over the age of twenty-one adopting a civilized life should secure in fee eighty acres of land. From some cause the payments of \$140,000 were never made, and there was great dissatisfaction on account of this treaty, among those of the tribes who were adverse to accepting the condition of civilization; and from the fact that there was no money divided among them on account of this relinquishment a bitter dissension arose between the older chiefs and the younger members, the latter claiming that they had been robbed either by the chiefs or by the government, and they proposed to have the settlement, peaceful or otherwise.

This internal strife was augmented from year to year by the withdrawal of families who were willing to accept the civilization fund, the number in three years succeeding the treaty amounting to one hundred and sixty persons. They were, however, still annuity Indians, and claimed the right to be heard in the councils. The annuity Indians, all told, numbered about six thousand two hundred, and the annual cash payment to each person amounted to about fifteen dollars. The Indians were treated as wards of the United States. Two agencies were established, around which were gathered storekeepers to sell the Indians goods in anticipation of the annuity payments; and, usually, the annual payment was simply a settlement of the claims of the traders, who took the risk of furnishing the goods in advance. That there was injustice practiced upon the Indians is doubtless true; probably not so great as the disaffected Indians imagined. There was enough, however, to make the time of the annual payment an anxious period, for fear of an outbreak. The failure of the government in its attempt to punish the Spirit Lake murderers had a tendency to create a feel-

ing among the leaders of the rebellious spirit that if they could only unite the whole body of Sioux in an uprising they could make a successful attack upon the settlers, and perhaps regain the lands formerly held by the Indians. The War of the Rebellion, starting in 1861, gave renewed energy to the discontent. The Indians were well aware of the reverses of the Union forces during the first year of the war. The calls for troops were taking the able-bodied men from the farms, and many of the half-breeds had volunteered for the army. All these conditions had a disquieting effect, and, added to this, in 1862 the June payment was not made; and as there was no satisfactory answer for the delay, the traders took advantage of the necessities of the Indians and insinuated that perhaps the government would go to pieces, and there would be no further payments. The missionaries endeavored to counteract these evil influences, and, with the aid of the civilized Indians, succeeded in averting deliberate outbreak. The delay in payment of annuities, however, tended to keep up the discontent, particularly among the younger braves, who were the hunters. Their vagabond life brought them into the settlements, and in contact with the whites; and their worthless, lazy habits made them offensive to the families, as beggars of meals or money, or anything that took their fancy.

#### MASSACRE OF 1862.

These are, in brief, the circumstances which led up to the great massacre of 1862, which for a short time threatened the lives of all the settlers on the western boundary of the state. There was no concerted action for the massacre, and to some extent there is an uncertainty as to why the first murders were committed. Four young men or boys are believed to have commenced the massacre, in a spirit of bravado, making a threatening attack first upon a family, driving them from their home, and afterward following them to a neighbor's house, where, after an altercation with the families, they killed three men and two women. These occurrences took place on the 17th of August, in the township of Acton, twelve miles west of Litchfield. Realizing that if they remained in the vicinity punishment would soon overtake their murderous acts, they lost no time in going back to camp, relating what they had done, and asking protection. A hasty consultation was had between two of the chiefs; they realized that the murderers must be given up, or the annuities would be stopped, and a war of extermination would be inaugurated. They chose to stand by the murderers, and immediately following there was a general uprising of the entire



Sioux bands. So swift were their movements, before any effective resistance could be brought against them, that about eight hundred of the settlers, men, women and children were murdered within a few days. The prompt action of the state authorities, aided by the national government, resulted in the capture of about 2,000 of the belligerent Indians and the withdrawal of the remainder beyond the boundaries of the state, into the wilds of Dakota. Of the captured Indians, 303 were found guilty of murder and rape, and were condemned to death by a military court-martial. Of this number 265 were reprieved by President Lincoln, and the remainder, thirty-eight of the most prominent engaged in the massacre, were hung in Mankato on the 26th of December, 1862. The next year the general government authorized an expedition against the Indians who had escaped to the Dakota plains, because of their constant raids in small squads on the frontiers of the state for the purpose of horse-stealing and marauding upon adventurous settlers who might risk going back to their abandoned farms. After two decisive encounters, the Indians retreated beyond the Missouri river, and in 1864 another expedition was sent forward and a final settlement of the Sioux outbreak was accomplished, by a confiscation and surrender of the ponies and arms of most of the bands hostile to the government.

The several tribes of Sioux Indians were engaged in this massacre, and were the representatives of the tribes that had made the cession of lands in 1851, under the first and second treaties of that year. Under these treaties the government had set aside trust funds of \$2,520,000, from which there was paid annually the sum of \$126,000. Settlers who had lost property urged their claims for indemnity, and Congress promptly established a commission to receive all claims and investigate the facts. The commission was duly organized and established headquarters in the city of St. Paul, and carefully examined all the claims presented. The total number filed was 2,940, with damages amounting to \$2,458,795.16. The commission allowed 2,635 claims, and cut down the damages to \$1,370,374. By act of Congress these claims were paid, and the annuities and all further payments to the tribes were stopped. The state was also reimbursed for extraordinary expenses incurred during the period of insurrection.

On the 2nd of October, 1863, a treaty was concluded at the old crossing of Red Lake river, about twelve miles east of the present city of Crookston by Alexander Ramsey and Ashley C. Morrill, and the chiefs and head men of the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibway Indians, for the cession of a large tract of country, being the same land embraced in one of the treaties of 1851, but not ratified at that time, of which the

boundaries are as follow: Commencing at the intersection of the national boundary with the Lake of the Woods; thence in a southwest direction to the head of Thief river; thence following that stream to its mouth; thence southeasterly in a direct line toward the head of Wild Rice river; and thence following the boundary of the Pillager cession of 1855 to the mouth of said river; thence up the channel of the Red river to the mouth of the Cheyenne; thence up said river to Stump lake, near the eastern extremity of Devil's lake; thence north to the international boundary; and thence east on said boundary to the place of beginning. It embraced all of the Red River valley in Minnesota and Dakota, except a small portion previously ceded, and was estimated to contain 11,000,000 acres. This treaty was ratified by the Senate, with amendments, March 1, 1864. The Indians, on the 12th of April, 1864, assented to the amendments, and President Lincoln, by his proclamation of the 5th of May, 1864, confirmed the treaty.

#### A PERIOD OF RAPID DEVELOPMENT.

The close of the Civil War in the spring of 1865, and the return of the soldiers, and the assurance of no further depredations from the Sioux Indians, started a new era of prosperity and rapid growth. The Legislature, in the meantime, had granted charters on the foreclosed roadbeds and lands to new railroad companies, and the construction of roads was furnishing abundant labor to all who were coming to the state. The population at this time was 250,000, and in 1870 the population had increased to 439,706, nearly doubling in five years. The railroad companies had within the same period constructed nearly 1,000 miles of railroad, and continued their building with even greater vigor until the financial crisis of 1873 brought all public enterprises again to a stand, and produced stagnation in all the growing towns. The farmers had been active in developing the country, and were adding largely to the productions of the state when the grasshopper raids, for the time being, destroyed the growing crops, and caused great financial distress for two or three years.

The census of 1875 gave the state a population of 597,407, still showing a fair increase, but small in comparison with the five years following the close of the rebellion. By 1878 the state had fairly recovered from the financial crash of 1873, but speculation has at no time since 1878 been so reckless as during the two periods ending in 1857 and 1873.

Along with the prosperity of the state, caused so largely by the rapid railroad building, the state pride began to assert itself with more force,

and the prominent citizens continued to urge an adjustment of the dishonored railroad bonds. In 1877 a proposition setting aside the proceeds of 500,000 acres for internal improvement lands in settlement was by act of the Legislature submitted to a vote at a special election called for the 12th of June, and was voted down by the decisive vote of 59,176 against to 17,324 votes for, the proposition. This vote was largely owing to the fact that the state at that time had almost an entire new population that had come into the state long after the bonds were issued and had no definite knowledge of the history of the original indebtedness.

In 1881 the Legislature enacted a law providing for the adjustment of these bonds and designating the judges of the supreme court as a commission to make the settlement. The constitutionality of this law was questioned, a writ of injunction was served, and the final determination of the supreme bench was that the law was unconstitutional, as also the amendment of 1860, prohibiting any settlement without a vote of the people. This latter act had previously been determined unconstitutional by the supreme court of the United States. An extra session of the Legislature was called in October of the same year, when the final adjustment was authorized by act of the Legislature, on a basis of fifty per cent. of the amount nominally due, and, after a careful examination of all the claims presented, the bond question was forever set at rest by the issue of adjustment bonds, to the amount of \$4,282,000, to parties entitled to receive them. For the payment of these bonds the proposition of setting aside the proceeds of the 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands was again submitted to the general election in 1881, and by a vote of 82,435 votes in favor, and 24,526 votes against, the action of the Legislature was ratified and the stigma of repudiation removed, which had been fastened upon the state by the popular vote of 1877.

In 1880 the national census gave the state a population of 780,773, and the state census of 1885 swelled these figures to 1,117,798, indicating the extraordinary growth of forty-three per cent.; but an examination of the figures shows that the growth was mainly confined to the cities, being nearly eighty per cent. of increase, while in the farming community and small towns the percentage of increase was only twenty per cent.

During the ten years between 1880 and 1890 there was a period of great activity in the railroad building, and 2,310 miles of road were put in operation. This alone gave great energy to the business of the state, and caused a large increase in the population of the cities, and gradually culminated in a most extravagant real estate boom, and an era of the wildest

speculation. In the country the growth was normal over the entire state, although large numbers of farmers in the southern half of the state were attracted to the plains of Dakota, where great activity was being developed by the pushing of railroads into different sections of the territory.

#### DIVERSIFIED FARMING INTERESTS.

The settlement of the Dakotas and the consequent breaking up of the virgin land, after the year 1885, almost doubled the wheat yield of the north-westerly states, so that the farmers of Minnesota were soon confronted with the question whether wheat should continue to be their leading staple. In the southern part of the state the wheat return was not enough per acre to yield any profit to the farmer at the reduced prices; and gradually methods have changed, so that the leading agricultural industries now include dairying, stock raising, and general diversified farming. It seems probable that Minnesota will hold her place as the greatest wheat-producing state, and will also earn a greater reputation as the best all-round farming state in the Union.

The national census of 1890 gave the state a population of 1,301,826, an increase of 184,028 in five years, of which amount about 70,000 increase went to the cities and 114,000 to the country districts, showing eighteen per cent. increase in the cities and fifteen per cent. increase in the country. The state census of 1895 showed an increase of 272,793, or 21.95 per cent., in the preceding five years, giving a total population of 1,574,619.

According to the census of 1910 the population of Minnesota was 2,075,708, showing an increase of 17.8 per cent. during the preceding decade. The population of the five largest cities was as follows: Minneapolis, 301,408; St. Paul, 214,744; Duluth, 78,466; Winona, 18,583; and Stillwater 10,198.

Minnesota was the first state of the Union to respond to the call of the President for volunteers at the beginning of the war with Spain, in April, 1898. Three regiments, designated as the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Regiments of Minnesota Volunteers, were mobilized at St. Paul, April 29, and were mustered into the United State service on May 7 and 8. The Fifteenth Regiment was mustered into service on July 18. In total this state furnished 5,315 officers and enlisted men for the volunteer army. At the close of the war the Twelfth and Fourteenth Regiments returned to Minnesota, and were mustered out of service in November. The Fifteenth Regiment continued in service until March 27, 1899; and the Thirteenth

Regiment, after more than a year of service in the Philippine Islands, was mustered out on October 3, 1899.

#### NAME.

Minnesota derives its name from the river which was named "Minisota" by the Dakotas, pronounced "Min-nee-sotah," applied to the stream, in its natural state in the summer season, after the waters were cleared from the roiling caused by the spring floods. Mini, water; sotah, sky-colored. Apparently to secure the correct pronunciation in English letters, the convention called at Stillwater, in 1848, for the purpose of procuring a territorial organization, instructed their delegates to see that the name of the territory should be written Min-ne-sota.

#### GEOGRAPHY.

Geographically, Minnesota occupies the exact center of the continent of North America, midway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and also midway between Hudson bay and the Gulf of Mexico. This state is bounded on the south by Iowa, on the west by South and North Dakota, on the north by Manitoba and Ontario, and on the east by Wisconsin. It extends from latitude 43 degrees 30 minutes, to 49 degrees 24 minutes, and from 89 degrees 29 minutes, to 97 degrees 15 minutes, west longitude. From its southern boundary to the northern is about 400 miles, and from its most eastern to the extreme western point about 354 miles.

#### AREA.

Minnesota is, in area, the tenth state of the Union. It contains 84,287 square miles, or about 53,943,379 acres, of which 3,608,012 acres are water. In altitude it appears to be one of the highest portions of the continent, as the headwaters of three great river systems are found in its limits, those of streams flowing northward to Hudson bay, eastward to the Atlantic ocean, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico.

About half of this surface, on the south and west, consists of rolling prairie, interspersed with frequent groves, oak openings and belts of hardwood timber, watered by numberless lakes and streams, and covered with a warm, dark soil of great fertility. The rest, embracing the elevated district immediately west and north of Lake Superior, consists mainly of rich min-

eral ranges and of the pine forests which clothe the headwaters of the Mississippi, affording extensive supplies of lumber. There is but a very small percentage of broken, rocky or worthless land in the state. Nearly all is arable.

#### RIVERS.

Numerous rivers and watercourses give the state excellent drainage. But few states are so well watered as Minnesota. Its navigable rivers are the Mississippi, the Minnesota, the St. Croix, the St. Louis, the Red River of the North, and the Red Lake river, all of which, near their sources, have extensive water powers; while a number of smaller streams such as Rum river and Snake river, both valuable for lumbering, the Cannon and Zumbro rivers, the Vermilion, Crow, Blue Earth, Des Moines, Cottonwood, Chippewa, LeSueur, Root, Elk and Sauk rivers, also furnish fine water powers. These with their tributaries and a host of lesser streams penetrate every portion of the state. Some of the water powers furnished by these streams are among the finest in America, and many of them have been utilized for manufacturing purposes.

#### LAKES.

The lakes of Minnesota are more numerous and varied in form than in any other state in the Union. Bordering on the northeast corner of the state for one hundred and fifty miles, the waters of the great Lake Superior wash its shores. Within the state there are about ten thousand lakes, the largest of which is Red lake, in the central northern part of the state, bordering partly by dense pine forests, with its overflow through Red Lake river, by a devious course, into the Red River of the North. On the same northern slope, in St. Louis county, is the beautiful Vermilion lake, with its tributaries, at the edge of the great Vermilion iron range, and flowing into Rainy lake, on the northern boundary, and then through Rainy Lake river into the Lake of the Woods, and thence into Lake Winnipeg, and finally into Hudson bay. On the southern slope of the state is Itasca lake, the source of the Mississippi, with Cass lake, Lake Winnibigoshish, Leech lake, and other innumerable lakes, all adding volume to the water of the Mississippi, eventually flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. Then there is Mille Lacs, the source of Rum river, and the picturesque Lake Minnetonka. These are the largest lakes in the state. Of these, however, only Minnetonka, White Bear, Bald Eagle and Chisago lakes have so far been much utilized as summer resorts. The incomparable park region, traversed by the Great Northern

and Northern Pacific railroads, is the paradise of summer idlers, of hunters and fishermen; but it is not in this portion alone that all the beautiful lakes are found. The northeastern and the southwestern sections each have numerous lakes to attract the summer visitor.

- There is an undoubted modification of the climate of the state, caused by these numerous bodies of water, giving a most delightful summer temperature.

Fine varieties of fish are abundant in all these lakes; and the state expends annually thousands of dollars, through a game and fish commission, to improve the varieties and to prevent their wanton destruction.

#### ELEVATION.

Surveys with leveling from the sea show that the shore of Lake Superior is the lowest land in the state, 602 feet above sea level. The waters of the northeastern part of the state south of the Mesabi iron range flow into Lake Superior, and are carried to the Atlantic ocean. The Mississippi river, having its chief source in Lake Itasca, at 1,466 feet elevation, runs in a southerly direction, leaving the state at 620 feet above sea level.

The Red River of the North, rising in the north, near Itasca lake, at a height of 1,600 feet above the ocean, after a circuitous route south and west to Breckenridge, in Wilkin county, and then flowing north along its great valley, leaves the state at an elevation of 750 feet. The average elevation of the state is given at about 1,275 feet. The highest elevation is the Misquah hills, in Cook county, 2,230 feet.

#### CLIMATE.

The elevation of Minnesota above the sea, its fine drainage, and the dryness of the atmosphere give it a climate of unusual salubrity and pleasantness. It has an annual mean temperature of 44 degrees, while its mean summer temperature is 70 degrees, the same as that of middle Illinois and Ohio, southern Pennsylvania, etc. The excessive heats of summer often felt in other states are here tempered by the cooling breezes. Its high latitude gives it correspondingly longer days in summer than states further south, and during the growing season there are two and one-half hours more sunshine than in the latitude of Cincinnati. This, taken in connection with the abundant rainfall of early summer, accounts for the rapid and vigorous

growth of crops in Minnesota, and their early maturity. The cool breezes and cool nights in summer prevent the debilitating effects of heat often felt in low latitudes. The winter climate is one of the attractive features of the state. Its uniformity, and prevailing freedom from thaws and excessive spells of cold, severe weather or heavy snow storms, and its dryness, together with the bright sunshine and electrical condition of the air, all tend to enhance the personal comfort of the resident, and make outdoor life and labor a pleasure.

These features tend to make this climate the healthiest in the Union. It gives life and briskness to those performing manual labor, enabling them to do more work than in a damper or duller climate.

#### CHRONOLOGICAL.

In the following list some of the more important events in the state, from the earliest explorations to the present time, are set forth in chronological order:

- 1635. Jean Nicollet, an explorer from France, who had wintered in the neighborhood of Green Bay, brought to Montreal the first mention of the aborigines of Minnesota.
- 1659-60. Grosseilliers and Radisson wintered among the Sioux of the Mille Lacs region, Minnesota, being its first white explorers. In a previous expedition, four years earlier, they are thought to have come to Prairie Island, west of the main channel of the Mississippi, between Red Wing and Hastings.
- 1661. Father Rene Menard left Kewennaw, on Lake Superior, to visit the Hurons, then in northern Wisconsin, and was lost near the sources of the Black and Chippewa rivers. His breviary and cassock were said to have been found among the Sioux.
- 1679. July 2, Daniel Greyselon Du Lhut (Duluth) held a council with the Sioux at their principal settlement on the shore of Mille Lacs. Du Lhut, in June, 1680, by way of the St. Croix river, reached the Mississippi and met Hennepin.
- 1680. Louis Hennepin, after captivity in the village of Mille Lacs Sioux, first saw the Falls of St. Anthony.
- 1689. May 8, Nicholas Perrot, at his Ft., St. Antoine, on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Pepin, laid formal claim to the surrounding country for France. He built a fort also on the Minnesota shore of this lake, near its outlet.



1095. LeSueur built a fort or trading post on Isle Pelee, now called Prairie Island, above Lake Pepin.
1700. LeSueur established Ft. L'Huillier, on the Blue Earth river (near the mouth of the LeSueur), and first supplied the Sioux with firearms.
- 1727 The French established a third fort on Lake Pepin, with Sieur de La Perriere as commander.
1728. Great flood in the Mississippi.
- 1763 By the treaty of Versailles, France ceded Minnesota, east of the Mississippi, to England, and west of it to Spain.
- 1766 Capt. Jonathan Carver visited St. Anthony falls and Minnesota river. He claimed to have made a treaty with the Indians the following spring, in a cave afterward called "Carver's Cave," within the present limits of St. Paul, at which he said they ceded to him an immense tract of land, long known as "Carver's Claim," but never recognized by the government.
1796. Laws of the Ordinance of 1787 extended over the Northwest territory, including the northeastern third of Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river.
- 1798-99. The Northwestern Fur Company established itself in Minnesota.
1800. May 7, that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi became a part of Indiana by the division of Ohio.
1803. April 30, that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, for the preceding forty years to possession of Spain as a part of Louisiana, was ceded to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had just obtained it from Spain.
- 1803-04. William Morrison, the first known white man to discover the source of the Mississippi river, visited Elk lake and explored the streams entering into the lake forming the head of the river.
1805. Lieut. Z. M. Pike visited Minnesota to establish government relations there, and obtained the Ft. Snelling reservation from the Dakotas.
1812. The Dakotas, Ojibways and Winnebagoes, under the lead of hostile traders, joined the British during the war. Red river colony established by Lord Selkirk.
1819. Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river, became a part of Crawford county, Michigan. Ft. Snelling established, and a post at Mendota occupied by troops, under command of Col.

- Leavenworth. Maj. L. Taliaferro appointed Indian agent, arriving on April 19.
1820. Corner stone of Ft. Snelling laid on September 10. Governor Cass visits Minnesota and makes a treaty of peace between the Sioux and Ojibways at Ft. Snelling. Col. Josiah Snelling appointed to the command of the latter post.
1823. The first steamboat arrived at Mendota, May 10, Major Taliaferro and Beltrami being passengers. Maj. Stephen H. Long explored Minnesota river, the Red river valley, and the northern frontier. Beltrami explored sources of the Mississippi.
1826. Great flood on the Red river; a part of the colony driven to Minnesota, settling near Ft. Snelling.
1832. Schoolcraft explored sources of Mississippi river, and named Lake Itasca (formerly called Elk lake).
1833. First mission established at Leech lake by Rev. W. T. Boutwell.
1834. The portion of Minnesota west of the Mississippi attached to Michigan. Gen. H. H. Sibley settled at Mendota.
1835. Catlin and Featherstonhaugh visited Minnesota.
1836. The territory of Wisconsin organized, embracing the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi, the part on the west being attached to Iowa. Nicollet visited Minnesota.
1837. Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin, made a treaty at Ft. Snelling with the Ojibways, by which the latter ceded all their pine lands on the St. Croix and its tributaries; a treaty was also effected at Washington with a deputation of Dakotas for their lands east of the Mississippi. These treaties led the way to the first actual settlements within the area of Minnesota.
1838. The treaty ratified by Congress. Franklin Steele makes a claim at St. Anthony falls. Pierre Parrant makes a claim and builds a shanty on the present site of St. Paul.
1839. St. Croix county established.
1843. Stillwater settled.
1846. August 6, the Wisconsin enabling act.
1847. The Wisconsin Constitutional Convention meets. The town of St. Paul surveyed, platted and recorded in St. Croix county register of deeds' office. First improvement of the water power at the Falls of St. Anthony.
1848. May 29, Wisconsin admitted, leaving the area of Minnesota without a government. August 26, the "Stillwater Convention" held,

- taking measures for a separate territorial organization, and asking that the new territory be named Minnesota. October 30, H. H. Sibley elected delegate to Congress.
1849. January 15, H. H. Sibley admitted to a seat. March 3, the bill organizing Minnesota passed. March 19, its territorial officers appointed. June 1, Governor Ramsey declared, by proclamation, the territory organized. September 3, the first territorial Legislature assembled.
1850. Great flood this year; highest water ever known. Minnesota river first navigated by steamboats. Census shows 6,077 inhabitants.
1851. Location of the capitol, university and penitentiary; another flood. July 23, treaty of Traverse des Sioux completed and August 5 the treaty of Mendota, opening the territory west of the Mississippi to settlers.
1852. June 23, the treaties ratified by the United States Senate.
1853. Pierce's administration. W. A. Gorman appointed governor. The capitol building completed.
1854. Celebration of the opening of the Rock Island railroad, the first road to the Mississippi river, by a mammoth excursion, reaching St. Paul, June 8. Large immigration this season and the three succeeding ones, and the real estate mania commences.
1857. Enabling act passes Congress, February 26. Gov. Samuel Medary (appointed by Buchanan), arrives on April 22. Legislature passes a bill to remove the capital to St. Peter, but it fails to accomplish the object. Ink-pa-du-to massacre, April. Land grant passes Congress. April 27, extra session of the Legislature to apportion land grant. July 13, Constitutional Convention assembles. Real estate speculation reaches its height, and is checked by the financial panic, August 27. Great revulsions and hard times. Census shows 150,037 population. October 13, Constitution adopted and state officers elected.
1858. State loan of \$250,000 negotiated. Five million loan bill passed by the Legislature, March 9; ratified by vote of the people, April 15. Great stringency in money market. State admitted, May 11. State officers sworn in, May 24.
1859. Hard times continue to intensify. "Wright County War." "Glen-coe" and "Owatonna" money issued. Work on the land grant road ceases. Collapse of the five million scheme. First

- export of grain this fall. Hard political struggle; the Republicans triumph.
1860. Another warm political canvass Federal census, 172,023.
1861. April 15, President proclamation for troops received; the first regiment recruits at once; June 22, it embarks at Ft. Snelling for the seat of war.
1862. Call for 600,000 men. August 17, massacre at Acton; August 18, outbreak at Lower Sioux Agency, eight miles east of Redwood Falls; 19th, New Ulm attacked; 20th, Fort Ridgely attacked; 25th, second attack on New Ulm; 30th, Fort Abercrombie besieged; September 2d, the bloody attack at Birch Coulee. September 19, first railroad in Minnesota in operation, between St. Paul and Minneapolis. September 23, battle of Wood Lake; 26th, captives surrendered at Camp Release; military commission tries 321 Indians for murder, rape, etc.; 303 condemned to die; December 26, 38 hung at Nankato.
1863. General Sibley's expedition to the Missouri river; July 3, Little Crow killed; July 24, battle of Big Mound; July 26, battle of Dead Buffalo Lake; July 28, battle of Stony Lake.
1864. Large levies for troops. Expedition to Missouri river, under Sully. Inflation of money market. Occasional Indian raids.
1865. Peace returns. Minnesota regiments return and are disbanded. In all 22,016 troops furnished by the state. Census shows 250,099 inhabitants.
- 1866-72 Rapid railroad building everywhere; immigration heavy; "good times" prevail, and the real estate inflated.
1873. January 7, 8 and 9, polar wave sweeps over the state; seventy persons perish. September, the Jay Cook failure creates another panic. Grasshopper raid begins and continues five seasons.
1876. September 7, attack on bank at Northfield by a gang of armed outlaws from Missouri; three of the latter killed and three captured.
1877. Biennial session amendment adopted.
1878. May 2, three flouring-mills at Minneapolis explode; eighteen lives lost.
1880. November 15, portion of the hospital for the insane at St. Peter destroyed by fire; eighteen inmates burned to death, seven

- died subsequently of injuries and fright, and six missing; total loss, \$150,000.
1881. March 1, the state capitol destroyed by fire.
1884. January 25, state prison partially burned.
1886. April 14, a tornado strikes the cities of St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, demolishing scores of buildings and killing about seventy people.
1887. Important legislation regarding the liquor traffic, common carriers, and elections.
1889. The Legislature enacts the Australian system of voting in cities of 10,000 and over. The first electric street railway started in the state at Stillwater.
1890. United States census shows a population of 1,301,826. July 13, an excursion steamboat returning from Lake City encampment foundered on Lake Pepin, and 100 people drowned. July 13, tornado swept across Lake Gervias, in Ramsey county, demolishing several buildings and killing six people.
1891. June 15, a series of tornadoes started in Jackson county, near the town of Jackson, traversing Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower and Fillmore counties, on a line nearly parallel with, but from five to fifteen miles north of, the Southern Minnesota division of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, doing a large amount of damage to farms and farm buildings, and causing the death to about fifty people along the track of the storm.
1892. June 7, Republican national convention held at Minneapolis. The Australian system of voting used at the November general election.
1893. The Legislature authorizes the appointment of a capitol commission to select a site for a new capitol, and providing a tax of two-tenths of a mill for ten years to pay for the site and the erection of a building. A great financial crisis causes the failure of several banks and many mercantile and manufacturing establishments in the larger cities of the state.
1894. September 1. forest fires start in the neighborhood of Hinckley, in Pine county, carrying death and destruction over nearly four hundred square miles of territory, destroying the towns of Hinckley and Sandstone, causing the death of 417 people, rendering homeless and destitute 2,200 men, women and children, and entailing a property loss of about \$1,000,000.

1895. A census of the state was taken during the month of June, and the total population of the state was found to be 1,574,619.
1896. The Red Lake Indian reservation was diminished to about a quarter part of its former area, and on May 15 a large tract of agricultural and timber lands formerly belonging to that reservation was opened for settlement.
1897. July 2, the monument at Gettysburg to the First Minnesota Regiment was dedicated.
1898. July 27, the corner stone of the new capitol was laid. Minnesota supplied four regiments for service in the Spanish-American War, being the first state, May 7, to respond to the president's call. October 5, the Pillager Indians attacked United States troops near Sugar Point, Leech lake.
1899. Semi-centennial of the territory and state celebrated by the Old Settlers' Association, June 1, and by the Historical Society, November 15.
1900. Population of Minnesota, shown by the national census, 1,751,394. Death of Senator C. K. Davis, November 27.
1901. In the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo, New York, the superior exhibits of wheat, flour, and dairy products of Minnesota caused her to be called "the Bread and Butter State."
1902. August 23, the fortieth anniversary of the Sioux War celebrated at New Ulm. Monuments and tablets erected there and at other places in the Minnesota valley.
1903. Tide of immigration into Minnesota, particularly in northern and western sections. April 22, death of Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor, later governor of the state, United States senator, and secretary of war.
1904. Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Minnesota exhibits win many first prizes for flour, butter, fruits, iron ores, work of pupils in schools, etc.
1905. January 3, Legislature convenes in the new capitol. The population, according to the state census, June 1, was 1,979,912.
1906. September 3, live stock amphitheater on the state fair ground dedicated, with address by James J. Hill. Attendance at the fair on that day, 93,199; during the week, 295,000.
1907. Folwell Hall, the new main building for the College of Science, Literature and Arts, of the University of Minnesota, completed at cost of \$410,000 for the building and its equipment.

The total number of students of this University enrolled in all departments for the year was 4,145.

1908. The fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Minnesota to statehood was celebrated in connection with the state fair, its attendance during the week being 326,753.
1909. Death of Gov. John A. Johnson as the result of an operation, at Rochester, Minnesota, September 21, 1909. Lieut.-Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart sworn in as governor by Chief Justice Start, in the Supreme Court retiring room, at 11 o'clock the same day.
1910. Population of Minnesota, shown by the national census, 2,075,708. Death of State Treasurer Clarence C. Dinehart, June 8. E. S. Pettijohn appointed to succeed, June 11. Forest fires in northern Minnesota during the second and third week in October, results in death to about thirty people and the destruction of about \$20,000,000 of property. Spooner and Baudette wiped out.
1911. The Legislature ratified the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution for election of United States senators by popular vote. October 18, George E. Vincent was inaugurated president of the University of Minnesota.
1912. The Legislature in special session enacted a new primary election law and "corrupt practices" act. October 19, the statue of Governor Johnson on the capitol ground was unveiled.
1913. June 16-20, the American Medical Association held its sixty-fourth annual session in Minneapolis. United States postal savings bank and parcel post inaugurated in Minnesota. Practical reforms in state road laws enacted. Work begun on the new building of the St. Paul Public Library and Hill Reference Library. New postoffice and new railroad depot building in Minneapolis. November 5, the historic Carver's cave, all trace of which had been lost for forty years or more, was definitely located.
1914. March, Minneapolis made the reserve city in the Northwest for the system of regional national banks. Remarkable impetus to building operations in Minnesota cities. April 4, Frederick Weyerhauser, extensive lumber operator, died in his winter home at Pasadena, California. April 15, plans adopted for St. Paul's new terminals and union depot. May 9, a bronze statue of Gen. James Shields, tendered by the Loyal Legion and the Grand Army

of the Republic to the state of Minnesota, for a niche in the capitol. Unveiled in November; formally presented to the state by Commander Samuel Appleton, of the Loyal Legion; accepted by Governor A. O. Everhart; eloquent memorial address by Comrade and Companion John Ireland, archbishop. July 4-11, the National Educational Association held its annual convention in St. Paul. November, Winfield Scott Hammond, Democrat, elected governor of Minnesota, defeating William E. Lee, Republican nominee.

1915. January 2, session of the thirty-ninth Legislature opened at the state capitol; Hon. J. A. A. Burnquist, lieutenant-governor, president of the Senate; H. H. Flower, speaker of the House of Representatives. January 3, Winfield Scott Hammond inaugurated governor of Minnesota. February 12, birthday of Abraham Lincoln observed by Minnesota Commandery of the Loyal Legion by a banquet at the West hotel, Minneapolis. Oration by Bishop William A. Quayle, of the Methodist Episcopal church. February 19-20, forty-ninth annual convention of the Minnesota Editorial Association assembled at the St. Paul hotel, St. Paul, President H. C. Hotaling, presiding. December 30, death of Governor Hammond. December 31, Lieutenant-Governor Burnquist assumed the office of governor.
1916. February, discovery of discrepancies in the office of Walter J. Smith treasurer of the state, and his subsequent resignation.



## CHAPTER II.

### GEOLOGY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.

Douglas county lies in the west part of central Minnesota, about half way between the Mississippi river and Lakes Traverse and Big Stone. Alexandria, the county seat and largest town, is about one hundred and twenty miles west-northwest from St. Paul and Minneapolis. The county has a length of five townships, or thirty miles, from east to west, and a width of four townships, or twenty-four miles, from north to south. Douglas county contains about 722.66 square miles, or 462,500.62 acres, of which about sixty thousand acres are covered with water.

#### SURFACE FEATURES.

*Natural Drainage.* The county is included wholly within the basin of the Mississippi river; but about half of it sends its waters to the Mississippi river by way of the Minnesota river. The Long Prairie river, tributary to the Crow Wing, drains the northeastern and central portions of Douglas county, having its sources in lakes Miltona, Ida, Carlos, Le Homme Dieu, and others. Osakis lake, on the east line of Douglas county, is the head of the Sauk river. The west part of this county is drained by the Chippewa river, excepting its northwest corner, where Lake Christina lies within the basin of the Pomme de Terre river. Lakes of large and small size abound in the county, especially in the region within ten or fifteen miles around Alexandria. The most notable have been described as follows by Rev. C. M. Terry:

“The lakes of Douglas county are unsurpassed for the purity of their waters, the beauty of their scenery and general attractiveness. There is a large number of them, as a glance at the map will show, but it is not the number so much as it is their beauty and variety which impresses anyone who studies them in detail.

“In the eastern half of Douglas county there is a chain of lakes remarkable for their purity, depth and beauty. They are all connected and lie within a radius of a dozen miles from Alexandria. Beginning with the most northern and highest of the chain, they are Irene, Miltona, Ida, Louise,

Mill, Andrews, Mary, Lobster, Fish, Latoka, Cowdrey, Darling, Union, Childs, Victoria, Geneva, Le Homme Dieu, Carlos.

"Lake Miltona is the largest of the chain. It has an area of about nine square miles. It is six to seven miles long from east to west, and about two miles wide. It has two inlets, one at the eastern extremity and another at the northwestern. Its outlet on the southeastern side discharges into Lake Ida. The lake has an elevation above the sea of a trifle over fourteen hundred feet. Its shores in many places are bold and rise abruptly twenty to forty feet above the water. They are covered with forests except in a few places. The Leaf hills to the north, dun and hazy in the distance, are seen from the center of the lake. There are large areas of the lake which are shallow, and the bottom is covered with a dense growth of aquatic plants. Although a number of soundings were taken in different parts of the lake, only one place of considerable depth was found where the line showed eighty feet of water; this was a little south of the center. Other parts showed thirty to fifty feet, but the majority of soundings gave fourteen to twenty-five feet. Owing to the amount of vegetation growing, the water is not as free from foreign matter as some lakes. It is, however, clear, sparkling, with no tinge of yellow. There are some fine springs on the shores of this lake; and some stately forest trees, sugar maple, elm and basswood, flourish.

"Next in size and order is Lake Ida. It is four and one-half miles long and one to one and a half miles wide. It has an area of about five square miles. It lies east of the central drift ridge, which divides the waters of the county. The surrounding country is massively rolling drift, and on the eastern side is well timbered. The water is very pure and crystalline. The shores are strewn with pebbles and small sub-angular boulders. There are very few reeds and bushes. The temperature of this lake on the 16th of August was 73 degrees F., surface; and 81 degrees F., air. The inlet of Lake Ida is at the northern end, where it receives the surplus water of Lake Miltona. The outlet is at the southeast corner, whence it flows south.

"The charming little Lake Latoka is only two miles from Alexandria. It is about one and one-half miles long and half a mile wide. It lies in a deep and quite uniform basin. It has average depth of fifty feet, the greatest being eighty feet. The bluffs around the north end at the outlet are from two to thirty feet high. The soil is sand and gravel, including some boulders. The water is remarkably pure and of a deep bottle-green color. The surrounding country is covered with forest.

"Lake Cowdrey, a few rods north of Latoka, is smaller in area but a

very pretty lake. Here the surplus waters from some twelve or fourteen other lakes combine and send a deep, strong current north to Lake Darling.

"A sheet of water two miles long and a mile wide, surrounded by forests of stately trees, dry and bold shores, divided by a bar near the northern end into two basins, almost two lakes, this is Lake Darling. The inlet at the southern extremity pours continually into this lake the surplus waters of a dozen others. The depth varies from sixteen to fifty feet. The water is clear and pure.

"Lake Victoria receives the drainage from half a dozen smaller lakes at the south. There are two arms, an eastern and western; both have inlets and combine to form the main body of the lake. The western arm is much the larger. In this basin the great mass of the water lies. Its depth, near the center, varies from forty to fifty feet. The east arm is thirty to forty feet deep. Near the outlet the water becomes shallow and reeds are numerous. In the center of the lowest part of the lake the depth varies from twenty-two to thirty-eight feet. The water is not very pure; it contains a considerable amount of decaying vegetable matter, brought down from swamps and shallow lakes above. The shores of the Victoria are generally high and wooded. The banks, where exposed, are clay. A very short outlet, crossed by the Great Northern railway, brings us to the next link in the chain.

"Lake Geneva is nearly two miles long and half a mile wide. Its waters are clearer than those of Victoria. In some parts it is also considerably deeper. Soundings varying from thirty to sixty feet were made in the south part of the lake. There is clay in the surrounding bluffs, which rise ten to twenty feet above the water. The railway has made a long, high 'fill' at the inlet. In consequence of these facts the water holds in suspension considerable earthy matter, giving it at times a faint yellowish tinge.

"One of the charms of this chain of lakes and the country adjacent is the presence of fine, large forest trees, which the ravages of the 'woodman' have not laid low. For this reason the shores of these lakes are particularly attractive as places of resort in summer.

"Lake Le Homme Dieu has a quite irregular shape and lies in two distinct depressions of unequal depth. The long point that runs out from the west side is continued under water by a bar extending more than half way across the lake. In the southern basin, not far from the inlet, the water is from sixty to seventy-five feet deep. In various parts of this basin

depths varying from twenty-five to fifty-seven feet were found. The lower basin at the north end of the lake is larger and includes a deep bay on the west side, but on the whole this portion of the lake is shallower than the other.

"As a whole, it is one of the most beautiful sheets of water in Minnesota. The shores are moderately high and well rounded. It is separated only by a narrow bar from Lake Carlos. The water is clear and pure. In this respect there is a gradual improvement as we proceed down the chain. Geneva is purer than Victoria, Le Homme Dieu is purer than Geneva, and Carlos is purest of them all.

"Lake Carlos is the gem of this group of lakes. It is the last and lowest of the series. It is the immediate source of Long Prairie river, which forms its outlet at the northeast corner. It has two inlets, one from lake Darling at the southern extremity, and the other from Lake Le Homme Dieu. It thus receives the surplus waters of all the other lakes north and south and the drainage of six townships. The lake in some places is one hundred and fifty feet deep, and there is a channel averaging fifty feet deep, extending the entire length of the lake. The deepest area is not far from the Le Homme Dieu inlet. There are shallow areas where the water is only five to ten feet deep, further down the lake. It is about five miles long and a mile wide. The water is perfectly pure, of a deep, bottle-green color. The color, however, varies with the sky and weather, and is sometimes a deep indigo and sometimes a light delicate blue. In this lake, as in many others, which have been explored with the sounding line and other appliances for discovering what lies at the bottom, it was found that there are, under the level surface of the water, a variety of hill and dale, plateaus, ravines, abrupt declivities and gradual slopes very similar to the irregularities of the county around. Vegetation, too, flourishes beneath the waves as vigorously as on the main land, while the waters are thronged with fish of many species and of delicious flavor.

"There are many indications about the shores of these lakes of former higher levels of water. There are old beaches and half-observed terraces which show that the lakes were connected at no very remote date. The whole of the 'Alexandria prairie,' which lies between the two chains of lakes, is modified drift. The gravel, sands and clays are finely stratified and record the fact that at the close of the ice age some ancient river with gentle current flowed here, rearranging and depositing in their present positions the materials which the glacier had brought down.

"On the eastern boundary of Douglas county, but lying chiefly in

Todd county, is Lake Osakis. It is about seven miles long. The southern part is a mile and a half to two miles wide. The northern part is narrow and deep. The depths at the upper end of the lake varied from forty to seventy feet. In the broader part of the lake there are large areas of shallow water, varying from five to fifteen feet, the average depth being about twenty-five feet. Around the southern end of the lake, the prairie slopes down gradually to the water's edge. Some of the shores are low and wet. At other points they are from ten to twenty feet above the water. The water varies in purity. In the deep parts at the north end it was quite pure. In shallow places and where the wind stirs the whole volume to the bottom, it has the yellowish hue characteristic of the more alkaline lakes.

"Among the hills in the southern part of Douglas county are a multitude of small lakes, the largest of which is Lake Oscar. The surrounding country is rolling, and there are some abrupt declivities and massive hills of drift, whose summits are from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet above the lakes. There is a fringe of oaks about the lake, and a forest on the northeast stretches away to Alexandria and beyond. Toward the west and south lies a prairie country. The outlet of Lake Oscar, in high water, is into the Chippewa river. Its only tributaries are other and smaller lakes. The basin is subdivided by various points and bars. The outlet is very irregular. This interlocking of the water gives the most charming scenery. The shores are bold, being in several places thirty to forty feet above the water. The lake is about thirty feet deep in its largest basin, growing shallower, of course, about the shore's points.

"In the extreme northwestern part of the county is Lake Christina, which has an area of about six square miles, but is very shallow. The water is decidedly yellow and muddy. It is full of reeds and rushes. Its shallow depth and the rills and rivulets pouring down from clay deposits keep it looking very much like the Missouri river. It is rather exceptional in this respect among the lakes of this region."

Maple lake, in the southern part of the county, and Smith lake, in the southeastern part, are both fine, deep lakes.

*Topography.* The south edge of the great terminal moraine called the Leaf hills extends into Lund along the north side of Lake Christina and into Millerville north of Lakes Moses and Aaron. Its elevations in these townships along the north line of Douglas county are one hundred to two hundred and fifty feet above the lakes, or thirteen hundred to sixteen hundred feet above the sea.

At the highest point of the Leaf hills in Otter Tail county, fifteen miles

south of the Leaf lakes, a morainic belt branches off nearly at right angles from the range of the Leaf hills and extends southeast into Douglas county. In the first few miles this moraine decreases in height from two hundred to seventy-five feet. At the north line of Douglas county it divides into two divergent belts, both showing a rough and broken surface, though the hills of each are only seventy-five feet or less in height. One of these continues southeast and east through Spruce Hill township into Todd county; the other runs south-southwest to the northwest side of Lake Miltona, along the west side of Lake Ida, by Elk lake and the west part of Lake Lobster, to the conspicuous hills, about one hundred and fifty feet high, at the southwest corner of Moe. Each of these belts averages about one mile wide. The latter in its farther extent, seems to leave by a continuous course from the prominent Leaf hills to the almost equally noteworthy morainic range which extends through a distance of forty miles in southern Pope and northern Kandiyohi counties.

From the hills in Moe and the northeast part of Solum, lying on the north and west sides of Lake Oscar, this terminal moraine, seldom much elevated above the adjacent country, but distinguished by its irregular hills and hollows, continues with an average width of about one mile, first southwest and south twelve miles to the bridge across the Chippewa river in section 32, Nora township, in Pope county; then southeast, east, and east-northeast eighteen miles, passing along the north side of Lake Whipple to Glenwood. It will probably be found traceable, also, by low knolls and ridges, from the bridge in Pope county to the hills in Blue Mounds township, in the same county. About three miles southwest from the course of this moraine, a roughly broken tract of morainic hillocks and ridges was noted.

Most of northwestern Douglas county, between the Leaf hills and lake Christina on the north and the moraine that extends from Lakes Miltona and Ida southwest to Lake Oscar, is prominently rolling till, rising with smooth slopes in swells thirty to fifty feet above the depressions and lakes. The most rolling portion of this area is found in the west part of Ida township, and on a belt several miles wide southwest from the Great Northern railway. Northwest from Brandon station a tract of moderately undulating and partly level gravel and sand, belonging to the modified drift, extends to the Chippewa river; and in Millerville nearly level modified drift extends two or three miles south and east from Lake Moses, having a height of twenty to forty feet above this lake. The same formation of gravel and sand continues northward on the east side of Lake Karon to the moraine, but in this portion it has a moderately undulating surface.



A TYPICAL LOG CABIN OF THE PIONEER PERIOD.



LAKE VICTORIA, DOUGLAS COUNTY.





The southwest edge of Douglas county, west and south from Red Rock lake, is a somewhat lower and gently undulating expanse of till. In the south part of this county, southeast from the moraine, Holmes City, Lake Mary and the west half of La Grand are undulating or rolling till, with elevations twenty to forty feet above the hollows. The morainic hills of till west of Lake Ida and north of the west part of Lake Miliona, seventy-five to one hundred feet high, are quite in contrast with the moderately undulating or often nearly level till which covers central and southeastern Miliona and continues thence south through Carlos and Alexandria, the east part of Hudson, the south part of Belle River and Osakis and Orange townships.

In northeastern Miliona and Spruce Hill townships the morainic belt consists chiefly of kame-like, short, disconnected ridges of coarse gravel, twenty to thirty, or rarely, forty feet high, most frequently trending from west to east, or approximately so. North and south of this belt are tracts of level modified drift, only ten to twenty-five feet above the streams; that south of the moraine occupies the north half of Belle River township, and continues westward on the south side of the Long Prairie river to Lake Carlos.

Another tract of modified drift, consisting for the most part of level or slightly undulating sand and gravel, extends eight or nine miles south from Alexandria, through the west half of Hudson township; and the same formation with a more rolling surface, in swells and plateaus twenty-five to fifty feet above the depressions and lakes, also reaches three or four miles west and northwest from Alexandria, through the east half of La Grand township. Kames of coarse gravel, forming short ridges, ten to thirty feet high, were noted near the Maple lake school house in section 29, Hudson township.

Osakis lake is about thirteen hundred and ten feet, and Lakes Winona and Agnes, close west and north of Alexandria, are about thirteen hundred and sixty-five feet above the sea.

The highest land in Douglas county is on or near the north line of Millersville, which crosses the border of the Leaf hills, attaining at a few points a height of about sixteen hundred feet above the sea. The other portions of this county are from one hundred to four hundred feet lower, its lowest land being the shore of lake Christina, which is about twelve hundred and fifteen feet above the sea, or the valley of the Chippewa river at the southwest corner of the county, which has nearly the same elevation. Estimates of the average heights of the townships of Douglas county are as follows: Spruce Hill, fourteen hundred feet above the sea; Belle River, thirteen hun-

dred and forty; Osakis, thirteen hundred and sixty; Orange, thirteen hundred and seventy-five; Miltona, fourteen hundred and forty; Carlos, thirteen hundred and seventy-five; Alexandria, thirteen hundred and eighty; Hudson, thirteen hundred and ninety; Leaf Valley, fourteen hundred and twenty; Ida, fourteen hundred and twenty-five; La Grand, thirteen hundred and ninety; Lake Mary, fourteen hundred; Millerville, fourteen hundred and forty; Chippewa, thirteen hundred and ninety; Moe, fourteen hundred and twenty; Holmes City, fourteen hundred and ten; Lund, thirteen hundred and thirty; Evansville, thirteen hundred and fifty; Urness, thirteen hundred and sixty; and Solem, thirteen hundred and fifty. The mean elevation of Douglas county, derived from these figures, is approximately thirteen hundred and eighty-five feet.

*Soil and Timber.* The black soil, one to two feet thick, is the upper part of the glacial and modified drift covering this county, thus colored and made fertile by the decay of vegetation during many centuries. The carbonates of lime and magnesia, in the form of magnesian limestone boulders, pebbles and fine detritus, are an important ingredient of the drift, contributing much to the productiveness of the soil, and also making the water of wells and springs hard. Alkaline matter is not present in appreciable quantity. Wheat and other grains, sorghum, potatoes and other vegetables, live stock, butter and cheese, are the chief agricultural products.

Douglas county is well supplied with timber, about half its area being wooded. This forest extends from Miltona, Spruce Hill and Belle River, its most northeastern townships, southwestward to Lakes Andrews, Mary and Oscar. Southeast of this belt, the south edge of Osakis and most of Orange and Hudson townships are prairie. In the northwest part of Douglas county a strip of timber two or three miles wide, consisting partly of oak openings, extends from Lake Miltona westerly to Chippewa lake and into Millerville and Lund townships. Besides this, most of the lakes are fringed with woods.

#### GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

This county is entirely covered by the glacial and modified drift. The thickness of the drift in Douglas county is probably from one hundred to two hundred and fifty feet. Its bottom has not been reached by wells, and this estimate is derived from its known thickness on adjoining areas. The greater part of this formation is till or the modified glacial drift, called also boulder-clay, or hardpan, deposited by the ice-sheet without modification by water. With this are associated beds of modified drift or gravel, sand and

clay, which were gathered from the ice, assorted and laid down by the waters set free by glacial melting.

*Terminal moraines.* The material of the terminal moraines of the ice-sheet which have been explored in Minnesota is nearly everywhere till, with scanty deposits of modified drift. The latter consists of obliquely and irregularly stratified gravel and sand, the gravel often being very coarse, with pebbles and rounded stones of all sizes up to a foot or more in diameter. It either occurs enclosed in the till, forming beds and masses of variable shapes from a few inches to several feet in thickness, or sometimes it is spread upon the surface and forms knolls and ridges. No considerable area or extensive portion of this formation is found to consist of water, within this region; though at some localities in Spruce Hill township, it is in great part stratified gravel and sand, usually with numerous boulders enclosed and scattered over its ridges and hillocks.

The till of the terminal moraines differs very noticeably from the more level areas of till which generally lie at each side; in that the former has many more boulders, and a much larger intermixture of gravel and sand than the latter. On an average, probably twenty times as many rock-fragments, both large and small, occur in the morainic hills and knolls as on the smoother tracts, and sometimes the ratio is a hundredfold. The smaller pebbles and stones have angular and unworn forms, or more frequently are rounded, probably by water-wearing before the glacial period, or show planed and striated surfaces, due to grinding under the moving ice-sheet. The large boulders are mostly less than five feet, but rarely are ten feet or more in diameter. In form they are subangular and of irregular shape, rarely showing any distinctly water-worn or glaciated surface.

In contour these deposits are very uneven, consisting usually of many hillocks, mounds and ridges of rough outlines and broken slopes, with enclosed hollows, which are sometimes nearly round, but more generally have some irregular form, often holding sloughs and lakelets. The only indication of system appears in the frequently noticeable trends of the elevations and depressions in a direction approximately parallel with the course of the series.

It should be added that the ridges which occur as part of this formation differ from the ridges of interbedded gravel and sand called osars, in their material, which is usually boulder-clay or till; in their trend, at right angles with the course in which the ice moved, while series of osars extend nearly in the direction taken by glacial currents; and in their length, single ridges of the moraines being only from a few rods to a quarter of a mile or very

rarely perhaps a half mile long, while a single ridge in a series of osars is generally longer, and is sometimes distinctly traceable ten or twenty miles. In this state, however, osars of similar extent with those of Sweden and Scotland, and those described in Maine by Prof. George H. Stone, in Massachusetts by Rev. G. F. Wright, and in New Hampshire by Professor Winchell, have not been found.

The height of the morainic elevations above the intervening hollows is generally from twenty-five to seventy-five or one hundred feet. The only district in this state where they are higher for any considerable part of the series is the Leaf hills, which through a distance of twenty miles rise from one hundred to three hundred and fifty feet above the adjoining country. Upon the Coteau des Prairies the terminal moraines lie on areas of highland, to the altitude of which they appear to add seventy-five or one hundred and rarely one hundred and fifty or two hundred feet.

For agriculture the value of the terminal moraines is much less than that of the gently undulated till which generally covers other parts of this region. Among the hills of this formation, however, are found considerable areas which have a smooth surface, nearly free from boulders, and possess a highly productive soil; while the portions which are too knolly and stony for desirable cultivation afford excellent pasturage. In some districts the entire morainic belt is in smooth swells, being all good farming land.

The origin of these series of drift hills is confidently referred to the action of the continental ice-sheet, accumulating them at its margin in successive belts, which mark the farthest limit reached by the ice in the last glacial epoch and lines where it halted or perhaps temporarily re-advanced during its final recession. Their reference to the agency of land-ice is required by the partly near and partly remote sources of their material; by its generally unstratified condition; by its transportation next to these hill-ranges in courses nearly at right angles toward them; and by the variable elevation of the series, conforming to all the irregularities in altitude of the region across which they extend.

In general, the material and contour of the morainic belts in Douglas county present the same characteristics as in other parts of the state, agreeing fully with the foregoing descriptions. The contour of the drift hills, trending from east to west, is in the same direction as the belt which they form. Their material is partly sand and gravel, commonly with frequent or abundant boulders, and partly boulder-clay or till. The shortness and the disconnected or irregularly interlocked arrangement of the ridges, their variable width and broken slopes, forbid their reference to such glacial rivers as deposited

the prolonged narrow ridges called osars, and seem to prove that their accumulation, where they consist of sand and gravel, was by the waters flowing down from the melting surface of the ice-sheet along its margin. This mode of formation must also be attributed to the greater part of the morainic belt observed in Soruce Hill township, and the northeast part of Miltona, and to the upper part of the bluffs at Glenwood. Boulders are usually present, and at many places are very abundant in and on the deposits of gravel and sand in the morainic belts; but they are usually absent or rare in and on osars, wherever these peculiar gravel ridges have been observed.

Comparison and correlation with the morainic belts of other portions of the state indicate that the series of drift hills is contemporaneous with the sixth or Waconia moraine and the seventh or Dove moraine. The former is represented by the drift accumulations along the line of Chippewa and Lake Whipple in Pope county. The latter, or Dove moraine, continues westerly and northwest to Nora township, where it curves gradually and thence runs northeast through the county by Lakes Oscar, Ida and Miltona. The lobe of the ice-sheet on whose boundaries these lines of knolly and hilly drift were formed, lay on their south and west side. At the time of the Waconia moraine the angle in the glacial boundary formed by the confluence of the ice-fields flowing from the west and those flowing from the north and northeast was probably near Glenwood, in Pope county, the northern ice terminating on the tract of rolling till that extends eastward from Glenwood and Lake Reno into Stearns county, not distinguished by specially morainic contour. At the time of the Dove moraine this northern ice appears to have reached only to Spruce Hill township, its angle of confluence with the western ice-lobe being in the north part of Miltona township. During the two stages next later in the glacial recession the massive Leaf hills were accumulated at the south end of the western ice-lobe, which in its earlier extent had covered the basin of the Minnesota river and stretched southward in Iowa to Des Moines.

In the subsequent recession of the ice-sheet from eastern Douglas county, by which its margin was withdrawn to the moraines of Lakes Oscar, Ida and Miltona, and that of Spruce Hill township, further deposits of modified drift were made, including the belt of undulating or nearly flat sand and gravel, about one mile wide, reaching from Lake Amelia and Turtle lake to the north end of Westport lake and continuing thence with less width along Ashley creek to the Sauk river; the plain in Hudson and Alexandria townships, with the connected area of plateaus, swells and kame-like accumulations in La Grand township; and the plain bordering the Long

Prairie river in Carlos and Belle river townships, with associated undulating and partly rolling and kame-like deposits in the south part of Spruce Hill. The terminal moraines in Todd county show, however, that the course of drainage could not continue north-eastward in the valley of Long Prairie river, still covered by the ice-sheet, but was turned southward into the Sauk valley.

Much of Carlos township has a moderately undulating surface of till, underlain at the depth of ten to twenty feet by a thick bed of sand, in which wells obtain water before reaching its bottom. Again, about one mile east of Alexandria a railroad-cut was seen to consist of stratified sand and gravel, having a vertical thickness of twenty feet exposed and continuing lower, overlain by a deposit of till three to ten feet thick. These observations prove a considerable re-advance of the ice after it had once retreated, but both these movements probably took place within the same last glacial epoch.

A fault was seen in a lenticular layer of dark laminated clay one and a half feet thick, enclosed in till, in the section cut for the railroad in the north part of Evansville. The north end of this clay layer has fallen one and a half feet. This is five feet above the railroad track and about thirty-five feet below the surface, the whole section above and beneath the faulted clay being till.

*Mean elevation due to underlying formations.* The grand topographic features of this district, as the highlands and the depression occupied by Lake Christina, are doubtless due to the contour of the formations, probably Cretaceous, which underlie the drift deposits. Erosion during the long Tertiary ages had probably sculptured the strata that then formed the surface in massive hills and elevated areas resembling the buttes and mesas of the West, divided by basins and channels sometimes several hundred feet lower. Such preglacial contour, though partially planed down and filled up by the erosion of the ice, still determined the mean elevation of the enveloping drift-sheet, giving in this district the beautiful scenery in southwestern Minnesota.

Boulders of magnesian limestone, like that outcropping near Winnipeg in Manitoba, are frequent in the drift throughout this country, perhaps making on an average a twentieth part of the rock-fragments over one foot in size. Occasionally very large slabs and blocks of it are found, measuring ten to twenty feet in length. A much larger proportion of the gravel is this limestone, which makes about a third on the shores of some of the lakes.

The other boulders and gravel are chiefly crystalline rocks, as granite, syenite, gneiss, and micaceous and hornblendic schists. The largest mass of

this kind observed is a boulder of flesh-colored granite. It is forty or fifty feet below the highest land of the township. This kind of granite, however, does not appear to be specially abundant in the drift. No other boulder of the crystalline rocks larger than five to seven feet in dimension, was noticed in the county.

Ice-formed ridges of gravel and sand, sometimes with numerous boulders, occur in many places on the shores of lakes, usually where the water is shallow and the adjoining land low, being quite often a marsh scarcely higher than the lake, above which the ridge has a height of three to six and seven feet, with a width of three to six or eight rods. Such ridges are seen on the southeast side of Lake Moses in Millerville township; at the mouth of Little Chippewa lake in section 9, Chippewa township; along a distance of one and a half miles on the west side of the north part of Lake Amelia and between this and Turtle lake, which were united before the formation of this ridge.

The soil and agricultural capabilities of the county, and its timber, has already been noticed. In adaptation for profitable farming, which must continue to be their chief source of wealth, they are unsurpassed by any other part of the state or of the Northwest.

*Building Stone.* No rock-outcrops occur in this district, but the boulders of the drift supply the needs of the farmer for coarse masonry, as foundations and the walls of cellars and wells.

*Lime.* Magnesian limestone boulders are used in many places for lime-burning. Lime is burned at Evansville and other parts of Evansville township, as well as in Millerville, Chippewa, Ida and La Grand townships.

#### ABORIGINAL EARTHWORKS.

In the northern corner of Alexandria township, between Lakes Carlos and Le Homme Dieu, on the west side of the road in heavy woods, is a steep mound, about fifteen feet high, which has been partly dug out and was found to contain bones. Near this are also two or three smaller mounds, about five feet high.

### CHAPTER III.

#### THE KENSINGTON RUNE STONE; AN ANCIENT TRAGEDY.

If the conclusions of eminent archaeologists be correct, the one outstanding, paramount fact in the history of Douglas county is that one hundred and thirty years before the voyage of Columbus to America, white men—Europeans—had trod the soil of that section of Minnesota now comprised within the boundaries of Douglas county and had left here a record of their travels and of their perilous adventures and of the death of ten of their number at the hands of the savages.

EIGHT GOTHs AND TWENTY-TWO NORWEGIANs UPON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY FROM VINLAND WESTWARD. WE HAD A CAMP BY TWO SKERRIES ONE DAY'S JOURNEY NORTH FROM THIS STONE. WE WERE OUT FISHING ONE DAY. WHEN WE RETURNED HOME WE FOUND TEN MEN RED WITH BLOOD AND DEAD. A V M, SAVE US FROM EVIL. HAVE TEN MEN BY THE SEA TO LOOK AFTER OUR VESSEL FOURTEEN DAYS' JOURNEY FROM THIS ISLAND. YEAR 1362.

When a stone inscribed in Runic characters carrying the above simple narrative was unearthed on the farm of Olaf Ohman on the southeast quarter of section 14, Solem township, about three miles northeast from Kensington station, in Douglas county, in the fall of 1898, much local interest was created in the matter, but it was not until some little time later that the find was brought to the attention of archaeologists in such a way as to lead to the widespread investigation which has marked the later history of what now is known on two continents as the Kensington Rune Stone. Archaeologists are divided in their opinion as to the genuineness of the record here unfolded and there has arisen a considerable controversy in relation to the matter, elaborate arguments being presented both for and against the genuineness of the inscription on the stone; some maintaining that the Runic characters there inscribed are but the work of a clever forger bent on perpetrating an



even more elaborate hoax than was the famous "Cardiff giant," while other equally earnest and sincere scholars declare that there can be no doubt of the authenticity of the record, among these latter being Mr. Warren Upham, archaeologist of the Minnesota Historical Society, and some other members of that society, and in 1910 a preliminary report in the matter was made to the society by its museum committee. In view of the fact, however, that statements have been made that the Minnesota Historical Society endorsed the Kensington Rune Stone as authentic, Solon J. Buck, superintendent of that society, desires, in this connection, to call attention to the exact position of the society on the subject. The museum committee, as will be seen by the report which follows, rendered a favorable opinion, "provided, that the references to Scandinavian literature given in this committee's written report and accompanying papers be verified by a competent specialist in the Scandinavian languages, to be selected by this committee, and that he approve the conclusions of this report."

The report of the committee was presented to the executive council of the society, but was never accepted or adopted by the council or by the society itself. It was, however, as will also be noted in the report that follows, received and ordered printed "with the statement that the council and society reserve their conclusions until more agreement of opinion for or against the rune inscription may be attained." No further action on the subject has ever been taken by the executive council or by the society. It also will be noted that Professor Bothne, who was selected by the museum committee, in accordance with its resolution, to verify the references, refused to approve the conclusions of the committee's report. Since that report was made, Mr. Holand, the owner of the stone, took it abroad and it was examined by a number of European scholars, but so far as has appeared, few if any of them have expressed their belief in its authenticity. Superintendent Buck's position in the matter is similar to that expressed by the executive council of the society in 1910. Never having made a study of runic inscriptions, he is quoted as preferring to reserve his conclusion in the matter until more agreement of opinion is reached among experts in the field.

Below is given in full the preliminary report of the Minnesota Historical Society by its museum committee on the famous

#### KENSINGTON RUNE STONE.

As the museum committee is charged with the responsibility of making a recommendation to the society respecting the authenticity or the fraudulent

origin of the Kensington Rune Stone and its inscription, it is thought best to review somewhat carefully the facts as to the discovery of the stone. For this purpose the results of the three visits made to that locality by Prof. N. H. Winchell, investigating the subject for this committee, will here be cast into one statement.

#### THE DISCOVERY.

The stone was found on the farm of Mr. Olof Ohman on the southeast quarter of section 14, Solem township, Douglas county, about three miles northeast from Kensington station on the "Soo Line," on November 8, 1898. The owner of the farm was having a patch of land cleared of timber preparatory to plowing, and his men were grubbing out the stumps. There were present at the finding, or immediately thereafter, the following persons: Olof Ohman, his sons, Olof Emil Ohman, 12 years of age, and Edward Ohman, 10 years of age, and Nils Olof Flaaten, owner of the adjoining farm.

The exact location was on the southern slope of one of two knolls which together form the higher part of what has been called an "island," because formerly surrounded by a lake and now surrounded by a grassy marsh. These knolls have an extreme height, above the surface of the marsh, of fifty-five feet, the smaller knoll rising about fifty feet. The stone lay forty-four feet above the marsh.

When the stone was found, its inscribed side was down, and about six inches of soil covered it. A poplar or aspen tree grew above it, and spread its principal roots about it, running into the ground on opposite sides. On being cut away the stump carrying the roots lay adjacent for some weeks and was seen and noted by several visitors. Estimates as to the size and age of the tree vary somewhat, some stating that it was at least ten years old and others that it was from twenty to thirty years old, and one estimating it as probably forty years old. According to Mr. Sam Olson, of Kensington, this tree was about four or five inches in diameter at about fifteen inches above the stone, and about ten inches in diameter at six or eight inches above the stone. The roots of the tree, especially the largest one which spread over the surface of the stone, were flattened by contact with the stone during the period of their growth. The flattening of the roots is an important feature, as it denotes that the tree had been in contact with the stone during the whole time of the life of the tree.

In the spring subsequent to the finding of the stone Mr. Samuel Olson and a party visited the place and made some excavations where the stone was found, having the idea that the men who were massacred had been

buried there, and that the stone was designed to mark their burial place. He saw, and all his party saw, the stump of the tree that grew on the stone. The members of this party, besides Mr. Olson, were the following: Cleve Van Dyke, executive clerk to the late Governor Johnson, then superintendent of schools of Douglas county; J. P. Hedberg, now at Warroad; John M. Olson, who furnished a team, now at Alexandria; Albert Larson, now in Canada; John E. Johnson, of Kensington; Emil Johnson, now at Warroad; Gulick Landsvark, living two miles east of Kensington; and Lars Coldberg, now at Bowbells, North Dakota.

Mr. Samuel Olson and Mr. John E. Johnson signed a joint statement that the tree must have been at least ten years old, and more likely twenty or thirty years old. The rest of the party have not been consulted, but Mr. Joseph Hotvedt stated that he saw the roots and verified the description of their flatness, "such as would be caused by lying against a stone."

Mr. Olson made a drawing to show the appearance of this stump when in contact with the stone. He thinks the largest root ran over and across the stone, but Mr. Olof Ohman was positive that the largest root ran down into the ground at the edge of the stone, and that a smaller root ran across the upper face of the stone. This smaller root he thought was about three inches in diameter.

It should be stated here that Professor Flom's account of his interview with Mr. Olson carries a misapprehension of what Mr. Olson said as to the size of the tree. Mr. Olson says that he said that the tree tapered so that at 15 or 18 inches above the stone it was about four or five inches in diameter.

The topography of Mr. Ohman's farm and the adjoining country is morainic, the elevations rising sometimes somewhat abruptly to the height of fifty or seventy-five feet, or even a hundred feet, above the adjoining lowlands. The material of the drift is clay of a limonitic yellow color, but at a depth of fifteen to twenty feet this clay is blue. There are very few boulders in the clay, yet on the tops of some of the drift hills granitic and other boulders are numerous, and sometimes they are found in numbers near the bases of the hills and in the swamps. They are sometimes large and conspicuous, and frequently have been gathered into heaps in the fields. About seventy-five in a hundred of the boulders are of granite; about five in a hundred are of limestone; about five in a hundred are of gabbro or of gabbroid rocks; five in a hundred are of Keewatin greenstone, including Ogishke conglomerate; about five in a hundred are of dark nondescript rock, sometimes quartzose; and the other five in a hundred may be compared with the rock of the rune stone, being some of the various forms of graywacke.

The extreme length of the Rune Stone is 36 inches, width across the face 15 inches, the thickness  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and its weight is about 230 pounds. It is of graywacke, but its shape and dark color suggest that it is trap. Its flat surfaces and angular jointage are due apparently to long continued heating and slow cooling in contact, or near contact, with igneous rocks. On its inscribed face is a layer of calcite covering a part of the area in which the inscription was engraved. This calcite was deposited in a jointage-opening, probably when the rock was in its native place; and it has been revealed by the removal of an adjoining parallel mass, the joint plane itself causing the even face on which the engraving was made. The reverse of the inscribed side is not so regular and has evidently been through the rough experiences of glacial action, since it bears a number of distinct glacial striae.

The men who found the stone are plain and simple farmers, working hard to derive a subsistence for themselves and families from their land. The honesty and candor of Mr. Olof Ohman become evident to anyone who converses with him. He does not speak English readily, but seems to understand English when he hears it spoken in common conversation. He states that his education comprised six terms of school in Sweden, of six weeks each, in an elementary county school, where the children gathered for instruction, first at one farm house for a week and then at another, six weeks in all making one term. I was told that Mr. Ohman came to his farm in 1890, and on consulting the register of deeds at Alexandria I found lands deeded at four different dates, now constituting the Ohman farm, from 1890 to 1898, from Halvor Stenson, Ole Amundson, and E. J. Moen.

After finding the stone, it was exhibited for a time in the drug store at Kensington. It was later sent to Minneapolis and was examined by Prof. O. J. Breda, also to Evanston, Ill., and was examined by Prof. George O. Curine. As they pronounced it fraudulent, it was returned to the finder in March, 1899, who placed it carelessly in his yard, where it served as a stepping stone near his granary for eight years, without further notice. In 1907 Mr. Hjalmar Rued Holand obtained it of Mr. Ohman, and has brought it again to notice and wider study. By Mr. Holand it was brought to the attention of the Minnesota Historical Society; and the museum committee was directed to investigate its authentic or fraudulent record, and to report their recommendation to the executive council. Mr. Holand has since exhibited it in Chicago, Illinois; Madison, Wisconsin, and Northfield, Minnesota, giving in each place a lecture. This has brought out various criticisms, pro and con, and the burden resting on the committee has considerably increased.

The members of this committee appreciate the great importance of the

question which is in their hands, and they know, collectively and individually, that it is due to American history, before they stamp the stone with their approval or their rejection, to make an exhaustive investigation and an impartial discussion of all the circumstances.

#### THE INSCRIPTION.

The runic inscription has been translated as below and published by Mr. Holand in *Harper's Weekly*, October 9, 1909.

On the face of the stone:

8 gūter ok 22 norrmen po opdhagelse fardh fro Vinland of vest vi hadhe laeger vedh 2 skjar en dags rise norr fro dheno sten vi var ok fiske en dhagh aeptir vi kom hem fan 10 man rōdhe af blodh og dhedh A V M fraelse af illy

On the edge of the stone:

har 10 mans ve(d) havet at se aeptir vore skip 14 [?] dhagh rise from dheno öh ahr 1362

No one has called in question the correctness of this translation. In explanation of the transliteration Mr. Holand writes: "The runic alphabet had only one character to indicate three, or what became three, different sounds, *th*, *dh*, and *d*. Out of 2,000 runic inscriptions we find only about a half dozen having a separate sign for *d*. This character was later supplemented, and was used medially and finally. This however was used only in the literature written in Roman characters, and was never used in runic inscriptions. In most cases this has now been superseded by *d*, but there is reason to believe that in the fourteenth century it had a soft sound. I have therefore translated it with *dh*."

The English translation is as follows:

"Eight Goths [Swedes] and twenty-two Norwegians upon a journey of discovery from Vinland westward. We had a camp by two skerries one day's journey north from this stone. We were out fishing one day. When we returned home we found ten men red with blood and dead. A V M [Ave, Virgo Maria], save us from evil.

[We] have ten men by the sea to look after our vessels fourteen [or forty-one?] days' journey from this island. Year 1362."

#### REFERENCES TO THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE REGION.

There are two or three references to natural objects to which we should give special attention:

(a) Their camp was near two rocks in the water (skerries), one day's journey north from the stone;

(b) The location of the stone was on an island;

(3) The sea was fourteen days' journey from the stone (doubtfully forty-one).

(a) Professor Fossum and Mr. Holand searched about Lake Christina, Pelican lake, and other lakes, lying about one day's journey (twenty miles) toward the north. The former found no rocks about the shores which could be accepted as the rocks mentioned in the inscription. Mr. Holand, guided by Rev. O. A. Norman of Ashby, found several large boulders standing in the water about 300 or 400 feet from a sharp point on the southwest shore of Pelican lake, which seemed to him to answer the description. There are twelve or thirteen of them and hence they are too numerous, and for the purpose of locating a camping-place they would hardly be referred to, and certainly would not be at all in accord with the number "two." Mr. Norman remarked, on occasion of a late interview, that the term "skerry" is applicable to one rock or a series of rocks, and that there are two lines or series of boulders which run not exactly parallel, and that those lines might be called the skerries referred to in the inscription; but such lines are not distinguishable from the land.

There are, however, on the point itself, at the water's edge and at the extremity of the point, two enormous boulders. One is of red porphyritic granite, cut by a coarse red dike, three inches wide, with dimensions of 6 feet by 4 feet by 3½ feet, with rounded contours. The other is of gray gneiss, banded with light reddish laminae, 6 feet by 4½ feet by 4 feet, irregularly and bluntly angular, showing some brecciation and a pegmatite vein about an inch wide. These boulders are in the most exposed position, and are very conspicuous objects to anyone standing on the land a few rods farther back. Some small boulders and sand form the immediate break-water of the beach, and also compose the point itself for some distance inland from the boulders.

This part of the point is liable to destruction by ice and waves and winds of every season. That it is transitory is proved by the fact that the roots of a small oak are uncovered to the height of fourteen inches above the present surface, and this oak must have started to grow when the surface on which it sprouted was so much higher than now. Under such conditions, at times when the adjoining beach may have been washed away, the large boulders would be surrounded by water. It is also very certain that 548 years ago the lake level was somewhat higher than it is

now, and that circumstance alone, without the removal of the stones and sand lying now about the big boulders, would have brought these stones into the water, and would give them exactly the characters required to comply with the inscription. The present beach line is paralleled, on either side of the point, by a higher beach composed of boulders, gravel, and sand, which could have been formed only when the lake was about two feet higher than now. This upper beach fades away into the mainland of the point, but between its arms embraces a small lagoon. If the explorers' camp was on this point, near its extremity, the two big boulders would be chosen very naturally as reference points in the inscription.

(b) The stone is said to have been located on an island, but when found it was not on an island. It was on a morainic hill which is now surrounded by a grassy marsh, and which may have been an island in a small lake prior to the desiccation of the country which has converted many lakes into marshes and many marshes into meadows. This gradual drying up of the country is a well-known feature throughout the western part of the state. It has been known and many times noted during the last fifty years throughout the Northwest. If the stone be genuine, therefore, the present disagreement with the facts, as with the skerries, is due to physical change in the surface of the country.

(c) The ~~same~~ sea was fourteen days' journey from the sea. At no place could the sea be reached in that space of time, with their means of travel, other than Hudson bay. There is some doubt whether this figure should be 14 or 41, and if it be 41 it would allow the supposition that the party penetrated the country by way of the Great Lakes. There are, however, insuperable objections to such an idea. It is a very improbable suggestion that from any place which may have had the name of Vinland a party would penetrate North America by that route, by sail and by foot, to encounter the natives in a tragic death only in western Minnesota. That suggestion need not be further considered; and the more so, since the route of possible travel, or at least most probable, as shown by the Minnesota Historical Society's map of regions north to Hudson bay and of the proximity of Minnesota through a well-known water route, would have been from Vinland to Hudson bay, and to Lake Winnipeg via Nelson river, and thence up the Red river of the North. This map is based on the chart of J. T. Smith, published in 1839 at London, in a work entitled "The Discovery of America by the Northmen in the Tenth Century." By this map it appears that the entrance to Hudson bay is directly west from Westbygd and Eastbygd, the chief settlements of Greenland,

and could hardly fail of being well known. It is the route which the ships of the Hudson Bay Company followed for about three hundred years in reaching the region of furs tributary to Hudson bay.

#### WHERE WAS VINLAND?

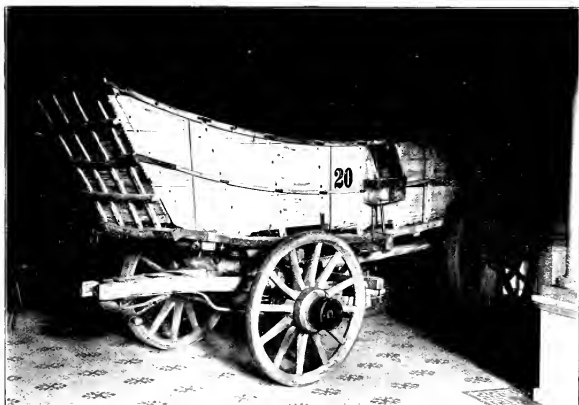
It will be noted that, according to Smith's map, Vinland was eastern Massachusetts; and it is customary, in writings dealing with the Northmen's discoveries, to mention three parts of the coast of North America, namely, Helluland, Markland, and Vinland, the last being farthest south. But that there was confusion in the application of these geographic terms there seems no room to question. It seems to be a mere assumption that Helluland was north of Markland, for it is sometimes said to be northeast of Greenland, and even to be duplicated, one to the northeast and one to the southwest, while Rafn has placed one at Labrador and one at Newfoundland. This last made it reasonable to place Vinland much further south (Nova Scotia).

That Vinland was not exclusively Nova Scotia, but still less exclusively Massachusetts, is evident from Joseph Fischer's work, "The Discoveries of the Norsemen in America" (St. Louis, 1903), at page 3, when, in quoting from Adam of Bremen's oldest work, Fischer states that the objections to Adam's tales consisted mainly in a statement like the following:

"After Wineland there is no habitable land in that ocean, but all that emerges is icebound and wrapped in impenetrable mist."

Adam was the earliest, according to Fischer, who called attention to the arctic and North American discoveries of the Northmen, having written in A. D. 1067. Perhaps the objection to Adam's account of Vinland was based by Fischer on an idea of Vinland which grew up afterward without sufficient warrant, and it is necessary to inquire to what land Adam's original description was intended to be applied. It could not apply to the region south of Labrador, but it is applicable to the country north and west, i. e., adjoining Hudson strait and extending into Hudson bay; and it seems to indicate that from the first the Northmen knew something of the ruggedness and inhospitable nature of at least the northern part of Hudson bay. It is perhaps reasonable to presume that at the first the term Vinland was applied to the whole known coast of North America, and that it was only at a later epoch that it was localized and restricted to Nova Scotia or to Massachusetts. But that would discredit the story of the discovery of





OLD STAGE COACH AND CONESTOGA WAGON, EARLY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.



grapes by the enthusiastic German, unless it can be shown that grapes grew spontaneously as far north as Labrador.

NOTE—Since the foregoing was written, the important researches of Prof. M. L. Fernald on the "Plants of Wineland the Good" have been printed (Rhodora, February, 1910), which show conclusively that the "grapes" referred to by the translators of the sagas, were not the fruit of the grape vine (*Vitis*), but some form of currant (*Ribes*), or the wine-berry of northern Europe (*Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea*), and that the last named species is common in northern Labrador. As the so-called "grapes" were gathered so abundantly as to fill their afterboat in the spring of the year, it seems certain that the fruit so gathered was that which is now well known as wine-berry (*Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea*), which is so abundant in the spring as to constitute the food supply for birds when they return from the south. Professor Fernald also shows that the "self-planted wheat," mentioned as one of the products of Vinland, was the strand wheat (*Elymus arenarius*), having a similar northern distribution. The tree which the Norsemen procured in Vinland, as identified by Fernald, was not maple, but some form of curly birch, probably the canoe birch (*Betula papyracea*). These researches not only confirm the description of Adam of Bremen, but render it probable that the people of Vinland were acquainted with more or less of Hudson bay.

It is well known that students of Norse records have found difficulty in reconciling the statements respecting Vinland, not only as to the name of the discoverer, but as to the nature of the country and its products. It occurs to this committee that possibly these discrepancies can be reconciled by the supposition that two different eastward-facing coasts have been confounded and considered as one. The earliest accounts are perfectly applicable to the west coast of Hudson bay. The Flatey book states that in Vinland were glaciers, and these are well known about the northwestern confines of Hudson Bay, but are not found in Nova Scotia nor in Massachusetts, and only scantily in Labrador. The description by Adam of Bremen, and the earlier dates given by the Flatey book, giving Bjarne as the discoverer of Vinland, seem to point to the west coast of Hudson bay. After the lapse of about fifteen years (985 to 1000) Leif's accidental voyage to Vinland took place, and there is reason to suppose that he and his successors visited points on the Atlantic side of North America, but supposed they had visited the country which had already been named Vinland. From his and Karlsefne's sagas, there rose the geographic distinction of

Helluland, Markland, and Vinland, so much spoken of by all later accounts. The committee has not taken the time necessary to verify or to disprove this hypothesis, and desires merely to call attention to it as a possible solution of contradictions that appear in the historic records, avoiding the necessity of rejecting either as untrustworthy.

Dr. Henrik Nissen, of Minneapolis, has called attention to "Characters" described as engraved on the rocks of the shore of Hudson bay, not far from Fort George, and suggests that they may be runes made by the Norsemen. There certainly was no permanent colonization of Vinland, and according to Fischer all arguments hitherto brought forward to support the idea of colonization by the Norse have proved to be fallacious. The definite history of the voyages to Vinland ends at A. D. 1121, but there is sufficient account to show that until the year 1362 voyages from the Scandinavian settlements in Western Greenland were occasionally made to Vinland. The western settlement in Greenland was about that time attacked by Eskimo and destroyed, and probably within a half century later the eastern settlement suffered a similar stroke. The year A. D. 1406 is the last date given in the Icelandic annals for the arrival of a foreign vessel in Greenland. A colony in Vinland, if it existed, therefore must have perished about the same time as the destruction of the Greenland colonies. In the absence of other evidence, the statement of the Kensington Rune Stone, that a party of thirty men started from Vinland on an exploring tour westward, may be understood to refer merely to a winter spent by the party in Vinland, or even to a temporary landing there, rather than to any previously existing settlement or colony.

According to Storm's "Studier over Vinlandsreiserne" (pages 76, 77), an expedition was sent by King Magnus from Bergen in 1355, under the command of Paul Knutson, into American waters, the purpose of which was to defend the Greenland settlements against the Eskimo. It has been supposed that this expedition, or a part of it, returned in 1364.

#### THE SLIGHT WEATHERING OF THE RUNE STONE.

It may be assumed that, if this stone was erected, as it claims, by explorers in 1362, it was set up on end, and that the lower end, where no runes are engraved, was buried in the ground. When it was found, according to the testimony of Mr. Ohman, its inscribed face was downward. Now the lower end of the stone is not cut off squarely, but is roughly beveled on one side. Gravitation alone acting on a beveled stone would cause the

base to be diverted to one side, in the same manner as a single-beveled stake when driven into the ground. In settling into the ground, owing to the direction of the bevel, this stone naturally would fall with its face side upward. Its position therefore was determined by some other force than gravitation. Either it was purposely placed with the rune inscription down, which is not reasonable to suppose, whatever its age, or it was acted on by some other force which caused it to fall over forward. We cannot of course state how many forests have grown and been thrown down by tornadoes within the 548 years through which it may have been in the spot; nor how many forest fires have devastated the region; nor how many buffaloes have rubbed against it; nor, finally, to what acts of violence the native Indians may have resorted to counteract its evil influences. Numerous works of the mound-building Indians are known in the immediate neighborhood, and they certainly would have discovered the monument. If they participated in the massacre of the ten men at the camp, they would quite certainly look upon the stone as a retributive threatening reminder of their pale-face victims.

The interior of the stone is dark or dark gray. On close inspection it can be seen to contain many grains of quartz which are roundish, showing a sedimentary detrital origin. In a thin-section, prepared for microscopic examination, it shows not only rounded quartz grains but also feldspar grains, and a finer matrix consisting chiefly of quartz and biotite. The dark color of the stone is due to much biotite, mainly, but also to an isotropic green mineral (chlorite?), magnetite, and hematite. The quartz has become mainly re-formed by secondary growths. There is a crypto-gneissic elongation prevalent in the mica, and also to some extent in the larger quartzes.

The weathered surface is somewhat lighter, and yet it is firm and wholly intact. It is evident that the surface color has been acquired since the Glacial period, and therefore that some 7,000 or 8,000 years may have elapsed since its face was first exposed to the elements. The reverse of the inscribed side is more altered by weathering and carries evident older glacial striations.

The first impression derived from the inscription is that it is of recent date, and not 548 years old. The edges and angles of the chiseling are sharp, and show no apparent alteration by weathering. The powder of the stone when crushed is nearly white. None of this powder is preserved in the runes on the face of the stone, and it is necessary therefore to allow it some years of age, but it is quite impossible to draw a decisive inference of the age of the inscription from that alone. The edge of the stone differs in this respect from the face, since most of the rune letters show the white powder formed by crushing the stone. This difference was said to be due to the fact

that the runes on the edge had been filled with mud and had been cleaned out by scraping them with an iron nail. Indeed in the runes in some places on the edge can be seen with a pocket magnifier small quantities of fresh metallic iron evidently derived from that process.

The freedom of the face of the stone from glacial marking is to be noted. It seems probable that the smooth jointage surface on which the inscription is made was of more recent date than 7,000 or 8,000 years. It is plain that the calcite deposit that covers a part of it was formed in a joint-opening before the stone was separated from its neighbor, and that it has had approximately as long direct exposure to the elements as the rest of that surface. The well preserved condition of this calcite, as a whole, no less than the non-glaciation of the face of the stone, indicates a period of exposure less than 7,000 or 8,000 years. Marble slabs in graveyards in New England are more deeply disintegrated than this calcite, when they stand above the surface of the ground.

The immediate surface of the calcite, especially the edges formed by cutting the runes, is smoothed by a recent friction of some kind, much more than the surface of the graywacke; and this is attributable to wearing away when the stone served as a stepping-stone at the granary.

If the engraved face of this stone was separated from its neighbor since the Glacial age, as seems certain, it must have been in some way protected from the action of the elements; and consequently the calcite is comparable with the white, fine-grained limestone boulders and pebbles that are common in the body of the drift in that part of the state. Such boulders when freshly taken from the till in deep excavations are not rotted, but are fresh and firm and smooth as marbles, and show distinctly the fine glacial scratches which they received during the Ice age, which ended about 7,000 or 8,000 years ago. When, however, they are found exposed at the surface of the ground, they have lost this smoothness and all the glacial marking, and their surfaces afford a fine white powder of natural disintegration. As there is nothing of this on this calcite (which is also the principal ingredient of the limestone boulders), it is evident that either the calcite has but recently been exposed or has been protected from the weather. If the slab was separated from its neighbor 548 years ago, it must have lain with its face side down during the most of that period, and if separated earlier it must have been covered by drift clay. If it was so separated fifteen or thirty years ago it may have lain with its face side up and probably would show no more weathering than it now evinces. In short, there is no possible natural way to preserve that calcite scale from general disintegration for 548 years except to bury

it beneath the surface. If it were not thus buried and still is intact, it must have been exposed and the inscription must have been made less than a hundred years ago, and probably less than thirty years ago.

The general "mellow" color of the face of the graywacke, and of the whole surface of the stone, is also to be noted. This is the first apparent effect of weathering. Graywacke may be estimated to be fifty to a hundred times more durable in the weather than calcite, some graywackes being more resistant than others.

There are six stages of the weathering of graywacke which are exhibited by the stone, and they may be arranged approximately in a scale as follows:

1. A fresh break or cut-----	0
2. Break or cut shown by the runes of the face-----	5
3. Edge-face, which has not been engraved, but was apparently dressed by a rough bush-hammering-----	5
4. The inscribed face of the stone-----	10
5. The finely glaciated and polished back side and the non-hammered portion of the edge-----	80
6. The coarse gouging and the general beveling and deepest weathering of the back side-----	250 or 500

These figures are but rough estimates and are intended to express the grand epochs of time through which the stone has passed since it started from the solid rock of which it formed a part prior to the Glacial period; and to a certain degree they are subject to the errors of the personal equation of the person who gives them. Prof. W. O. Hotchkiss, state geologist of Wisconsin, estimated that the time since the runes were inscribed is "at least 50 to 100 years." If the figures in the foregoing series be all multiplied by 100, they would stand:

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
000:	500:	500:	1,000:	8,000:	25,000 or 50,000

Since 8,000 years is approximately the date of the end of the latest glaciation (5), the numbers may all be accepted as the approximate number of years required for the various stages of weathering. Hence stages (2) and (3) may have required each about 500 years.

The composition of the stone makes it one of the most durable in nature, equalling granite, and almost equalling the dense quartzite of the pipestone quarry in the southwestern part of Minnesota. On the surface of this

quartzite, even where exposed to the weather since they were formed, the fine glacial scratches and polishing are well preserved, and when covered by drift clay they seem not to have been changed at all.

#### DISCUSSION OF THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE RUNE RECORD.

Owing to the existence of the belief with some that the inscription was made by Mr. Ohman, and the rumors that seemed to confirm that suspicion, a member of the committee has made three separate visits to the locality, and has examined into all the facts that have a bearing on such supposed origin of the stone. There is no need to rehearse the details of this search. A summary review, however, seems to be called for in order that the result reached by the committee may be seen to be based on a thorough investigation.

There was a rumor that a man of the name of Ohman had taken part, about fifteen years ago, in the exploitation of a so-called "fossil man" found in Marshall county, in the Red river valley. As the owners of this wonderful specimen disagreed and went into court to settle their dispute, the facts were made a matter of record. On consulting Judges Andrew Grindeland, of Warren, and William Watts, of Crookston, it was found that one of the parties was named O'Brien, and that his name had been confounded with Ohman.

It was rumored that Mr. Ohman had rune books, was familiar with rune characters, made runes on the sidewalk, on window casings and granaries, and was generally regarded as a "queer genius," resembling Uriah Heep, of Dickens. These rumors came to the committee in letters from different directions, and on occasion of the third trip to Douglas county were met with not only at Kensington, but also at Elbow Lake, at Brandon, Evansville, Moe, and sometimes at intervening farm-houses. In order to find the truth of these rumors the whole region was pretty thoroughly canvassed, and a record was made of all information obtained. These rumors will be treated of separately.

*Rune Books.* It was found that Mr. Ohman had a Swedish grammar, published in 1840, the author of which was C. J. L. Ahnquist, issued at Stockholm. This rumor was encountered by Mr. Holand, when he was in the neighborhood in 1907, when he procured the stone of Mr. Ohman. He saw the book, when Mr. Ohman was absent, as he asked Mrs. Ohman the privilege of examining Mr. Ohman's "library." He considered that it had nothing to do with the rune stone and discredited the rumor. When, more recently, interest in the stone became more active and the rumor became



widespread, it was thought necessary to procure this "library," or at least to get the historical facts about the "rune book." It was purchased from Mr. Ohman for fifty cents, although he reluctantly parted with it, and would be glad to have it returned to him. On the front fly-leaf is written

*Sv. Fogelblad,  
Stockholm, d. 16 Nov. 1868.*

It is a duodecimo volume, and has 472 pages. On pages 117 and 118 are shown sixteen rune characters in vertical column, with their corresponding names and Roman equivalents.

Mr. Ohman, when asked where and when he obtained this book, stated that he got it from Mr. Anderson, who obtained it from a preacher. This was on the occasion of our second visit to Mr. Ohman's house. On occasion of our third visit he also stated that, after the rune stone was found, Mr. Anderson had suggested that he should take it home for the purpose of reading the rune record by means of the rune alphabet contained in it; that he did so, but found more characters on the stone than in the book, and could not translate the record, and that he had not returned the book. It transpired later that Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Ohman are cousins.

*Sven Fogelblad.* When asked about the name on the fly-leaf at the front of the book, Mr. Ohman said that it was that of a broken-down preacher who used to be at Anderson's farm-house, and who was then well known in the surrounding region, as he got a precarious living amongst the farmers, partly by teaching their children in little school-gatherings, by binding books, and by little light jobs, but principally by charity. He was always poor, by reason of his fondness for intoxicating liquor. He had his home, so far as he could claim one, at Mr. Anderson's farmhouse, and when he died, which was at the age of about seventy years, in 1895 or 1896, his books were left in the possession of Mr. Anderson. Mr. Samuel Olson, of Kensington, said he never saw Mr. Fogelblad, and is of the opinion that he died prior to his going there fifteen years ago. These points were verified by others. They were carefully followed up, because it had been intimated by some that Mr. Fogelblad may have traced out the runes for Mr. Ohman to carve on the stone, and that the "rune book" formerly owned by Mr. Fogelblad had been the source of the necessary knowledge.

Mr. John A. Holvik, a student of the United Church Seminary, St. Anthony Park, St. Paul, had begun a search for the book which Fogelblad left at Mt. Anderson's at the time of his death, said to have been at the house of Mr. Ohman and to have given aid to the engraving of the rune

inscription. After the book was obtained in the investigation by this committee, he examined it at leisure for two or three days, and wrote the following letter concerning it:

*Letter of John A. Holvik.*

St. Anthony Park, Minn., April 20, 1910.

Prof. N. H. Winchell, St. Paul.

Dear Sir:

After comparing in detail the Kensington inscription with the book bearing the name of Sv. Fogelblad, I am prepared to make the following statements.

1. The book is a grammar of modern Swedish, published in 1840.

2. It contains some material on the development of the language:

(a) A system of runes;

(b) Noun declensions of Old and Middle Swedish;

(c) Verb conjugations of Old and Middle Swedish;

(d) Short selections to illustrate the language at different periods from A. D. 1200 to the present time.

(e) Selections to illustrate different dialects.

3. The rune system is the Futhork of sixteen characters. The runes of the inscription are the later "punctuated" (stungne) runes.

4. The declensions give the four cases for nouns in Old and Middle Swedish. The inscription has only nominative and genitive forms. Furthermore, the word for ship, used as a type word in the fifth declension, is spelled *skep* in Middle Swedish. The inscription has *skip*.

5. The conjugation gives plural inflection for all verbs in Old and Middle Swedish. The inscription uses singular verb forms with plural subjects.

6. A selection from the fifteenth century gives the constructions: "wi ware . . . . wi hafwe . . . . ." The inscription has "vi var . . . . . vi har."

7. A selection from the year 1370 gives the preposition "i." The inscription uses the proposition "po" (which is objected to by some linguists).

8. Some of the rune characters indicate (according to some runologists) that the author of the inscription must be from Dalarna in Sweden. A selection in the book shows the characteristic diphthongs of the dialect of Dalarna; but a characteristic feature of the inscription is the lack of diphthongs.

To summarize: The difference in rune systems, and the so-called "errors" in the inscription, with some parallel correct forms in the book, make it evident that there is no connection between the inscription on the Kensington Rune Stone and the book bearing the name Sv. Fogelblad.

Yours truly,

J. A. HOLVIK.

#### OTHER RUMORS CONCERNING MR. OHMAN.

It was rumored that Mr. Ohman was a stone mason, and hence that he might be skillful in cutting rune letters. There seems to be no truth nor basis for this rumor, other than the natural desire to explain a puzzle. It may have been suggested by someone, asked by another whether true or not, intimated by another, and affirmed by the fourth. Once stated as a fact, it was hence

additional evidence, united with the possession of the rune stone and the alleged possession of "rune books," that Mr. Ohman made the inscription on the stone. Mr. Ohman is a carpenter. No one was found who knew of his working as a stone mason, though several were asked.

The rumor that Mr. Ohman made rune characters on the sidewalks, on fences, and on granaries, asking people if they could read them, was apparently a very easy one to verify or disprove. And so it proved to be. Everywhere, whenever this statement was made, the question was asked whether the person making it ever knew of Mr. Ohman's making rune characters. The answer was, "No, but Mr. So-and-So can give you the facts. He lives at Brandon, or near Brandon." On arriving at Brandon, where the rumor was prevalent, I was directed to Mr. O——, who was said to know more of the peculiar mental processes of Mr. Ohman "than any man on earth." He at once declared that Mr. Ohman was in the habit of making rune characters, as a joke, and "knew all about runes." Asked to state whether he himself ever saw Mr. Ohman make runes at any time, disregarding the rumor, Mr. O. said he never had himself known of his making runes, but that Mr. Gunder Johnson, about four miles farther south, had known of his making runes. We drove then directly to Mr. Gunder Johnson's farm. The following is copied from our note book, written at the time of the interview :

"Mr. Gunder Johnson says his little testimony is not worth anything one way or the other. He knew Mr. Ohman, who built his house, about 26 or 27 years ago. Mr. Ohman and he were talking about old Norske one day, and Ohman said there were old letters which were called runes, and Mr. Ohman took a pencil and made some on a board, saying they were runes. Mr. Johnson never knew of his making runes at any other time, nor of any preacher living with Ohman who made runes, nor any living in this country who could make them, nor anyone passing through here who could make them."

Later, when Mr. Ohman, was told that people said he made runes on sidewalks and on granaries, etc., he indignantly demanded, "Who said it?" When he was told that Mr. Gunder Johnson stated that he had made them on a board when he worked for Mr. Johnson twenty-six or twenty-seven years ago, he denied it, but added that he "could not recall any conversation with Mr. Johnson about runes," and that if at any time he had said anything to Mr. Johnson about runes, "It was because he had learned it in school in Sweden. Every school boy, and every Swede and Norwegian, knows something about runes, but not so as to use them."

So far as we can see, therefore, the common rumor that Mr. Ohman made rune characters on the sidewalks and on fences, in hours of idleness, and was familiar with runic literature, was derived from the simple fact

that twenty-six or twenty-seven years ago, according to Mr. Gunder Johnson, though forgotten by Mr. Ohman, he had made some rune characters for Mr. Johnson with a pencil on a board when he was working on Mr. Johnson's house as a carpenter, in order to show him the kind of letters formerly used by the Scandinavians. The following is also extracted from our field book, bearing on the existence of this rumor.

"I found Mr. Gunder Johnson a very talkative man. I recall it now, and record it for its bearing on the existence and spread of the idea that Mr. Ohman knew runes long ago, had a number of books on runes, and made rune characters on the walls, window casings, and the granary doors about the country. I have traced up, under the direction of those who believed and repeated this story, all the promising lines of evidence, and I have found the report especially prevalent and detailed about Brandon, where Mr. Ohman lived 26 or 27 years ago. I have asked, not for the story, but for positive statements as to whether the parties affirming the story actually knew of Mr. Ohman's making runes. They said they did not, except Mr. Gunder Johnson, and some of them said they knew nothing about it except what emanated either from Mr. O. of Brandon or Mr. Gunder Johnson.

"The incident which seems to have given origin to the rumor was probably dormant until Prof. Breda and Prof. Curme pronounced the stone a fraud, and the stone had been returned to Ohman's farm. Then all the people began to speculate as to how the stone was inscribed. All minds turned to Mr. Ohman. Eighty years passed. The knowledge of Mr. Gunder Johnson about Mr. Ohman's making runes, and the fact that he retained the fraudulent stone, were coupled together and seemed to explain each other, springing at once into importance. I have no doubt, through Mr. Johnson. The idea was, very naturally, given broadcast. There was no other possible explanation of a fraudulent rune stone found on Mr. Ohman's farm and kept by him, however indifferently.

"Mr. Ohman is a rather taciturn man, and he took no pains to counteract the report that he was the impostor. One man said that if the rune inscription were genuine, it was a very valuable historic document, and any man would have made it well known as a valuable possession, the inference being that, as Mr. Ohman did not make it notorious, he must have known it was fraudulent. His neighbors made sport of him for keeping, or even for having made, a fake inscription. Mr. Gunder Johnson's knowledge was amplified, as such rumors grow in a farming community, and some intimated that, as Fogelblad was a scholar, he was the man who traced out the runes for Mr. Ohman to cut on the stone.

"More lately, as it became known that Mr. Ohman had 'rune books,' the story was credited by many who had no knowledge of the case nor any personal acquaintance with Mr. Ohman; and during the last few years, when the recent renewal of inquiry about the stone became known by the people of this region, of course all the rumors, however increased in detail, were revived also, and there is no doubt that some have innocently spread the story, on the assumption that what was reported and was not denied must be true. In its exaggerated form it was sent in letters to members of this committee, and these letters prompted this thorough investigation."

Ohman is not a thrifty farmer. His premises are in disorder. His cattle, pigs, chickens, and his children, have a common way of approach to his front door, and when it is muddy the floor of his house is also muddy.

There is no grading, no sidewalk, no fence, to make his home pleasant; and it is plain that the farm is not at its best. This listlessness has its influence in estimating the causes of the apparent neglect of Mr. Ohman to make the most of his discovery. After the rune stone had been pronounced a fraud by two professors (Breda and Curme), his interest in it extended no further than to insist on its return to him. A Swede farmer, in ignorance of the ways and means to have the inscription further investigated, not fully knowing the English language, and having no spare money to use in a doubtful quest, he was obliged to let the stone rest in his yard uncared for.

It should not be inferred from the foregoing discussion of "rumors," as to Mr. Ohman's agency in fabricating the rune inscription, that there is a prevalent opinion connecting him with it. Most of the people, and especially his neighbors, believe that these rumors are baseless, and affirm their confidence in Mr. Ohman as well as in the genuineness of the rune stone. It is chiefly at a distance from Ohman's farm, and among strangers, that these rumors are sustained by those who have curiosity enough to form opinions about the discovery. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Saethre, of the church where Mr. Ohman's children were confirmed, said that Mr. Ohman came to that vicinity, to his knowledge, later than himself, which was twenty-five years ago. He is confident that Mr. Ohman, whom he had known ever since he came to his farm, "is utterly incapable of making the inscription." He has never heard that Mr. Ohman traveled about and made runes on the sidewalks and granaries in idle hours, nor has he ever heard of a clergyman in that region who did so.

#### THE TREE THAT GREW ON THE RUNE STONE.

As it is well established that a poplar tree grew in the soil above the stone, it is plain that the size of the tree has a direct bearing on the possible fabrication of the inscription by Mr. Ohman, or by any person since Mr. Ohman located on the farm. Mr. Samuel Olson, of Kensington, who was of the party that excavated in the earth where the stone was found, in the spring of 1899, expecting to find the remains of those who were massacred, made from memory a pencil sketch of the stump and roots of the tree as they appeared at that time.

No one was found who questioned the existence of this tree, nor the flatness of the roots caused by long contact on the stone. Indeed, one man who regarded Mr. Ohman as the possible maker of the inscription stated that he saw the roots and that they were flattened on one side.

The shortest time that has been assigned to the growth of the tree is ten years. Mr. Ohman took the first part of his farm in 1890. The stone was found in the fall of 1898 on that portion of his farm which was the earliest deeded to him, and which he received by warranty deed from Halvor Stenson. If Mr. Ohman is responsible for the stone, he must have buried it with its face downward in sufficient soil at once to support a young tree, and the tree would have had the period of eight years to attain the size which it had in 1898; and if the tree were as large as most of those who saw it have testified to, its growth in eight years is put entirely outside of possibility. It would then be possible still to presume that the stone was put there during the ownership of the land by Mr. Stenson. The committee has taken no steps to ascertain the truth that might be in such a hypothesis, nor to learn anything of the antecedents of the land earlier than the record of the deeds to Mr. Ohman.

#### REVIEW OF THE FINDING OF THE STONE.

The foregoing sketch of the facts of the finding of the stone, and of the attendant conditions, embraces everything of importance that has come within the scope of our inquiry. It may be well, before leaving this part of the subject to call attention to some obvious inferences which bear on the question of the authenticity of the stone.

1. The inscription was made upon a boulder of graywacke found in the near vicinity.

2. The inscribed face of the stone has not passed through even the latest glaciation, but the opposite side shows such glaciation that it may have witnessed two ice-epochs. The boulder had been split along an old jointage plane, and the inscription is mainly on the resultant even face. The inscribed edge was also, doubtless, caused by a jointage plane, but appears to have been shaped by hammering.

3. The inscribed face appears weathered so as to indicate that it was separated from its companion piece perhaps several thousand years ago (but has not been glaciated), or was affected by water that entered along the joint-opening for a long time before such separation. The preservation of the calcite scale shows that since its separation it has been protected from the weather.

4. Two remarkable boulders are at the end of a sharp point, at the southwestern side of Pelican lake, and though they are not now surrounded by water, they probably were so five hundred and forty-eight years ago, and

may stand for the "skerries" referred to in the inscription. If the inscription is modern, the engraver could hardly refer to these boulders as "skerries." They are about twenty miles north of the place where the stone was found.

5. The stone was found on an elevation surrounded with a swamp, and it is in keeping with a slow known physical change to suppose that the elevation was formerly surrounded by water, and that the term "inland" was applicable. If the inscription is modern, the engraver must have known that five hundred and forty-eight years ago this elevation was an island.

6. The sea was said to be fourteen days' journey distant from the place of the stone. The sea at Hudson bay is about that distance from Douglas county, for a canoe party descending the Nelson river. If parties reached Minnesota by that route they must have brought boats with them by way of Lake Winnipeg and the Red river of the North. It is not easy to see any reason for their leaving the regular watercourse and taking their boats across the country to Pelican lake, but if they were fishing on Pelican lake they must have had boats. At Pelican lake they would have been about twenty-five miles from the nearest point of the Red river of the North.

7. When found, the face of the stone was down. On any supposition as to the maker of the inscription it seems to be necessary to assume that it was not originally placed in that position. Owing to the easy disintegration of calcite in the weather, it is evident that the inscription is either recent or the stone was so placed (or was overturned) as to protect the inscription from the weather.

8. The age of the tree which was growing on the stone seems to show that the inscription was made prior to the occupancy of the farm by Mr. Ohman.

9. Mr. Fogelblad, whom rumor has associated with the stone, died in 1895, three years prior to the finding of the stone. The tree must have started to grow on the stone at least as early as 1888, according to the shortest estimate of its age. The committee has not learned the date of Mr. Fogelblad's coming to the region, not deeming it important. The relation of the rune stone to the Swedish grammar owned by Mr. Fogelblad at the time of his death is expressed by Mr. Holvik. According to his opinion, the book could not have been the source of the information necessary to construct the inscription.

10. If the stone is fraudulent, it seems necessary to exonerate both Mr. Fogelblad and Mr. Ohman from the imposition. (See the Appendix.)

## NOTES ON THE RECORD GIVEN BY THE INSCRIPTION.

The inscription has been acceptably translated as follows:

Eight Goths and twenty-two Norwegians upon a journey of discovery from Vinland westward. We had a camp by two skerries one day's journey north from this stone. We were out fishing one day. When we returned home, we found ten men red with blood and dead. A. V. M., save us from evil.

Have ten men by the sea to look after our vessels fourteen days' journey from this island. Year 1362.

Without reference at this time to the language used, and not considering the peculiarities of the grammatical inflections, it may be worth while to take a general view of the record.

One is struck first with the simplicity of the statements and the omission of non-important details. This simplicity, unfortunately for the historical value of the record, goes so far as to omit the name of the leader of the party, as well as that of the patron or king who may have sent it out.

It is a mixed party, of Swedes and Norwegians. By reason of the order in which these are mentioned it is probable that the scribe was a Swede, since he names them first, although composing only about one-quarter of the whole party.

The party started from Vinland, a very remarkable statement in the light of the fact that it is not known, even at this day, that a permanent or even a temporary colony was established in Vinland. The expression "from Vinland" may mean in a direction westward from Vinland. In the light of the results of Professor Fernald's studies on the "Plants of Wine-land the Good," it is remarkable, if the stone is fraudulent, that the location of Vinland, by the statements of the record, should agree with the location of that country by Fernald, since all modern (and even earlier) descriptions of Vinland have placed Vinland either in Nova Scotia or in Massachusetts. Could it have been a random and accidental coincidence, that a fraudulent record should correct the current historical belief of the times? How could an impostor come to the knowledge that Vinland was nowhere except in Labrador or at least in the region about the entrance to Hudson strait? What credit could be given to his record by going counter to the accepted history of his time? This agreement with the latest research as to the location of Vinland is a very suggestive fact.

They went "westward" from Vinland, and they had their ships till



within fourteen days' journey of the end of their exploration, when they left them "at the sea," with ten men to guard them. If the record be fraudulent, what reason could there be for saying that their camp was fourteen days' journey from the sea? How much more probable it would be to say that their camp was forty days or even two months' journey from the sea, especially if Vinland was where it has been thought to be; and how much more probable that an impostor would not attempt to make a definite statement. If the record is fraudulent, the impostor was very foolish not only in giving the distance of their camp from the sea, but also in saying how far it was north from the stone. Not only so, but he attempted, more foolishly, to give guides to the exact location of the camp by saying it was "near two skerries." If the stone had been noticeably more than one day's march from those skerries, or if the camp had been noticeably nearer or more distant than fourteen days' journey from "the sea," there would be much doubt thrown upon the record by such a discrepancy.

The exactness with which the location of the camp is described can be attributed to the probable burial of the ten men at the camp, and the natural desire to describe geographically the place of the bloody massacre of ten of their comrades; while the agreement of this exactness with the facts in nature shows how improbable it was for a faker runologist to have made the inscription. If the record be fraudulent, it is a remarkable fact that those two skerries exist, and at the right distance, and that there are no others.

It is still more remarkable, on the hypothesis that the stone is fraudulent, that within modern times they could not be called skerries, as they are not now surrounded by water. Hence the impostor-scribe was not only a runologist, but he was able to look backward through the physical change that has come over the region, and to describe those boulders as they were five hundred and forty-eight years ago, when there is no doubt that the water of the lake was so high as to surround them and thus warrant the description which he made of them. He must have been a geologist.

If the record is fraudulent, it is also remarkable that the impostor could see that five hundred and forty-eight years ago the hill on which the stone was placed was surrounded by water so as to warrant the application of the term "island." He must have known, and must have made allowance for the fact, that within recent time the country has dried up considerably, and that what are now marshes were then lakes.

If the stone be fraudulent, it is singular that the impostor ran the risk of all these details and violated none of them. A well considered fraud is usually characterized by the omission of details. Here was a reckless and a

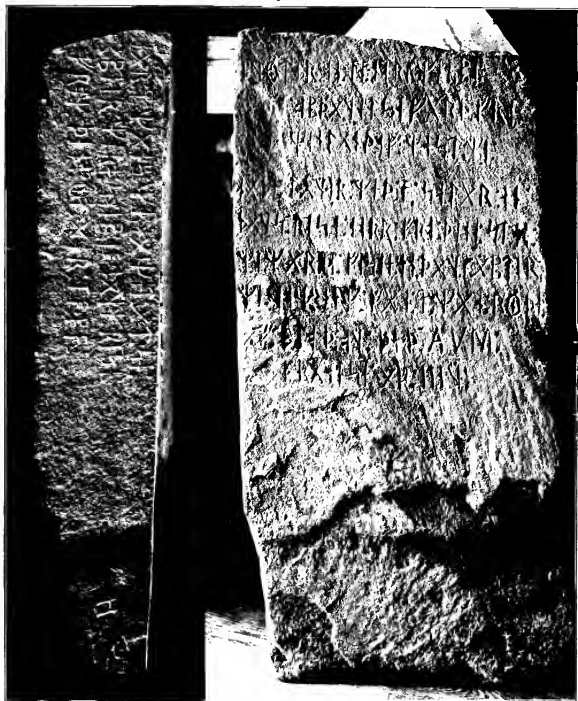
fearlessness amongst details which betoken honesty and truth. The very discrepancies, where the details diverge from present geographic knowledge, when correctly understood are turned to so many points of confirmation.

"We were out fishing one day." That is a remarkable and rather singular statement, especially if the stone be fraudulent, since the fishing was on a lake twenty miles distant from the place at which the inscription was made. Again, they must have had boats. There is no reference to them. Where could they have got boats? Not a word is said as to how they reached the place where they were encamped, nor as to the direction to the sea. Such links as are necessary to make a connected and reasonable story would certainly be given by an impostor. But here the briefest statement is made of the leading facts, and the reader is left to connect them as best he can. We are not at a loss to supply the links. The boats must have been birch bark canoes, used to this day by the northern Indians, easy to propel in the water and easy to "portage" over the land.

"We found ten men red with blood and dead." That is a remarkable statement. Why should the fact of the gory appearance of the dead men be stated at all? and especially why should it be stated before stating the fact of death? The murderers are not mentioned nor indicated. These peculiarities in the record may be explained by attributing the massacre to Indians, with whom they may have had some dealing. The appearance of the bloody corpses implies the scalping knife. The appearance of the bodies is stated before the fact of their death, and must have made a deep impression on the explorers, although it is probable that the men were dead before they were scalped. If the stone is fraudulent, it is singular that, within modern times, when the scalping of white men by Indians is a familiar fact, the massacre should be described in that manner. An impostor would hardly observe the nicety of the significance in inverting the terms of description, or that of mentioning the bloody appearance of the dead at all.

Then comes the most remarkable feature of this remarkable inscription, "A. V. M." Hail, Virgin Mary! or Ave Maria. This is a distinctly Catholic expression. According to Archbishop Ireland, no modern Scandinavian would utter it, as they are Lutherans. It would be strictly appropriate in 1362. If the stone be fraudulent, the impostor artfully employed a term suitable to the date of the inscription; but we would hardly expect an impostor, such as this man must have been, to be so religious as to call on Mary, or on any of the gods of the Vikings, or on any of the saints of Christianity. On the supposition that the stone is fraudulent, this is a decided anachronism and would hardly be introduced by an impostor.





KENSINGTON RUNE STONE

If the stone is fraudulent, the base perpetrator was artful enough to make use of rune characters appropriate to the date 1362. The ancient runes are sixteen in number, according to the grammar of Almqvist. The inscription contains several characters not found in the old runic alphabet, and some that are peculiar to itself or to some locality.

Rev. O. A. Norman, of Ashby, called our attention to a singular coincidence, viz., the frequency of the expression calling upon Mary, in Scandinavia, at the time of the "black death," which prevailed in the fourteenth century. A poem or song, entitled "Fornesbronnen," was recited at the burials of the many dead, and appears to have become well known. It was lately reprinted in a brochure at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, entitled "Telesoga." Each verse ends with an appeal to Mary to grant help and freedom from evil. The sudden and bloody death of ten of their comrades seems to have impressed the living in a manner similar to the mysterious death of the black plague. If the stone be fraudulent, the impostor seems to have been aware of the prevalence of that prayer in the fourteenth century, and very shrewdly appended it at the proper place in this inscription.

It appears, from several considerations, that the scribe was a rather illiterate Swede. If the stone be fraudulent, it is singular that such a man should prove himself capable of such literary and historical knowledge, and of such artful cunning. If the stone be fraudulent, it seems necessary to suppose that a non-educated Swede should be able to make the inscription and to accomplish the following:

1. A simple, straightforward record.
2. Correct the prevalent notion as to the whereabouts of Vinland.
3. Refer to two skerries, which could not have existed when the record was made but did exist five hundred and forty-eight years ago.
4. Refer to an island, which was not an island when the stone was inscribed, but was so five hundred and forty-eight years ago.
5. Define exactly the location of the camp with reference to the seaside and with reference to the stone.
6. Describe the massacre in such a way as to indicate that the men were scalped by Indians, although no mention is made of Indians.
7. Make the prayer to the Virgin Mary common in Scandinavia in 1362, but anachronistic in the nineteenth century.
8. As an impostor, utter the common prayer of a devout Catholic of the fourteenth century.
9. Use in part some ancient runic characters instead of those common in later centuries.

10. All this deceit and laborious cunning, without any ascertainable motive, perpetrated in an unpopulated, or at most only a sparsely inhabited, region amongst a wilderness of forests.

#### LINGUISTIC OBJECTIONS.

Notwithstanding these considerations, which point toward the genuineness of the Kensington Rune Stone, there are linguistic objections, which, it is claimed, are insurmountable. It is claimed by those who are expert in the Scandinavian languages, and who present those difficulties, that linguistic evidence is paramount in importance, and that other considerations are pertinent only after the linguistic objections are removed.

A summary statement of these objections is about as follows:

Certain words not in use in Sweden at the date given the inscription, viz.: *opdagelse*. It is pointed out that this word is not in Sodervall's dictionary, nor in that of Kalkar, the latter being a dictionary of the old Danish (and Swedish) language covering the years 1300 to 1700, and that in modern Swedish the word *opdage* is *uppdaga*; that "*opdagelse*" is made by adding to the root the suffix *else*, which in the form *ilsi* is not found in Swedish or Danish prior to 1300; that "*opdage*" itself is a borrowed word, allied to the Dutch *opdagen* and the German *entdecken*; and that, if it had existed in 1362, its only meaning could have been *dawning*.

*po*, which appears twice in the inscription. This word, derived from *uppa* becomes *pa* and *paa*, and in Sodervall's dictionary is said to date from about 1400, and to have, in the older Swedish, only the active sense, "to designate an action by some one, or a condition or state of a person," which is not the sense in which it is used here.

*lagger* is objected to as a word in Swedish at the date of 1362, on the ground that it shows a Germanic influence, dating from the sixteenth century or later, its earliest date in Kalkar being 1534.

*dag* is, on the stone, *thag* (or *dhag*), meaning day, but in 1362 *d* had supplanted *dh* and should have been used. The use of "the thorn" (the rune (?)) for *dh* or *th* or *d*) indicated a modern Swede runologist. The same objection lies against *dh* in *opdagelse*, *l'inland*, and *dcd*, and other words.

*vorc skip* should have been written *vorum skipum*, to agree with the language of Sweden in 1362.

*har*, *var*, *kom*, and *fan*, are first person plurals, as used, and should have the ending *om*, viz., *hafthom* (or *hathom*), *varom*, *komom*, and *fuunom*.

These would have been found in the "Mariaklagan," had any first person plurals been used in the part with which comparison is made, since in the third person plurals found in it the full inflectional endings are used.

*ded* (or *theth*, or *dhedth*) should have been *dodh*, and is apparently a reflection of the English word "ded."

*from* is English

*mans* is an incorrect plural English word for *men*.

*o* is written with *c* rune inside an *ö*. *ö* appears for the first time in 1495.

In short, the language of the stone, it is claimed, is a mixture of modern Swedish, Norwegian, and English.

It is fortunate for the cause of historic truth, no less than for linguistic criticism applicable to the inscription of this stone, that quite a number of American as well as some European experts in runes and in Scandinavian literature have given close attention to this stone, and have afforded their aid to the committee in their efforts to reach a warrantable conclusion as to the authenticity of the record for the date which it claims. The committee has also taken advantage of the published opinions of others, so far as we have learned of them, whenever such opinions have been based on specific and critical linguistic points. A mere "opinion," pro or con, has been passed by without consideration; for it is plain that not only the labor would be practically endless should the committee entertain unsupported opinions, but that in the end the result would be based on other's opinions and would not be a creditable and judicial consideration of the problems with which the committee is charged.

The following eminent and critical scholars have aided the committee, and to them the thanks of the Historical Society are due:

Helge Gjessing, University of Christiania, Norway.

Hjalmar Rued Holand, Ephraim, Wisconsin.

O. J. Breda, Christiania, Norway, formerly of the University of Minnesota.

George O. Curme, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

Chester N. Gould, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Rasmus B. Anderson, Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. Knut Hoegh, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Gisle Bothne, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

John O. Evjen, Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis.

Andrew Fossum, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota.

P. P. Iverslie, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

George T. Flom, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

Julius E. Olson, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

J. A. Holvik, United Church Seminary, St. Anthony Park, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Olaf Huseby, Norwegian journalist and author, Fosston, Minnesota.

J. J. Skordalsvold, Minneapolis, Minnesota, formerly professor of Norwegian Literature in Augsburg Seminary.

O. E. Hagen, Meridian, Wisconsin, formerly professor in the University of South Dakota, Vermilion, South Dakota.

It is needless to say that among these there is divergence of testimony, and sometimes contrary, not only in the results which they have reached, but sometimes in their estimates of the value of the linguistic peculiarities of the language of the inscription.

With one exception, the members of the committee are all linguistic scholars and are capable of judging the force of linguistic arguments, pro and con, and we have attempted to compare judicially the evidence that has been adduced.

It should be remarked at the outset that the argument against the rune inscription is like this: As the translation of the Bible in King James' version does not employ the words *boy* or *girl*, but instead uses *lad* and *damsel*, if a book purporting to be a copy of the King James version were found to contain the words *boy* and *girl*, it would at once be classed as fraudulent. Likewise if words are found in the Kensington rune stone inscription which were not in use in 1362, the inscription is fraudulent. But it is evident at once that such a comparison of these cases involves a possible error. Two books actually in print can be compared with preciseness, and one can be pronounced a fraud with positiveness when it does not agree with its prototype. In the case of this stone, a definite inscription is to be compared with a "usage," and it is the wide uncertainty of that usage that gives rise to the variety of evidence and opinion.

It should be remarked also that the usage with which the stone may be compared may be that of a considerable period of time, say a whole century; it may be that of high-class and dignified literature, or that of common or ordinary writing, or that even of everyday speech. It is plain, therefore, that it is important to determine the standard to which the inscription ought to show a conformity. It should also be remembered that, as in English, these standards change from one into the other with lapse of time. A usage which was prevalent only in common speech, say in the fourteenth century, might be found in literature in the fifteenth cen-



tury, and in the more dignified language of legal documents not till the sixteenth century. As our slang words creep slowly into literature, and finally are recognized in the standard dictionaries, so the colloquial terms and usage of the Swedish gradually came into use in the higher type of literature.

It is agreed by all, so far as we have learned, that the inscription, whether false or genuine, was made by a Swede and a rather unlettered man, a good mechanic, and probably from ancient Gothland, now the south part of Sweden, or from Visby, on the island of Gothland, where foreigners were numerous from all commercial points in Europe. In such a city the influence of foreign languages would be apparent and more pronounced than in any other part of Sweden, except perhaps Stockholm. If the engraver of the inscription were an unlettered Swede, it appears that the standard with which it should be compared is not that of high-class standard literature, whether legal documents, educational treatises, or poems, but more reasonably the colloquial vernacular of Gothland. It would be necessary to allow for some effect of German and perhaps English contiguity. Hence, as the stone claims to date from the fourteenth century, it is reasonable to compare it with the colloquial usage of that century.

Here arises another important consideration, viz., the fourteenth century was a period of change and confusion, arising from the introduction of Christianity. Here was in full swing the tradition to the modern forms and usages. Indeed the language of Sweden and Denmark in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries "was much like that of the present." and, "to that degree agrees with the new that nothing except an occasional business or law expression will stop a reader of the present." This change was not accomplished without much irregularity, and perhaps this is most apparent in the fourteenth century. The German language made a powerful impress on the Swedish. Dahlerup declares, "Never has our language received so great influence from abroad (especially Middle Low German) as it received in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries." Those irregularities consisted in a more or less prevalent dropping of case ending, disregard of grammatical agreements, especially in common speech, and differences of spelling.

With these facts in mind, we will examine in succession the difficult linguistic points which we have already mentioned.

*opdagelse* is claimed to be a modern word. It is a serious objection to this word that it is not found in two standard dictionaries, Sodervall's and especially Kalkar's, the latter purporting to be a dictionary of the old

Danish (and Swedish) language, covering the years 1300 to 1700. The root of the word was known, also the prefix *op* (*upf*), and the suffix *else* (*üse*). It was a neuter verb, signifying *to appear, to dawn*. In the inscription it has an active significance, *to discover*. Yet Kalkar gives a quotation dating from 1634 in which this word appears in its active sense, viz., "*Et skib med röfoere for landit var opdaget*" (*A vessel with pirates was discovered off shore*). The fact that the date of this quotation is 1634 does not show that this signification of this word was not in earlier use, for Kalkar gives numerous other quotations with dates showing similar German influence, dated later than their known earliest use, as follows:

*understanda* is dated 1610, but is found in *Den Jydske Lov* of 1241. (Brandt, Gammeldanska Läsebog, 1856, p. 29, line 15.)

*ophange* is dated 1575, used in a provision of Waldemar Seier of 1250 (itto, 41, 3, as *uphengia*.)

*opladha*, dated by Kalkar 1550, used in a diploma of 1329 (ditto, 77, 5, as *uplader*); and numerous others.

Kalkar's dictionary was not complete. He is now compiling a supplement, which will contain hundreds of words missed by him in his first edition. The following, similar to *opdagelse*, may be mentioned, in use about 1400, which were omitted by Kalkar: *opfostre, upfodde, opbrande, opracttilsae, forymmels, paamindelse* (ditto, 98, line 23; 169, 8; 168, 6). This shows simply that *opdagelse* may have been one of the common words omitted by Kalkar, and therefore that the absence of this word in Kalkar's Danish dictionary is not certain evidence that it was not in use in Gothland in 1362, at least in common speech; for, as has been remarked already, the standard dictionaries of any language are the last to recognize innovations, such as this appears to have been, from other languages.

We fail to see the force of the objections to *opdagelse* in the fact that the modern Swedish for *opdagelse* is *uppdaga*. The use of the older word seems to us rather to be a difficulty in assigning the inscription to modern invention.

The difficulty with *po* in the inscription consists of two parts: (1) It is used earlier than is recognized by Sodervall's dictionary; and (2) it is used correctly to designate "an action by some one, or a condition or state of a person," which is thought to be not the sense in which it is used here.

The fact that Sodervall's dictionary assigns this word to "about 1400" is in some degree an objection to its use in 1362; yet, if it be recalled that in common speech many words are in use long before they are recognized

in standard literature and in dictionaries, and that the difference of time here amounts to only thirty-eight years, it appears to the committee that the word *po* was more likely than not to have been known and used at the date assigned to the rune stone. In the middle of the fourteenth century, moreover, we find *pa*, *po*, and *upa*, used side by side.

As to the significance of the word *po* (on), used as a preposition before the word *opdagelse*, its force, as defined by the objectors, is to be inferred from the connection. "On a journey of discovery" implies a verb such as going, and if that be supplied the phrase reads "going on a journey of discovery," which gives the preposition exactly the sense required.

Again, it is quite likely that in pronunciation *pa*, the original word which became *paa*, was sounded so nearly like *po* that the unlettered scribe preferred *po* to any other spelling. Further, as there was no rune character for *aa*, this sound was commonly expressed by the rune for *o*.

*laeger*. The original Norse form was *legr*, but in Swedish the *e* became *ä*, and under the influence of German contact the word took the form of *laeger*, or *läger*. It is assumed by the objectors that this final form was due to the sixteenth century and hence could not have been used in 1362; but Falk and Torp state that in Swedish-Danish the transition from *e* to *ä* took place about 1200 (*Lydhistorie, Kristiania, 1898, page 11, No. 2*).

It is further objected to this word that in the sense here employed (camp) it was not employed in 1362, but meant *burial place* or *lying together*; yet Kalkar illustrates it in the sense used in the inscription, viz., "The angels of the Lord built their camp round about them: *Herrins engel slaar lägre omkring thennom*" (date of this writing, 1524?). This dictionary covers the period from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century.

*dhag, opdthagelse, Vinlandh, dhed*, and other words in the inscription, are spelled with the rune character, called *thorn*. It is claimed that the more modern character for *d* had supplanted the "thorn" in 1362, and ought to have been used. The thorn was usually used at this time for both *th* and *dh*; but it appears that *t* was gradually supplanting *th*, and *d* was taking the place of *dh*. It is plain from all sides that the thorn, used exclusively on the inscription, was warrantable as a character either for that dental which was sounded *th*, or for that which was sounded by *dh*. At the same time, so far as we can learn, the distinct character for *d* had a recognized existence; but whether there was any rule or regulated practice, in 1362, as to the use of it for *d*, we have been unable to find out. No one has referred to any regulated practice, and it seems to us that any criticism demanding the exclusive use of the character for *d* in 1362 where the inscription shows

*dh*, should be supported by such a rule. There is not a word in the inscription which calls for the dental sound *th*, and it is hence plain that where the thorn sign is used it was intended to take the place of the sign for *dh* (or for *d*).

Further, while the character was used at the time, it occurs so rarely that it seems most runesmiths were ignorant of its existence or ignored it. For instance, it does not occur a single time in the twenty-six Swedish and Danish runic inscriptions from the middle period quoted by Vigfussen on pages 447-449 of his "Icelandic Reader and Grammar." The thorn however occurs 142 times in these same inscriptions. It appears also that there was great latitude in the use of this character, in that it not only commonly represented *th* and *dh*, but also frequently *d*, and even *t*. In inscription No. 4, on page 448, we find *ristu* spelled with the "thorn" instead of the *t*. Therefore, while it might have been accessible in elementary textbooks, the writer of the inscription has shown a close agreement even with written usage in Sweden in the middle ages, by using the "thorn" exclusively. Had *f* only been used, that character, as it seems to the committee, would have constituted a greater objection than the exclusive use of the "thorn."

*hadhe, har, var, kom, and fan.* These are unquestionably verb forms of the first plural, past tense (*har* is present), used by the rune-maker, and purporting to be from the date of 1362. The validity of these forms is questionable. It is evident that if fraudulent these abbreviated terms might be those which the inscriber of the stone would employ in the nineteenth century. The committee are of the opinion that if these five verb forms cannot be satisfactorily explained, the stone will be suspected as a forgery. They have therefore given particular attention to the question whether such abbreviations were warrantable in the year 1362.

The statement has been made already, in general terms, that this was a period in the history of the Danish-Swedish and Danish-Norse languages when great confusion prevailed, because of a tendency toward the modern usages, and it would be possible to assign such verb changes to that general statement. The committee, however, have thought that, owing to the sweeping character of this difficulty, it would be well to disregard the general principle, and to find, if possible, examples in practice dating from the fourteenth century, of such verb changes as are here shown by the rune stone.

Dahlerup, commenting on this period, says: "Numerous verb forms, especially in documents showing Jutland influences, show that the speech undoubtedly in many parts [of the country] had given up the logical use of the

plural forms" (Det Danske Sprogs Historie, p. 33). As an example of this he quotes: "*Alle fugle son hedder volucres pa Latin.*" "*the faar.*" "*the gik.*" "*the kau.*" "*I scr.*" etc. In all these illustrations we find singular verbs with plural subjects. We have other examples of this, as in a letter of 1340, which begins, "*Allac men thettac bref ser eller hor*" (Brandt's Läsobog, p. 79, line 1). Similarly a letter of 1329 begins, "*Allac macn thettac bref ser aeldaer horaer* (ditto, 77, 1). This shows at least that the old classic rule, that the inflectional ending of the verb must agree with its subject, was not maintained in the fourteenth century. The third person plural preterite for *hafa* is *höfdu*; but as early as 1200 we find *Hitherlax men hævde honum uract giort*" (Kong Knuts Viderlagsret in Brandt's Läsobog, p. 39, line 1). Gamle Kong Eriks Krönike, written about 1320, says, "*The hado upötith therra maat*" (Svenska Medeltidens Rim-Krönikor, G. E. Klemmings's edition, Stockholm, 1865, first part, line 1514; see also line 2581). Upsala Krönike, of the fourteenth century, reads, "*hadæ moss [plural] acdet opp oxen som var of osth giord* (Hunde Kongen og Snio in Hallenberg, No. 51, also quoted in Brandt's Läsobog, p. 72, line 1). In Mandevilles Reiser, of about 1400, we similarly find *hadhc*: "*ikcac hadhae ry . . . frcm kommit*" (Brandt's Läsobog, 123, 10); "*ta wy hadæ gongit hoos tho milac,*" etc., (ditto, 122, 16). See also the frequent use of "*the hade,*" they had, in Svenske Medeltidens Rim-Krönikor.

As to the form *has*, here used in place of the regular full inflectional *haffvom*, we find that in many, perhaps in most, writings of the fourteenth century, the termination of the first person plural, *vom*, had largely disappeared. It is retained, however, in an important work dating from 1320, *Gamle Eriks Krönike*, where also nearly all the old endings are preserved. Instead of *haffvom*, we find the modern forms *hæv* or *hæver*; but, according to Falk and Thorp, for a long time the *v* was elided in pronunciation, making *ha* and *har*, or was replaced, even in the fourteenth century, by *u*, the following *e* being dropped. Thus: "*Iak haur of herrana hört*" (Gamle Eriks Krönike, 1320, Klemmings's ed., line 4404); "*Thet haur konung Bierge giort*" (ditto, line 4480). The rhythm also shows that it was pronounced as a single syllable. Similarly in a diploma of 1386 we read, "*Wi have unt oc lathet wore kerac bymän* (Brandt's Läsobog, p. 79, line 18). In a letter of Queen Margaret, of 1339, we read: "*Meth al thenc rät som han og honnes fathir ther til hæve haft og hæve.*" In the last two instances *u* (or *τ*) is *v*, which also illustrates the confusion which has, in all modern languages, attended those half consonants. In the next, *u* is plainly and simply used for *v*. In a book of remedies, about 1360, we read "*Wi haur*

*nu talet ok sagt oc screvāt thet som tharyekt ar*" (Molbech's Ordbog, xlix); also, "*Thom ther hauer howeth wärk,*" etc. (ditto, xlix).

Summarizing our inquiry on this word, we find:

(a) that the plural *hafvom* had been largely dropped in the fourteenth century;

(b) that the singular for *haver* had largely superseded it;

(c) that according to Falk and Torp, eminent philologists, this *v* has long been dropped phonetically;

(d) that *haur*, the immediate phonetic predecessor of *har*, occurs sporadically in Gamle Eriks Krönike, the ablest literary work of the times, written in 1320.

If we add to this a probable advance in phonetic and grammatic development in the region of Gothland, there seems to be no longer remaining any valid objection to the use of the spelling seen on the stone.

It should further be borne in mind that the author of this inscription, if it be genuine, would be extremely unlikely to be an educated literary man, but rather a plain man of action. As such he would write as he spoke. On the contrary an impostor of today, trying to reproduce the language of an ancient period, could only be a philologist, and would try to follow the literary usage of the time, instead of employing forms adapted to his own day. The apparently modern, but defensible, use of the word *har*, is therefore, in the opinion of this committee, good evidence of the phonetic authorship of the record in the fourteenth century.

*var* is the first person plural, used for the old and regular form *varum*. The discussion of *har* applies largely to this word. In the fourteenth century it was the common form. In the chronicle of the Danish kings, written about 1250 and 1300, we find the singular and plural forms struggling side by side. In line 12 we read, *Hialti ok Birghi var i hans tima.*" while in line 15 we read, "*Slenge ok V'ge varu i hans tima.*" After this time the singular *var* is dominant. Many illustrations could be given of plural subjects used with the singular *var*. *V'ar* is frequently seen in the form *vare*, as "*tha vare wi acy fraelste aff helvedis nödh*" (devotional poem from about 1425, Brandt's Låsebog, p. 262, 8).

*kom* is used for *kommon*, the plural ending, like others already discussed, having dropped off in the period under discussion.

*fan*. This form, although we have no examples to quote, may be assumed to have been used for the old plural form, analogous to *kom*, *var*, and *har*.

*dhedh* (or *dcdh*). The use of *c* for *ac*, in the fourteenth century, or vice versa, was frequent. Hence the uncritical maker of the inscription did not

pass beyond the warrant of his time. The Danish dialect had *dcd* in 1390. It is evident that the thorn must have been intended here to express the symbol *dh* (*th* as in *this*, and not *th* as in *thistle*), which in English found its equivalent in *d*, and in German in the word *todt*. The spelling of this word may have been influenced somewhat by a knowledge of the English pronunciation of the same word, and by the Danish *ded*.

*from* in its form is English. It is given, however, by Falk and Torp's Etymologisk Ordbog, as occurring sporadically in the old Swedish, meaning *from*. The easy phonetic substitution of *o* for long *a* or *aa* is so apparent in this word that it needs no effort at explanation. The letter *m*, however, is in this place quite antique, unless it is adopted directly from the English, and seems to furnish an argument for the authenticity of the stone rather than against it.

In the old Aurland's church in Sogn, Norway, completed in the Catholic time, about 1300, there was a pair of very small panes of glass. The two panes were a present to the church "*from*" so-and-so. When the church was razed, the panes were bought by an enlightened gentleman in the district, and they may be found safely treasured there yet.

The work entitled "Gamle Eriks Krönike" was the product of some writer living in that part of Sweden known as Vestgotland, written about 1320. This work contains a great many of the words of the inscription, used in the same meaning. This was perhaps the home of the *Göter* mentioned in the inscription.

This inquiry might be extended so as to include several other words that have been criticised, but as we have brought under review the chief of the objections from a linguistic point of view, we deem it unnecessary to go further into details.

From the examination of the language of the stone the committee think that they are warranted in making the following conclusions:

1. It cannot be the work of some unlettered amateur of the present day.
2. It is either the uncritical record of an exploration of the fourteenth century, or the fabrication of a consummate philologist familiar with the dialect of Vestgotland in the fourteenth century, which was essentially the Dalske dialect of Dalärne of the sixteenth century.
3. No expert philologist would make the blunder of writing *dcd* for *död*. A modern philologist familiar with the evolution of *ö* from *au* would hardly make such an error, but such phonetic mistakes were common among the uncritical people of the fourteenth century.

4. The peculiarity of spelling "and" as both *ok* and *og* is abhorrent to the scientific precision of a modern philologist, but was very natural in the fourteenth century, when the sounds of *k*, *t*, and *p*, were frequently confounded with those of *g*, *d*, and *b*.

5. The use of the phrase, "*vi var ok fiske*," belongs in the same class of colloquialisms as *skullen* for *skule han*, *haden* for *havde han*, etc. These phrases are all on the lips of the people in common speech, but no well-informed person would suffer them to appear in a serious narrative in writing. But in the fourteenth century, with its greater phonetic freedom, they were all common.

6. Several obsolete words, which were in use in the fourteenth century, such as *laeger*, *risc*, *skjar*, *af illy*, and *from*, as well as the peculiar numeral characters, strongly indicate that no modern impostor made the inscription, as the works of scholars proving that they were in use at that time have mainly been published since the stone was found.

7. The linguistic internal evidence of the genuineness of the stone coincide with and confirm the indications that come from the finding of the stone and its attendant condition.

8. The numeral which expresses the number of days' journey distant from the seashore is more probably meant for *fourteen* than *forty-one*.

#### COLLATERAL EVIDENCE.

Attention should be called again to the stone found by Verendrye and sent by him to Paris in 1734-40. The characters could not be read by any parties in Quebec, but were believed to be of Tartarean origin, there being then a belief entertained by many scholars and archeologists that America was peopled by Asiatics. The particulars of this finding, so far as they are known, are given by the Swedish botanist Kalm, who traveled in America in 1748-51.

Again, there was evidently European blood in the Mandan Indians. All travelers who visited them reported instances of light-colored hair and skin, and blue eyes. Catlin presumed that the party of Madoc, a Welsh prince, had reached them, and that their descendants would account for the remarkable physiognomy. It is doubtful, however, that the mixing of the dark Iberian complexion of the Welsh with that of the Indians would ever produce blue eyes, while it seems certain that the blond complexion of the Northmen of Europe would produce them.

These facts constitute an *a priori* affirmative case indicating that people from northern Europe mingled with the Mandan Indians.



## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE.

The following resolutions, which were adopted unanimously by this committee April 21, 1910, are not expected to terminate the investigation, but to show the present belief of its members:

*Resolved*, That this committee renders a favorable opinion of the authenticity of the Kensington rune stone, provided, that the references to Scandinavian literature given in this committee's written report and accompanying papers be verified by a competent specialist in the Scandinavian languages, to be selected by this committee, and that he approve the conclusions of this report.

*Resolved*, That this action of the committee be reported to the next meeting of the executive council, and that Mr. Holand be so informed.

E. C. MITCHELL, Chairman.

F. J. SCHAEFER,

O. D. WHEELER,

N. H. WINCHELL,

WARREN UPHAM, Secretary.

In the next monthly council meeting, May 9, 1910, this subject was introduced by Rev. Edward C. Mitchell, chairman of the committee, and large parts of this report were read by Professor Winchell, followed by his presentation, for the committee, of these resolutions. After much discussion by the president and several members of the council and others of the society, the council voted that the report and resolutions of the museum committee be received and printed, with a statement that the council and society reserve their conclusion until more agreement of opinions for or against the rune inscription may be attained.

Subsequently, Professor Bothne, having been selected by the museum committee, in accordance with its resolutions, for verification of references and a statement of his opinion, sent to the committee the following letter:

The University of Minnesota,

Minneapolis, July 19, 1910.

Prof. N. H. Winchell,

Dear Sir: I am going away tomorrow, and cannot attend your meeting next Sunday. I have examined your report carefully, have visited Kensington and neighborhood, and have read most of the papers and articles relating to the rune stone.

I have always believed with the great authorities of Norway and Sweden, Magnus Olsen, Moltke Moe, M. Hogstad, Bugge, Noreen, Schrick, Montelius, that the language is too modern, besides being faulty; and a more careful study of the words has not changed my opinion. In some places where the rune (thorn) is used, it is not used properly. But I shall not enter into details at this time.

That the Norwegians discovered Vinland is a fact. That they, in the fourteenth century, may have penetrated into the country as far as the present Kensington, is possible. But what has been testified to about the finding of the stone is not convincing, and I do not consider the Kensington stone authentic.

It seems to me that the stone should be brought to Norway to be examined by expert runologists, and, in my opinion, nothing else will dispose of the matter.

Yours respectfully,

GISLE BOTHNE.

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PROFESSOR FLOM'S INVESTIGATION.

Since the foregoing was written, a learned contribution has been made to the subject by an eminent philologist, Prof. George T. Flom, of the University of Illinois, who reaches an adverse decision. This was courteously furnished to the committee in manuscript, but has since been revised and published in June, 1910, by the Illinois Historical Society, entitled "The Kensington Rune Stone, a Modern Inscription from Douglas County, Minnesota." His objections can be classified as follows:

PRONUNCIATION AND SPELLING.

1. *hadhc*. *hafthc* should have been used; that is, the disappearance of *f* or *v* before a consonant had not yet taken place.

2. *vedh* should be *vidh*. The change to *v* begins about 1400. *ve*, in the third line from the end, is an attempt to use the modern Swedish-Norwegian *ve*.

3. *fro* should be *fra*, as *fro* and *from* never occur in Middle Swedish.

4. *of* cannot be compared with the sense "too," which would be beside the point; and *of vest* is as impossible as "too west" in English.

5. *öh* would have been in Middle Swedish, in the regular way, *öö*.
6. *ahr*. The same error occurs here in *öh*. These spellings belong to a much later time.
7. *dhag, opdhagelse, landh, dhedh*. There was no need for the Swedish scribe to employ the rune *p* for *d*, as well as for *dh* and *th*; for *d* then had its own symbol.

## INFLEXIONS.

8. *var, kom, fan, har*. The transference of the singular form to the plural is comparatively recent.
9. *man*, as plural, is irregular.
10. *vi hadhc*. The modern scribe here employed his own speech, with an antiquarian effort shown in introducing *h* after the dental.
11. *fra dheno sten* should be *fra pacssom sten* (variant of *pacmma sten*); "later *fra* may also govern the accusative, which would give the form *fra pacmma sten*."
12. *at se acptir-vore skip* should be, regularly, *at se acptir varom skipum*. The rune stone's inscription is that of present speech, Norwegian rather than Swedish, except for the word *acptir*.
13. *from dheno öh*. *öh* is feminine in Old Swedish, and the feminine form of *dheno* should have been used, i. e., *fra pacmma ö*. (Compare *fra dheno sten* above.)

## MEANING OF CERTAIN WORDS.

14. *po*, then just forming from *upp a, up pa*, could not be used in this way (i. e., with an activity), but only as a preposition meaning *upon*. The use here is modern (in Swedish comparatively recent).
15. *opdhagelse* must have dated from after the Reformation. It is Dutch, and its meaning as here employed is from High German *entdecken*.
16. *laeger* is a loan from the German. The Old Swedish word was *laegher*, which also was used differently.
17. *rise* should be in Old Swedish *resa*, which came into Swedish from German in the fifteenth century.
18. Two quotations are given, from the fourteenth century and the fifteenth century, to show how consistent the language was at that time. One is from Själinne Thröst, 1370, MS. 1430, the other from Margaret's Chronicle, late fifteenth century, MS. 1514-1525.

## THE RUNES.

19. Examination shows that the runes employed are not those of the Mariaklagan, Middle Swedish of about 1400, which are the same as in the Scanian Law (1300). The Kensington scribe therefore did not use the regular Norwegian and Middle Swedish runic alphabet, but employed characters either invented by himself or from some other dialect, "a different alphabet."

20. This paper shows use and knowledge of runes "until the last century." Hence there is some likelihood of someone having skill enough to write runes in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

21. It finds that the particular alphabet of the Kensington stone was in use in the sixteenth century in Elfdalen; and it infers that the sixteenth century is "modern," yet in important respects quite different. For instance, the thorn was used by the Kensington scribe for *th*, *dh*, and *d*, whereas at the date claimed for the stone *d* had its own character.

## DISCUSSION OF THESE OBJECTIONS.

Most of these critical objections have been presented by others, and are referred to in the body of the foregoing report. There are 21 items, as numbered, and they will be reviewed here in numerical order. Numbers 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, and 16, have been shown to be either invalid or at least of questionable character adverse to the records.

No. 2. *vc* is undoubtedly the phonetic for *vedh*, which is spelled in full (*vedh*) in the fourth line, but probably pronounced as spelled here (*vc*). If the rune scribe were perpetrating a fraudulent record of 1362, and was acquainted with the word *vedh*, he would scarcely introduce a modern spelling of that word (*vc*).

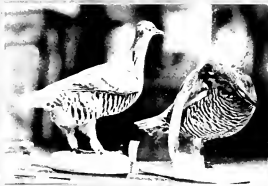
No. 4. The translation *far to the westward* is not required. The use of *of* for *af* is an instance of the phonetic confounding of *a*, *aa*, with *o*.

No. 5. *öh*. The difference in sound between this word and *öö* was so slight that the rune scribe was phonetically at liberty to use either.

No. 6. *ahr*. Dahlerup says that "as early as in Old Danish [1050-1350], the original long *a* had begun to approach the sound of *aa*" (Det Danske Sprogs Historie, p. 31). This increased length of sound was indicated also by the spelling *ahr*.

No. 9. *man*. The common form for the plural was *menn*, or *män*. The form here used is irregular for any date and can hardly be justified,





Bob-White,  
American Badger,  
Canadian Beaver,  
Raccoon

Prairie Chicken,  
Deer,  
Red Fox, with Prairie Chicken,  
Gray Wolf, with Kitten

although in Gamle Eriks Krönike (1320) is the expression "10,000 man them forslo" (Klemming's edition, 326).

No. 10. *vi hadhc*. If the faker scribe knew the antiquarian style, it is hard to explain why he used his own speech at all. (Compare No. 2.)

No. 11. *fra dheno sten*. The error of not distinguishing the gender of nouns in the application of the demonstrative was, and is, common. The final letter (*o*) was frequently substituted for *a*; but as *sten* is masculine, this form of the adjective is quite allowable. The final letter *o*, being unaccented, was frequently substituted for *a*, and vice versa.

No. 12. *at se äptir vore skip*. This illustrates the confusion of inflexional usage of the fourteenth century. According to Falk and Torp, about this period *e* was changed to *ä* in the word *eptir* and others in the Swedish language; but the change was not permanent, the letter *e* being restored, and a century later we find *äptir*, *eptir*, and *äffthir*, and *eftir*, used side by side (Svenska Medeltidens, Rim-Krönikor, third part). As the scribe employed *äptir*, it seems that, unless he was a learned linguist, he must have been contemporary with this temporary change.

Professor Flom contends that a writer of the fourteenth century would have written *varom skipum*. We find however that case endings were not so invariably respected as is commonly supposed. Even in the Icelandic sagas, which show a far more precise literary practice than the Swedish of the fourteenth century, the case endings are sometimes violated. For instance, in the Vinland saga (A. M. 552) we read: "*Lata their i haf fram tvennum skipum thegar thcir eru bunir*" (Vigfusson's, p. 123, line 23). *haf* is there nominative and should be dative, while *tvennum skipum* is dative and should be accusative.

Such disregard and confusion of case endings is still more common in the Swedish of the fourteenth century. Molbech says of this period: "The old mother tongue's declensions and endings, which in the fourteenth century but meagerly remained, almost completely disappeared at the close of the century" (Molbech's *Ordbog*, p. xlvii). We find therefore that the expression in the inscription is not out of harmony with fourteenth century usage.

No. 13. This shows the same irregularity of declension as we find above to be characteristic of the period.

No. 17. *risc*. Kalkar gives this spelling as an Old Swedish noun (meaning journey) of the middle ages. The modern form, *rcise* or *rcysa*, occurs more commonly in the literature of that period.

No. 18. These quotations from the standard literature exhibit the usage

of scholars, among whom there was great dissimilarity of standards. The Kensington stone shows rather the usage of the common people, and, as already stated, the two cannot be expected to agree in detail.

No. 19. The runes used are not precisely like those common in 1362, as illustrated by the Mariaklagan and the Scanian Law, these being of about that date, but embrace novel characters, thirteen in number (including punctuations). It cannot be understood why an unlettered Swede of the nineteenth century, attempting a fraud of 1362, should invent, or import, thirteen characters not in common use; since this variation from the common use would hardly be expected to further the acceptance of the fraud. The proper comparison would be with other inscriptions of West Gothland, which the two runic documents referred to are not.

No. 20. It is certainly true that a scant and waning knowledge of runes continued till the nineteenth century.

No. 21. This particular alphabet, according to Professor Flom, appears to have been in use in the sixteenth century in Elfdalen, in central Sweden, though with some divergences. How much earlier it was used, we do not know; but as people from Gothland ("8 Goths") were of this party and also used this alphabet, it is evident that it was used in Gothland or West Gothland.

This energetic discussion brings out important new facts which everyone who is seeking only the truth will welcome; but everyone will be at liberty still to make such application of the facts as his own judgment dictates. There are curious anomalies in the arguments of the author, such that the facts presented seem not to be used in their logical sequence, nor in the bearing which they have on each other and on the main issue.

The rune character (thorn) is confounded by Flom with a similar character having the upper and lower ends of its semicircle continued somewhat to the left of the vertical bar. This form is said to have taken the place, in part, in the modern Dalecarlian runic alphabet, when, on the disappearance of the sounds *dh* and *th*, a special character was required to represent the sound of *d*, which grew into prominence and persisted. The character thus used does not appear on the Kensington stone; and hence only the sounds represented can be fairly ascribed to the stone. Professor Flom's new translation, on pages 25-26 of his address, seems to be based wholly on his confusion of these rune forms. In 1362 the thorn must have represented the sound of *d* in those cases where the *d* sound in spoken language had supplanted *dh* or *th*, though it had not yet been given a special character in



written language. The modern runic alphabet, according to Flom, employs only the new form which represents the sound *d*.

On the stone the "thorn" character occurs fourteen times, distinctly cut, without any suggestion of the modern rune character representing *d*. Yet notwithstanding this the author assumes that the scribe, a man of the latter half of the nineteenth century, as he supposes, and hence familiar with that modern rune for the sound of *d*, ignorantly inscribed the "thorn" in these fourteen places. It is not intimated that the use of the old character was due to the scribe's cleverness, to make the inscription seem ancient, although that would be a consistent view for Professor Flom to take, but he says distinctly that the scribe was ignorant of the character used for *d*. As a matter of fact, the modern sound of *d* was only beginning to be used in spoken language in 1362, and was very rarely recognized then in runic script the character for *t* punctuated and thus changed to indicate the *d* sound.

Professor Flom shows that a rune system was used in Dalarne in the sixteenth century and later, but fails to show how much earlier. Doubtless runes were well known there in 1362, since their use seems to have prevailed throughout Scandinavia from a much earlier time. To except Dalarne would be without reason, unless some special condition can be shown to have operated against runes in that district. The inference therefore is that they were the ancestors of the Dalarne system of 1600. It remains to ascertain how the ancient runes used there differed from those of 1600 or those of more recent time, and whether they manifested those characters that do not agree with the modern Dalarne system, nor exactly with that of the Scanian Law. Finding important divergences of the Kensington stone from modern runes, Flom abruptly attributes them sometimes to the ingenuity and sometimes to the ignorance of the scribe, not even considering the possibility of their being due to their archaic date.

It is unlikely that a faker with the keenness necessary to guide him in injecting into the inscription certain ancient forms of language should so far forget himself as to leave off the old inflections of the verbs (*om, um, etc.*), thus giving his work a decidedly modern look. It is more probable that in 1362 those endings had already been dropped in speech, but that a skillful impostor familiar with ancient literature would retain them in his inscription.

The conclusions set out in the appendix seem not to be based on the facts brought out by Professor Flom's address. No. 1 is deficient because his address does not treat of "the language as spoken at the time." He only discusses it as written and especially its inflexions, which were dropped

much later in the written than in the spoken language. No 2 is faulty for he does not at all discuss "the runic series of the time" (1362). He finds that the Kensington inscription agrees substantially with the recent Delectarian system, and where it shows discrepancies (which may arise from greater age) he regards them as evidences of forgery by the scribe. No 2 is further faulty because of the uncertain significance of the word "modern." Some things that are modern, say of the nineteenth century, began to exist in the fourteenth but are still "modern," which indeed may be the case of the Delectarian rune system as a whole. The verdict of the committee who reviewed Flom's arguments, being founded on evidence not proven, or only assumed, is therefore not conclusive.

The genuineness of the Kensington rune stone must be determined, if Professor Flom's identifications be accepted, by an investigation directed to the question whether the Delectarian system of runes existed at the date 1362; for the linguistic objections are largely swept away, and the runic objections appear to be turned into probably evidence in favor of the stone.

#### INVESTIGATION OF THE RUMOR RELATING TO SVEN FOGELBLAD.

The following article, reporting an investigation of an alleged forgery of the Kensington Rune Stone, contributed by Mr. H. R. Holand, is reprinted from the *Minneapolis Journal*, in which it was published August 9, 1910:

Since the famous rune stone of 1362 was found near Kensington, Minnesota, twelve years ago, it has been subject to a close scrutiny, and many persons have been accused of having forged it. These have, however, been acquitted one after another until now only one remains. This man is one Fogelblad, who was formerly a Swedish Lutheran pastor.

According to the statements of Professors R. B. Anderson and G. T. Flom, the leaders of the opposition against the genuineness of the inscription, Fogelblad was a Lutheran clergyman who later was deposed. He is said to have turned against his former faith and written books against Christianity, among which was one entitled "Age of Reason." He made his home at Kensington, where he is reported to have carved runes on window casings and doors, etc. One of his favorite subjects of discourse was a strange narrative of how "Scandinavian explorers had visited that region (around Kensington) hundreds of years ago." When he suddenly died, "Fryxell's famous book on the Runes of East Gothland" was found in his trunk. This book was later given by one Andrew Anderson, in whose home Fogelblad died, to Olof Olman, the finder of the stone. According to Flom and R. B. Anderson this book is a complete commentary on the inscription of the stone.

Such is the rumor published in several newspapers, and now latest in a pamphlet published by the Illinois State Historical Society. It must be admitted that, if this is true, it is serious circumstantial evidence against the truth of the inscription.

Although I have made four or five earlier trips to Kensington and vicinity, I had

not heard this rumor, and I have therefore just made a special trip thither to see what could be learned of this man's life and character.

I have spent a week in following the trail through Douglas, Grant, Pope, Meeker and Carver counties. I have talked with persons who knew him in Sweden, with farmers who entertained him for years, with men and women whose entire schoolings had been received from him, and, finally, with those who were with him when he died. Although I have interviewed more than a hundred persons, there has been perfect harmony in all their accounts, especially concerning his character.

The following is a summary:

Sven Fogelblad was born about 1820-25 in Sweden. He studied theology and the necessary classic studies that went with it in Upsala. His first public appearance is some time before 1860 when we find him a jolly curate under Rev. Mr. Rolander in Tomberg parish in Westgothland.

He resigned his pastorate and came to America. Here he was almost persuaded to re-enter the ministry as pastor of a Swedish congregation at Litchfield. But at the critical time his old enemy, drink, tripped him up.

He made his first appearance around Kensington about 1885-90. He is described as a short, thickset man of about 70 years of age, always cheerful and neat. He must have overcome his drink habit, for none of the people around Hoffman and Kensington ever saw him drink or under the influence of drink. He had no permanent home here, but as itinerant schoolmaster used to sojourn for a few weeks at different farmhouses, getting 50 cents per month for each child taught. His classes used to number six to eight pupils, giving him an income of \$3 to \$4 per month, which was all he needed for clothes. When the times and the seasons were inconvenient for schooling he used to quarter himself upon a farmer. He was extremely lazy, and was never known to have assisted in the harvest or carried in a pail of water or an armful of wood. He preferred to repair old pipes, bind books, make kitchen knick-knacks, etc.

In spite of his laziness the farmers were always glad to see him because of his wealth of local news. He knew of births and deaths and other doings far and wide, and was the forerunner of the village newspaper. Moreover he was always absolutely reliable in all his gossip, conscientious and kindhearted in all his narratives, and clean and agreeable in person. He was without any ambition and never studied. He wrote neither books nor pamphlets, his literary efforts consisting of humble doggerels, which rarely if ever were printed. He, however, boasted to several that upon one illustrious occasion long ago in Sweden he had written an article for which a paper had paid him ten kroner (about \$2.50).

Although he always seemed contented, there was an undercurrent of melancholy in him, and those who know him best say he was never happy after he left college. Those days evoked his liveliest memories, and his eyes always overflowed with tears when he told of the times when he with 300 or 400 other students used to sing the stirring Swedish songs. On the whole, he appears to have been a tenderhearted, superficial person in general, with a deep conscientiousness which prevented him from squaring his creed with the doctrine of the church, wearing his sorrows as well as his joys upon his sleeve, inspiring confidence in all by his openhearted ways.

He had been visiting for a year with a nephew in Scott county, when he in 1895 returned to Kensington to visit friends. On approaching the house of one Andrew Anderson, he suddenly felt ill, whereupon he went in there and died after a three days' attack of an unknown malady.

Those who knew him best in Grant and Douglas counties are Messrs. Oslund, Thompson and Simonson of Red Rock Lake, Hendrickson of Hoffman, Ekberg of Her-

man, and Moen, Carlson, Benson, Ohman and Oberg of Kensington, all among the most respected farmers of that section. To these persons and many others I put the following questions:

Did you ever see or hear of Fogelblad making runes on window casings, doors, or elsewhere? Did he ever speak of American discovery, or of Scandinavians having visited this section long ago? Do you believe he could have had a hand in making the Kensington inscription?

To all of these questions I received an invariable and unequivocal "no." Not one had seen him make runes, not one had heard him speak of Scandinavian explorers in Minnesota, not one believed he could possibly have had anything to do with the Kensington stone. Many of these persons doubted the stone's genuineness, but, no matter who had chiseled it, they said, they were sure Fogelblad was innocent. He was, they said, too honest and conscientious to have perpetrated such a fraud; he had no aptitude whatever for practical jokes and deceptions; he was too lazy to have executed it, and too garrulous to have concealed it if he had. Furthermore, it is plain from the limitations of his early training and later opportunities that he was entirely ignorant of the fine runological and linguistic points involved in this inscription. Finally, he did not make his appearance around Kensington until many years after the tree above the stone had wound its roots around it.

As to "Fryxell's famous book on the Runes of East Gothland," which, according to Professors Flom and Anderson, contains all the material for this inscription, I assert Fogelblad never possessed or saw this book, for one excellent reason—such a book never existed except in the overwrought minds of these gentlemen of imaginary rune lore. Fryxell never wrote any book whatsoever on runes. For information on this, see every Swedish encyclopedia. The only nut of truth in this entire bag of husks is that Andrew Anderson, in whose house Fogelblad died, found an old Swedish grammar (by Almquist) among his books. On page 34 are two lines of runes to illustrate the development of the language. This book he gave to Olof Ohman, the finder of the stone, who by its help tried to make out the inscriptions, but without success. Three years ago I looked over Ohman's books in his absence and found this work, but saw at once that it had nothing to do with the inscription, as the runes are different. Last spring this book was again brought into the discussion by suspicious persons, and I then asked Professor Winchell, the state archaeologist, to send for the book, which he did. He then laid it before Norse scholars, who said it would be quite impossible to have constructed the inscription from this alphabet.

The small collection of books left by Mr. Sven Fogelblad at his death, at the home of Mr. Andrew Anderson, was found, on inquiry by the museum committee, to have been disposed of in part to Rev. M. A. Nordstroem, of Riverside, California. In order to push the investigation of this question still further, inquiry was made of Mr. Nordstroem as to the existence of any works on runes, and especially by Fryxell on runes, in the collection owned by Fogelblad. Mr. Nordstroem replied, after some delay due to change of residence, that the books got by him were on philosophy, that Fogelblad had no work by Fryxell, and added that, in his opinion, Fogelblad could not have made the inscription.

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The chronologic order is followed, as showing best the development of discussion of this subject. The time included extends to September, 1910, giving a considerable number of references later than the date of this report by the museum committee, but preceding its publication. Many minor articles and comments in magazines and newspapers are omitted.

Breda, Prof. O. J. An interview giving an account of the discovery of the Rune Stone. *Minneapolis Journal*, Feb. 22, 1899.

News Report, the first announcement of this discovery published in the Norwegian press. *Skandinaven*, Chicago, Feb. 22, 1899.

Aaberg, E. E. Further account of the discovery, written by a local resident acquainted with its details. *Skandinaven* (semi-weekly), Chicago, March 1, 1899.

Curme, Prof. G. O. Interview presenting in a brief paragraph his objection to the use of the decimal system in the inscription. *Skandinaven*, March 1, 1899.

Kirkeberg, Rev. O. L. An able translation of the inscription, with argument in favor of the genuineness of the stone. *Skandinaven*, March 1, 1899.

Curme, Prof. G. O. A lengthy interview, favoring the genuineness of the inscription, but objecting to the apparently English word *from*. *Skandinaven*, March 3, 1899.

Conradi, P. A. Detailed discussion of the inscription, presenting arguments for and against its genuineness. *Skandinaven*, March 10, 1899.

Editorial Article in *Skandinaven*, March 15, 1899, summarizing the objections of Prof. Oluf Rygh as published in *Morgenbladet*, Christiania, Norway. These are the supposed English words, *from*, *of*, *dcd*, and unusual runic characters.

Flom, P. L. Communication showing that *from* was in use in Norway in the middle ages. *Skandinaven*, March 24, 1899.

Breda, Prof. O. J. Interview giving a cablegram from professors of Christiania University, discrediting the inscription chiefly because of its numerous supposed English words. *Minneapolis Tribune*, April 16, 1899.

This opinion silenced all who had been interested in the Rune Stone, and we find nothing further printed about it until 1908.

Holand, Hjalmar Rued. First account of the stone in the revival of the discussion, containing a detailed defense of its genuineness and a full translation. *Skandinaven*, January 17, 1908; printed also in several other Scandinavian newspapers.

Holand, H. R. The second chapter, pages 8-22, in his "De Norske Settlementers Historie" (Ephraim, Wisconsin, 1908), gives an account of the visits to America by the early Norsemen between the years 1000 and 1362, and concludes with a description of the Kensington Rune Stone. A view of the stone is presented from a photograph, and its inscription is printed in the rune characters, with a manuscript transliteration.

Holand, H. R. Notes of correspondence with Prof. Magnus Olsen and Helge Gjessing, of Christiania University, giving Mr. Gjessing's objections to the inscription and answers to them. *Decorah Posten*, Decorah, Iowa, May 14, 1909.

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Iverslie, P. P. Kensingtonsteningen. An able support of Mr. Holand's arguments in favor of the stone and in opposition to Mr. Gjessing's conclusions. *Kvartalskrift*, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, July, 1909, pp. 12-21.

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Holand, H. R. "An Explorer's Stone Record which antedates Columbus: a Tragic Inscription unearthed in Minnesota, recording the Fate of a Band of Scandinavian Adventurers." *Harper's Weekly*, October 9, 1909, p. 15.

Fossum, Prof. Andrew. "Hudson Bay Route to Solve Problem." A defense of the inscription by an able presentation of the feasibility of the explorers' route by the way of Hudson bay, the Nelson river, lake Winnipeg, and the Red river. *Norwegian American*, Northfield, Minnesota, October 22, 1909. This article was printed also in Norwegian in *Skandinaven*, October 25.

Holand, H. R. "The Skerries Discovered." An account of the author's discovery of the skerries mentioned in the inscription. *Norwegian American*, November 19, 1909. The same account in Norwegian, accompanied by a map of Pelican lake, showing the position of the skerries and probable location of the camp of the explorers, was published in *Skandinaven*, November 26.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

An eloquent and observant writer who some years ago had occasion to pen his observation regarding that portion of the beautiful Park Region of Minnesota comprised within the borders of Douglas county observed that "the first settlers who pushed their way thus far beyond the confines of civilization, found a land of great natural beauty; a land selected as a home by the Sioux and Chippewa, with love for the beautiful which Nature made an instinct in the savage. The sun shone as brightly then as now, the flowers bloomed as freshly and carpeted the wide waste with the same variegated hues of beauty, while the woodland, with its network of undergrowth, almost defied penetration to all else but natives of its own depths. It was, indeed, a beautiful land. In summer, a perfect paradise of flowers; in winter, a dreary, barren desert, with no trace of civilization. But today, how changed the scene. Rich fields of golden grain, magnificent farms, villages and cities have sprung up where so recently was naught but waste and desolation. The wintry blast which in former years drove the deer, bear and wolf to their hiding places, now signals the herd of the husbandman to comfortable shelter; while the iron horse, swifter than the nimble deer, treads the pathway so recently the trail of the red man. A wealthy and prosperous land has grown up, filled with a happy and contented people—a land dotted with schools and churches; while, as each milepost in the history of the county is passed, it seems to mark an era of new and increased prosperity."

Upon seeking to arrive at a definite conclusion regarding the very first settlement of any county or locality, the historian immediately is confronted by a difficult task. Fact and tradition are so closely interwoven in all statements relating to the beginning of a social order in any given community that it often is wholly impossible to differentiate between the two and to say of any given set of narratives bearing upon the first settlement, this is fact and this is merely tradition. And the situation confronting the historian in Douglas county is no exception to the rule. In the absence of any definite record or memoir of the pioneer period preserved against such a time as this there is no means at hand of acquiring absolute proof of historical state-

ments covering the period that marked the first settlement hereabout in the time preceding the Indian outbreak, for it is known that there was some settlement here in the latter fifties of the past century. At the time of the uprising, however, those scantily protected settlers were scattered and, seeking safety in flight to more populous centers, did not return; hence there was a period following the appearance of the white man as a settler in this region that the land reverted to the waste and was unsought by such as otherwise would have gladly occupied the beautiful park region hereabout.

#### THE OLD RED RIVER TRAIL.

Though unpopulated by the white man until the period of the latter fifties, above mentioned, Douglas county was not unknown to civilization, for long before its actual settlement white men had been passing through on the old Red River trail which marked the passage to the Pembina colony and the rich trading posts of the farther Northwest, and the groaning creak of the ungreased axles of the Red river carts must have been familiar sounds to the savage denizens of the then wastes of this lake region long before the white man stopped to lay claim to one of the fairest spots on the globe. The old trail of the Red River Valley settlements passed through Douglas county, running about twelve miles south of the present line of the Great Northern railroad, and along the line of that famous trail there was carried on a considerable commerce many years before there were any actual settlements in this immediate vicinity.

Out of all the confusion relating to statements covering the period of pioneer days it may safely enough be declared that the first definite settlement made by whites within the boundaries now comprising Douglas county was during the summer of 1858, in August of which year Alexander and William Kinkaid made their historic settlement at the junction of the two lakes, Agnes and Winona, the present site of the beautiful city of Alexandria, the county seat, which bears its name in honor of Alexander Kinkaid. About that same time a settlement was made within the present limits of Holmes City township by one Holmes, Noah Grant and W. S. Sandford. Both parties arrived at their respective places of settlement at very nearly the same time, but which came first is a difficult matter to determine at this late date. By common consent the Kinkaid's always have been accorded the honor of being regarded as the pioneers, but a brief historical sketch of Douglas county accompanying a plat-book of the county published in the middle eighties says that "some of the leading old settlers claim that the

Holmes City party had been here some weeks before the Kinkaid's arrived." However that may be, it is certain that in August, 1858, both parties were on the ground. Messrs. Holmes, Grant and Sandford came together from Shakopee. Mr. Holmes, who was regarded as the leader of the party, became the leader in that community during the short time he remained there and when the township came to be named it was given the name of Holmes City in his honor, while the little lake on which the settlement called Holmes City was established became known as Grant's lake, in honor of Noah Grant, an immediate contemporary of Holmes. Mr. Holmes only remained a year or two and then returned to Shakopee. Noah Grant enlisted in the army during the Civil War and upon the completion of his military service returned to Douglas county, but in 1867 went South, where he afterwards made his home. Sandford, it is said, left the county at or before the time of the Sioux rebellion.

#### THE KINKAID BROTHERS.

Alexander and William Kinkaid, bachelor brothers, were natives of Wilmington, Delaware, who, some years prior to 1858, the time of their settlement in Douglas county, had come West and had put in their fortunes with those early settlers who had come to Minnesota in territorial days. For some time they sojourned at St. Peter, which then had aspirations to become the capital of the state, and then pushed on northwest into Pope county, locating on White Bear lake, where they started a settlement which later developed into the thriving town of Glenwood. The following summer, the summer of 1858, they came on farther to the northwest on a prospecting expedition and upon arriving at the banks of Lake Agnes became so deeply impressed by the beauty of the spot that they determined there "to pitch their tent," and thus was the city of Alexandria brought into being. Returning to White Bear lake for their belongings the Kinkaid brothers soon made their way back to Lake Agnes and in August of that year made a permanent location on the site previously selected, being probably the first white men who had visited that particular spot. It was not long until other settlers were attracted to the spot and thus a thriving settlement presently sprang up on the attractive rise of ground to the south of Lake Agnes and on the east shore of Lake Winona, the site now covered by the city of Alexandria. The Kinkaid brothers built a log cabin on the knoll just south of where the Great Northern railway station now stands, and upon the arrival of other settlers almost immediately thereafter became instrumental in forming a townsite company, with a view of attracting others and thus establishing

a city in the then wilderness. They secured the services of Gen. T. F. Barrett, of St. Cloud, a government surveyor, who surveyed and platted the townsite and the same was named Alexandria, in honor of the founder, Alexander Kinkaid. In order to promote the sale of lots and advertise the attractiveness of the new settlement, the Kinkaid brothers organized a townsite company, which included besides themselves Col. John Ball, of Winona; George F. Bratt, of St. Cloud; H. T. Welles, of Minneapolis, and A. P. Wilson and P. L. Gregory, of St. Anthony. Though the township at that time had been run, it had not been sub-divided and the land hereabout had not been fully surveyed. It is narrated that through the agency of P. L. Gregory four hundred and forty acres of land were located, the same being covered by Sioux half-breed script, obtained for this purpose by H. T. Welles from Franklin Steele, of Minneapolis, and to secure him for the advance made, the title to the town site was vested in Mr. Welles. William Kinkaid remained at the new settlement until 1861, in which year he received an appointment to a government clerkship and removed to Washington, D. C., where he died some time afterward. Alexander Kinkaid was made postmaster of the new town of Alexandria, when a station was established there late in 1858, the mail route at that time being from St. Cloud to Ft. Abercrombie, the mail then being carried, most of the time on foot, by one Evans, after whom the town of Evansville afterward came to be named. The postoffice at first was kept in the Kinkaid cabin, but when J. H. Van Dyke presently started a little store the office was removed to the same and later Van Dyke was made postmaster. Alexander Kinkaid continued to take a prominent part in the affairs of the new settlement, being one of the most active promoters of the growing village, but about 1868 went to California, where it is believed he spent the remainder of his life.

#### GRADUAL GROWTH OF THE NEW SETTLEMENT.

For some time after the establishment of the new settlement all the travel to and from Alexandria—what little there was—came from the south, along the edge of the prairie, following the line taken by the Kinkaid upon coming into this country. The old trail to the Red River settlements passed through the county, but there was very little travel upon that. A year or two after the Kinkaid came they opened a road north from the new townsite and in 1859 the government troops cut a road through the timber, east and west, establishing a military road, which afterward became a stage and state road and which, with a few changes in its course, is now one of the

most extensively traveled highways in this part of the state, its course being through the towns of Osakis, Alexandria, Brandon and Evansville.

During the remainder of the year 1858 there was very little addition to the population of the county, though among those who came before the spring of 1859 were the families of P. L. Gregory, James Bedman, Charles Cook, J. A. James and Hugh O'Donnell. It was from St. Cloud that P. L. Gregory made his way to this section and he became a member of the Alexandria Town Site Company, and for several years took a prominent part in the work of developing the new settlement. The townsite company put up a log hotel near Kinkaid's building and Gregory moved his family from St. Cloud and occupied the hotel, the family making their way from St. Cloud, a distance of seventy miles, by ox-team. For several years the Gregory hotel was a favorite resort of the pioneers and is still often referred to in tales of the old days hereabout. Some years after locating at Alexandria Gregory was elected as a representative from this district to the state Legislature and returned to St. Cloud for residence. James Bedman, who also arrived in the fall of 1858, was an Englishman and a blacksmith by trade. He took a claim on the rise northwest of Lake Agnes and opened a little blacksmith shop in which he followed his trade. Charles Cook, also a native of England, arrived with Bedman from Kandota, in Stearns county, but in 1867 he returned to his native land. Soon after the war broke out J. A. James, whose name is noted above, enlisted for service and did not return to Alexandria. Hugh O'Donnell, who did good work for the townsite company, later took a claim nearby, but left in 1861 and years afterward was heard from as a resident of Pembina. Among others who came in the summer of 1858 were N. F. Barnes and Glendy King, the former of whom came from the state of Maine and the latter from Philadelphia. Barnes settled on a farm east of Lake Agnes, but in 1866 went to St. Cloud, whence he later went to California. King settled at the south end of Lake Winona, but in 1861 returned East, which section did not permanently claim him, however, for in the early eighties word was received that he had been killed in the Indian Territory.

As word of the new settlement over in the lake country became circulated others became attracted to the spot and during the year 1859 quite a number of settlers arrived in the county, the most of whom settled in Alexandria or in that immediate vicinity. Among these were J. H. Van Dyke, A. Darling and family, James F. Dicken, James Barr and family, Myron Colony and S. B. Cowdry. Van Dyke, who was a native of Pennsylvania, moved over from St. Cloud, arriving at Alexandria in the spring of 1859.

During that summer he put up a log house on the height overlooking the lake, south of where the Great Northern freight depot now stands, and in that building opened up a small store, the first general store in Douglas county, and there continued doing business until the time of the Indian outbreak, when the building was torn down and the goods moved within the walls of the stockade which the government meanwhile had erected on the same height overlooking the lake nearby the store, which also had been used as a postoffice and was thus regarded as the center of the new community. A. Darling, who had come over from the neighborhood of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, took a claim on the banks of Lake Darling, and there he and his family remained until the time of the Indian outbreak, when they left for Missouri, intending to return when things had quieted down in this section, but in August, 1864, Mr. Darling was slain by Southern bushwhackers and his family returned to the homestead farm on Lake Darling, and there established their home anew. It was in the spring of 1859 that James F. Dicken, who is still living in Douglas county, one of its best-known and most honored residents, had his first sight of this favored region. He passed through the new settlement at Alexandria on his way West on a prospecting trip, but returned in the fall, accompanied by Burton Sparry and Henry Whitcomb, and established himself on the shores of Lake Ida for the purpose of trapping and trading with the Indians. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the First Minnesota Cavalry, under Colonel McPhail, and remained in the service for thirteen months, at the end of which term of service he went to Missouri, in which state he renewed the acquaintance of the family of A. Darling, married one of the daughters of the family and in 1864 returned to Douglas county, which has ever since been his place of residence, his home long having been at his pleasant place one mile east of Garfield.

Among the other original settlers whose memories have been recalled was James Barr, who also arrived in 1859, having come West from Philadelphia. He entered a claim near the Darling place and remained there for several years, later becoming a resident of Ida township and still later moving on farther west and settling in the Dakotas. Myron Coloney, another of the settlers of 1859, is referred to in contemporary accounts as having been quite a character among the early settlers. He had for some time been engaged in editorial work on one of the St. Louis newspapers, was a writer of much talent and took an active interest in the affairs of the new settlement. He took a claim on the shores of Lake Ida and there established his home, building a log cabin into which he moved his effects, among which was a fine piano, his wife having been an accomplished musician. It

was in the neighborhood of James F. Dicken's place on Lake Ida that the Coloneys settled and Mr. Dicken found pleasant relief from his lonely bachelor quarters in the agreeable companionship of his neighbors. When the settlers were warned to flee at the beginning of the Indian outbreak the Coloneys returned to St. Louis, leaving their domestic belongings behind, and not long afterward their house overlooking the lake was destroyed by fire, the first piano in Douglas county thus being reduced to ashes. S. B. Cowdry, a native of the state of New York, whose name is noted above as one of the arrivals in 1859, took as a claim a farm in La Grande township, afterward owned by G. C. Whitcomb, but a year later left his claim shanty and moved into the settlement at Alexandria, where he took charge of the hotel which Charles Cook, the Englishman, had just given up, the profits of the humble inn not having been sufficiently remunerative to prove attractive. When the outbreak occurred Cowdry joined the others in the general flight to St. Cloud and did not return.

#### THE FIRST COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

In the meantime there was beginning to be some form to the civic affairs of the new community and a county government, for certain local purposes, had been set up. For some years after the creation of Douglas county by the Legislature it had been attached to Stearns county for civil and judicial purposes, but in 1859, there then having come to be a considerable settlement in and about the center of the county, a move was started to organize Douglas for administrative purposes. In this movement P. L. Gregory is said to have been the active leader and an election was held—the first election in Douglas county—in Gregory's hotel. Not all of the settlers were willing thus to assume the responsibilities of government and it is narrated that only a few voted. The returns of the election therefore were not recognized by the authorities and the election was held to be void. However, during the session of the Legislature in the winter of 1858-59, a bill had been passed authorizing the organization of Douglas county for certain local purposes essentially administrative in their character and it was not long after the failure of the first citizens to exercise their right to the franchise that the governor appointed J. H. Van Dyke, S. B. Cowdry and A. Darling as a board of commissioners to set on foot a local government hereabout. This board convened at the Van Dyke store and appointed the following county officers: Register of deeds, Alexander Kinkaid; sheriff, J. A.

Adams; probate judge, P. L. Gregory. This organization was maintained until the time of the Indian outbreak, when it, as well as all other local matters, was abandoned and all records that had been made were lost. Nothing further was done in the matter of local government until 1866, by which time definite settlement again was being re-established, when the county was organized on a permanent and continuing basis, the details of which, as well as the general history of the county government, are set out elsewhere in this volume in the chapters relating to the organization of Douglas county and to the officials of the same.

While the settlement at Alexandria was beginning to take form, it being the first settlement in the county, other portions of the county also were beginning to be recognized as exceedingly desirable points for settlement and during the years of 1859 and 1860 several small settlements sprang up. At the point where the thriving village of Brandon now stands Henry Gagar settled and it was not long until others had joined him at that desirable point, quite a little settlement presently being formed there, to which the name of Chippewa was given, the large lake in that vicinity also being given the name of Chippewa lake, the headwater of the Chippewa river which drains the western part of the county and empties into the Minnesota river at Montevideo, in Chippewa county, this state. Afterward the village of Chippewa was rechristened Brandon, in honor of the birthplace in Vermont of Stephen A. Douglas, after whom the county was named. In the southeastern part of the county there also was noted the beginning of a settlement in 1859, John Potter having taken a claim where the village of Osakis now stands, and within a year afterward Joshua Fairfield, Robert Wyman, Benjamin Pease, William Husted and others took claims nearby or farther up in the eastern part of the county. About the same time Nels Olson took a claim on Maple lake, in what afterward became Hudson township, and during the year 1860 the western part of the county also began to take on something of the aspect of settlement. The year before, in 1859, Burbank & Company having established their stage line through this part of the country, a station was established at the point now known as Evansville and Evans, the first mail carrier, after whom the town was named, had put up a little shanty there. In 1860 Mr. Rogers settled there and kept the station and it was not long until others had settled in that part of the county, among those resident in the Evans neighborhood at the time of the Indian outbreak having been the Canfields, the Does, Samuel Thompson, the Perfontaines, the LaBrands, Miner VanLoon, H. Blackwell, Thomas Cowing, J. W. Barr, Robert Ridley, George Bancroft, George Kinkaid and James



Shotwells. By this time roads were beginning to be opened up in addition to the stage line and the old military trail and the Red River trail and there was on all sides an appearance of activity presaging early and populous settlement. Numerous farms were beginning to be developed and the fair lake region comprised in what is now Douglas county gave promise of becoming at once one of the most desirable points of settlement in the western part of the state. More and more frequent were the inquiries at the land office regarding locations in this section and all seemed well with Douglas county, the future apparently being full of promise, when the dread event occurred that proved a set back for all of western Minnesota and on down the fair valley of the Minnesota river, a set back from which Douglas county did not recover for several years, during which the county was practically depopulated, the courageous and hopeful settlers who had come here in the period following 1859 and up to the summer of 1862 having fled in the face of a savage uprising which for a time threatened to sweep before it the force and the authority of the white man in the new state.

The influence of the earlier phases of the Civil War had been little felt this far west, the absence of railroads and telegraph leaving the settlers in practical ignorance of the disastrous struggle then being waged between the states, so much so that the extent of the war had hardly been realized out this way, though several of the settlers had responded to the call to arms and had enlisted in the service of their country against the rebellion of a section. But when the news came in August, 1862, that the Indians had arisen and had declared war on the whites in Minnesota, the dreams of peaceful and undisturbed habitation out here were rudely dashed and the history of Douglas county was set back for three or four years, or until the eventual re-establishment of secure conditions in the wilderness made tenable the return of the settlers who had scattered and fled to more populous points upon the wild cry of alarm that followed the Sioux uprising of 1862. And thus closed the first period of the history of Douglas county, the pioneer period, the period of the first settlement, when the foundations were laid for the noble structure of social, civic, religious and commercial development that later was to be erected here. Of the tragic incidents connected with the Sioux uprising, in its relation to this part of the state, details are set out elsewhere in a chapter devoted to that outbreak; of the resumption of settlement after the uprising had been effectually put down, details also are set out elsewhere in the chapters relating to the organizations of townships and villages, and there is therefore no need to dwell here upon that tragic incident which interrupted the course of empire in Douglas county by driv-

ing the pioneers into retreat or to include in this chapter on the early settlement of the county the details of the establishment of a permanent government hereabout or of the real settlement which came about in due course when the white man came into undisputed possession of this fair region and no longer stood in terror of the relentless fury of the savages. Suffice it to say that there had been established here before the Sioux uprising an outpost of civilization and that on the foundation then laid there has arisen one of the finest and most substantial social structures in all the great state of Minnesota.

#### ECHOES OF PIONEER DAYS.

From a series of letters relating to pioneer days, written by V. D. Nichols, a pioneer of Douglas county, now residing at San Jose, California, and published in the *Brandon Echo* during the summer of 1906, it is pointed out that Douglas county was first settled at Alexandria and at Holmes City in 1858. The country then was a perfect wilderness, the undisputed hunting ground of the Indians, who found much wild game roaming everywhere through the heavy timbers and over the grassy prairie land. One of the early Holmes City settlers killed more than ninety deer in one winter. The chief source of livelihood for those early pioneers was hunting, trapping and fishing. The settlers did not begin to come out here in any very large numbers for some time after the desirability of this region as a place of residence had been demonstrated, the Indian massacre keeping the first stream of immigration out this way from penetrating too far into the wilderness. But with the close of the Civil War and the establishment of a sense of security against Indian depredations, numbers began to prospect for new homes in this section and considerable settlements began to form. In addition to the settlement at Alexandria, already referred to, in 1866, a considerable number of settlers had arrived in the neighborhood of old Chippewa, which had first been settled by Henry Gager in 1861 and which later took its present name of Brandon.

Among the first of these colonists were Hans P. Hanson, Ole Thompson, Haagen Holing and John Thorkelson, who came over from Goodhue county by ox-team, with covered wagons and a few head of cattle. They had heard of the excellent land in this region that could be secured cheaply. Some bought their farms for \$1.25 an acre and others, who bought from speculators, paid from \$2.50 to \$3.50 the acre. Traveling was extremely slow and difficult, as there were practically no roads and a bridge was almost wholly unknown. If they came to a stream, the only way was to plunge

in and get across as best they could. The drivers had to lead their oxen and were therefore compelled to wade along, sometimes waist deep. It might happen that the heavy load, consisting of wife and children and the most essential household goods, would get stuck in mid-stream. Then the only way was to carry the load across to the opposite bank of the river and get the wagon out as best they could. In addition to these difficulties, the mosquitoes were so thick that the travelers could hardly breathe without choking on them and the pests worked a great hardship on cattle.

The parties above mentioned located on the farms on which they established their permanent homes, with the exception of H. P. Hanson, who bought the eighty north of the John A. Olson place, where he at once began to erect a sod hut. Meanwhile, they did their cooking and housekeeping in the covered wagons. Three days after their arrival, Thorston Hanson was born, thus having the distinction of having been the first white child born in the township of Brandon. The hardships and privations these people had to undergo were distressing. The swarms of mosquitoes and flies drove the people and the cattle almost frantic. It had rained almost continuously all summer, so every low place was full of water, an ideal breeding spot for the mosquitoes. The cattle, tormented by the pestilential insects, would stray off through the thick underbrush in the wild woods and in the marshes. The grass was so high as almost to conceal them and to follow them was a most difficult task, to say nothing of the disagreeable work of hunting for them through the tall, stiff and sharp slough grass and thick timber, tormented continually by clouds of mosquitoes.

#### HENRY GAGER'S STAGE STATION.

The first piece of land taken up in the township of Brandon was the place taken by Henry Gager, shortly after or about the time the stage route was opened between St. Cloud and Ft. Abercrombie, on the Red river, near the present city of Breckenridge, this state; Burbank & Waite, who held the mail contract, having induced Gager to enter a tract of land there, open up a farm and keep a stage station for them, other stations established in this section having been those at Osakis, Alexandria, Evansville and Pomme de Terre. Gager opened a farm at Chippewa lake and kept the station until the Indian outbreak in 1862, when he was driven out. There was another settler named Austin, whose house stood where later the school house in district No. 76 was erected. He and some others came back after cattle and Austin was killed by Indians near where the village of Evansville now is

situated. A few weeks later the government had the government mail route open again. Stockades were put up at Alexandria, Chippewa and Pomme de Terre and soldiers were stationed there for defense, and most of the scattered settlers came back.

In 1865 George Freundrich bought the Gager place and in 1866 settlers began coming in, the first settlers in that part of the county making Chippewa City their headquarters. In 1867 came the flood, when the roads, bad enough before, for awhile became impassible. As the nearest place at which the settlers could get flour or other provisions was at St. Cloud, one hundred and four miles away, starvation stared them in the face. Luckily, an ox-train loaded with supplies for one of the frontier forts was wending its way through the county at the time and as it could not proceed, these supplies were sold to the settlers in the vicinity of Chippewa. In 1868 settlers came in briskly and the township was organized under the name of Chippewa Lake. George Cowing put up a store across the road from Richard Peffer's house. Metz & Cotois put up the Peffer building for a store. Joseph Medbery put up a blacksmith shop. A townsite was laid out, the postoffice of Chippewa Lake was established and there became the center of civilization for many miles about. Later the name of the postoffice was changed to Brandon, in further honor to Stephen A. Douglas, in whose honor the county was named, Brandon, Vermont, having been "the Little Giant's" birthplace. Other centers of settlement sprang up and at last, in 1878, came the railroad and New Brandon. Old Brandon went back to a quiet, well-tilled farm. Meantime, Fremndrich sold it out to Peffer, Hoplin and others, Peffer getting the old farm. But none of the old timers ever forgot the "great old times" at Chippewa lake or the many hunting and fishing stories told there.

#### MOSQUITOES IN PIONEER DAYS.

The present generation cannot realize all the hardships the early settlers endured in opening up the land. Of these hardships, the mosquitoes were probably the most difficult to endure. Bad roads, the lack of every convenience of living and such things were expected beforehand and so could be endured, but the little insect pests were almost unendurable. V. D. Nichols recalls that on more than one night no one could get a "wink" of sleep. "The early settlers did not have houses from which the pests could be entirely excluded and I have known them to so swarm in the houses that they would put out the light in a few minutes time, their dead bodies clogging the wick. Out of doors, toward evening, it was almost impossible to breathe on account

of them. A man's clothing would become so covered that he simply would look gray with them. The poor cattle would rush madly through the bushes trying to brush them off and often stray a long way off. I have known grown men to give up and cry from the pain of their bites and the hopelessness of getting any rest from them."

#### BRANDON TOWNSHIP'S FIRST HOMESTEAD.

The first homestead entered in the township of Brandon (old Chippewa Lake), taken up after the Indian outbreak of 1862, was on an entry made by John C. Nichols, while on the same day his cousin, John J. Nichols, entered a neighboring place. Someone had filed on the place in 1862 and had broken about five acres on it, but never returned after the outbreak. The Nichols boys arrived from Wolcottville, Indiana, early in 1866 and were the very first settlers to come into the township after it again began to settle up, the party above referred to as having come from Goodhue county, having come a few months later. After selecting land, it was necessary to go to St. Cloud, one hundred and four miles distant, to locate, as the land office was there at that time, it being some years later that it was moved to Alexandria. St. Cloud also was the point from which all supplies were drawn. John C. Nichols was a member of the first board of supervisors of Brandon township and was supervisor from the time the township was organized in 1868 to 1878, most of the time chairman of the board. He sold out in 1879 and moved to Dakota.

In 1867 Antoine Pelliser entered a tract of eighty acres right north of Baumbach lake and broke twenty acres of the same that same season, the next spring, in March, 1868, selling the farm to Fred von Baumbach, who took up an additional tract adjoining as a homestead and built his first log house where the Nootnagle house later was erected, and farmed the land until his election in 1872 to the office of county auditor, when he moved to Alexandria, where he is still living. In 1876 he sold his farm to Dr. Charles Nootnagle, who two years later gave the place to his sons, Herman and Fred. Mr. von Baumbach was quite a horticulturist and on his place were planted the first fruit trees in Brandon township; or rather there and on the V. D. Nichols place, the two getting one dozen small crab-apple trees and each planted six.

William Kappahahn was one of the first settlers of Millerville township, having arrived there from Northfield on March 8, 1867. At that time there was about three or four feet of snow on the ground and he and another

man who had come up here with government supplies, had to wade through the wet snow. It was beginning to melt and the streams had to be forded. At one place below Alexandria they had to wait two days before the water was low enough for them to undertake the ford. Mr. Kappahahn had been through this country a few years previously with General Sibley's force during the Indian outbreak. One of the worst difficulties he had to contend against after locating was the mosquitoes. The people much of the time during the summers could not work on account of the pests. About four o'clock in the afternoon they had to build smudge fires, to which the cattle would come bellowing. Often the cattle would be so thickly covered with mosquitoes that the settlers had to take a hoe and scrape the insects off.

#### THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSES.

The district school houses of the pioneer period were not so well equipped with blackboards, desks, charts, mechanical appliances and the like as the schools of the present date. The seats were made from heavy boards, with wooden pegs driven into them for legs and the pupils had to make use of their knees in lieu of a desk; and not very many were troubled with curvature of the spine on that account, either.

#### PIONEER REMINISCENCES.

Conditions and modes of life in Douglas county today differ greatly from those of the pioneer days. To those who have lived here from the beginning, the changes have come about so gradually that to a large extent they have escaped notice; and to the younger generation some of the experiences of the early settlers seem like tales from a story book rather than actual occurrences.

For many years the only travel was on foot or with ox-teams and was necessarily slow and monotonous, except on the rare occasions when the "steers" would take it into their heads to run away, and then for a time it was neither slow nor monotonous.

Parts of the county were sparsely settled and even on some of the main roads through the big woods—especially was this true near Alexandria—one could travel for miles without seeing a human habitation or meeting a single person. But the scenery along the roads was magnificent, especially in the autumn, after the foliage had been touched by the early frosts, and the deep red of the high-bush cranberries and the dark blue of the wild

grapes, both of which were plentiful, mingled with the multi-colored leaves of the trees and shrubs.

Perhaps, because of the fact that houses were far apart and travel was slow, the people were sociable and hospitable to a degree, and a house near one of the roads was seldom without one or more guests over night, although the house was very small and the accommodations most scanty.

#### PRIMITIVE WAYS OF AGRICULTURE.

The day of farm machinery had not arrived and for many years, especially on the farms in the timber, the numerous stumps were such serious obstacles to the use of machinery that the latter could not have been used, even if the owner had the means to buy it. The hay was cut with a scythe, cocked by the pitchfork and carried to the stack on poles. To those who are unfamiliar with this operation it may be stated that a cock was a round pile of hay, built quite high and in such a way that it would shed rain, and of such a size that twenty cocks would ordinarily make a ton. In stacking these cocks into large and permanent stacks, two men would provide themselves with two strong poles about ten feet long and pointed at the ends. These poles would be run under the cock of hay about three feet apart, one man would take hold of the ends of these poles on one side of the cock and the other man would do the same on the other side, and the cock would then be lifted and carried to the stack. If the men were strong they would not be content to carry one cock, but would put one on top of another and carry both to the stack at one time.

Wheat and other small grain was cut with a cradle, an implement consisting of a large and long scythe to which was affixed a frame consisting of four "fingers," or prongs, of wood nearly as long as the scythe blade and about eight inches apart. The contrivance bore a remote resemblance to the cradle in which babies were rocked to sleep—hence the name. By means of this cradle the grain would be cut and laid in even swathes that could easily be raked into bundles and bound up. Grain seeders were unknown and the grain was sown broadcast by hand. Corn and potatoes were cultivated entirely by the hand hoe. Wheat was threshed out on the house floor with sticks and flails and thrown across the room to separate the grain from the chaff, but threshing-machines were soon introduced. For many years the threshing-machines were operated by horse power, and usually five teams of horses were used to run a machine.

## EARLY DAYS OF THE RAILROAD.

The first railroad trains that operated in the county were quite different from the present ones. That was the day before steel rails were used and the soft iron rails soon became flattened out even though the locomotives and cars then in use were much lighter than those of the present day. For a number of years wood-burning engines were used and the wood for these engines was cut near the railroad in the winter time, hauled to the track and piled up in ranks generally six feet high. In places these ranks of cordwood, often four or five in number, would extend almost continuously for miles along the track. Then in the summer or fall a crew of five or six men would come along with a circular saw, operated by a steam engine, and saw the cordwood in two, the proper length for use in the engines. This was before the day of the traction steam engine and the saw-rig engine would be pushed by the men from place to place on planks.

When a train came along and wanted fuel it would simply stop anywhere along the right-of-way where some of this sawed cordwood was to be found, the train crew would get off and throw on a sufficient supply of wood and then start on their way rejoicing. It can readily be seen that in those days it took more than four hours to run from Alexandria to St. Paul.

## CONDITIONS IN THE PIONEER SCHOOLS.

Though the country was thinly settled and the pupils not always numerous, schools were very early established everywhere. The buildings were usually constructed of logs and were very small. The school house in district No. 22, where the writer obtained all of his schooling below the high school, was about eighteen feet long by sixteen feet wide, and at times there was an attendance of more than fifty pupils of almost all sizes and ages. Sometimes the teachers were very well educated and again their scholastic qualifications were more or less limited. The writer can very well remember that one of the teachers of this school, in all seriousness, told the pupils that no one had been able to get near the south pole because of the extreme heat which prevailed there. And he inspired the youngsters with much admiration and considerable awe for the knowledge bound up in "Robinson's Common-School Arithmetic" by solemnly stating that only two persons in all the world were far enough advanced in mathematical knowledge to know all that that book contained. One of these was the author of the book and the other the King of England. Presumably this teacher was



even ignorant of the fact that the good Queen Victoria then reigned in England. In those days the attendance at school was mostly in the winter time and if a boy attended school as much as two or three months during the year, it was generally thought that he was preparing himself for the ministry.

#### MADE SHORT WORK OF FROSTBITES.

For many years money was scarce and the settlers had little of it to spend. Overcoats and overshoes were unknown, and frozen toes were very common. However, a home-made remedy consisting of a poultice made from unslacked lime and melted pork made short work of frostbites. In many families whitefish, caught in the nearby lakes in the fall of the year and salted down, was an almost daily article of food.

Although the people were sociable and hospitable, it seemed that quarrels and fights were much more common then than now. And, as the British General Gage remarked about the boys of Boston, the pugnacious and belligerent spirit of their elders was reflected in the youngsters, and if a number of country boys went to Alexandria on a Fourth of July or other holiday, they would expect to have a fight with the city boys before they got back again.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE SIOUX OUTBREAK AND THE OLD STOCKADE.

"There have been many theories advanced to account for the Sioux outbreak of 1862, but they are for the most part superficial and erroneous," declares the Rev. Edward Duffield Neill in his comprehensive "History of Minnesota." Little Crow, in his written communications to Colonel Sibley, explaining the causes which had provoked hostilities on the part of the Indians, makes no allusion to the treaties, but stated that his people had been driven to acts of violence by the suffering brought upon them by the delay in the payment of their annuities, and by the bad treatment they had received from the traders. In fact, nothing has transpired to justify the conclusion that when the bands first assembled at the agency, there was anything more than the usual chronic discontent among them, superinduced by the failure of the government, or its agents, faithfully to carry out the stipulations of the different treaties. During the trial of the prisoners before the military commission every effort was made to elicit evidence bearing upon the outbreak and the motives which actuated the leaders in inaugurating the bloody work. The only inference that can be drawn from all these sources of information is, that the movement was not deliberate and predetermined, but was the result of various concurrent causes, such as the long delay in the payment of the annuities after the Indians were assembled, and an insufficient supply of food in the interim; dissatisfaction with the traders; alleged encroachment of settlers upon the Indian reservation; ill-feeling of the pagan Indians against the missionaries and their converts and the predictions of the medicine-men that the Sioux would defeat the white men in battle and then reoccupy the whole country after clearing it of the whites. Add to these the facts, well known to the Indians, that thousands of young and able-bodied men had been dispatched to aid in suppressing the Southern rebellion and that but a meager force remained to garrison Ft. Ridgely and Ft. Abercrombie, the only military posts in proximity to their country, and it will be perceived that, to savages who held fast to their traditional attachment to the British crown, and were therefore not friendly to the Americans, the temptation to regain their lost possessions must have been strong. It was

fresh in their minds, also, and a frequent subject of comment on their part, that the government had taken no steps to punish Ink-pah-du-tah and his small band, who had committed so many murders and other outrages upon citizens at Spirit Lake in 1857.

#### APPLICATION OF THE TORCH TO THE MAGAZINE.

It is, however, by no means certain that all of these considerations combined would have resulted in open hostilities, save for an occurrence which proved to be the application of the torch to the magazine. Five or six young warriors, wearied of the inaction of a stationary camp life, according to Neill, made an excursion along the outer line of the Big Woods in a northern direction, with the avowed intention of securing the scalp of a Chippewa, if practicable. Being unsuccessful in their search, they retraced their steps to Acton, a small settlement in Meeker county, on August 17, 1862, and through some means they obtained whisky and drank freely. They made a demand for more liquor from a man named Jones and were refused, whereupon the infuriated savages fired upon and killed not only Jones, but two other men, Webster and Baker, and an elderly woman and a young girl. Terrified at their own violence and fearful of the punishment due to their crimes, these savages made their way back to the camp at the Lower Agency, confessed their guilt to their friends and implored protection from the vengeance of the outraged laws. They all belonged to influential and powerful families and when the whole affair had been discussed in solemn conclave in the "Soldiers Lodge" it was determined that the bands should make common cause with the criminals, and the following morning was fixed upon for the extermination of the unsuspecting whites at the agencies and of all the white settlers within reach.

According to Holcombe's history of the outbreak it was about August 12 that twenty Lower Indians went over into the big woods of Meeker and McLeod counties to hunt. Half a dozen of the Rice Creek band were of the party. One of Shakopee's band, named Island Cloud, had business with Capt. George C. Whitcomb, of Forest City, later commander of the stockade at Alexandria, concerning a wagon which the Indian had left with the captain. Reaching the hunting grounds in the southern part of Meeker county, the party divided, Island Cloud and four others proceeding to Forest City and the remainder continuing in the township of Acton. On the morning of August 17 four Rice Creek Indians were passing along the Henderson and Pembina road, in the central part of Acton township. Their names in Eng-

lish were Brown Wing, Breaks Up and Scatters, Ghost That Kills and Crawls Against and none was more than thirty years of age. As these Indians were passing the house and premises of Robinson Jones, four miles south of the present site of Grove City, one of them found some hen's eggs in a fence corner and proceeded to appropriate them. One of his comrades remonstrated against the taking of the eggs, because they belonged to a white man, and a discussion amounting to a quarrel resulted. The Ghost Killer and his three companions went to the Jones house and, according to the statement that Jones presently made to his family, demanded whisky which he declined to give them. Alarmed at their menacing attitude, Jones fled from his house to that of his stepson, Howard Baker, living half a mile north, whither his wife had gone a day or two before and where at the time was staying a young couple, Viranus Webster and wife, Wisconsin folk, who were seeking a homestead in Minnesota. Upon leaving his home Jones left his foster children, Clara D. Wilson, a girl of fifteen, and the latter's baby brother. Walking leisurely, the Indians followed Jones to the Baker house and there, after some apparently friendly parley, shot and killed Jones, Baker, Webster and Mrs. Jones, after which they returned to the Jones house and shot Clara Wilson through the heart, but did not molest the infant. Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Webster made their way to the home of the nearest settler and the neighborhood was aroused, the word of the murders being passed on to all the adjoining settlements.

#### THE HISTORIAN'S CONCLUSION.

Holcombe concludes that "all of the attendant circumstances prove that the murder of the five persons at Acton was not concocted by any other Indians than the four that did the deed, and that they had no accessories before or after the fact. It was not perpetrated because of dissatisfaction at the delay in the payment, nor because there were to be soldiers at the pay table; it was not occasioned by the sale of the ten-mile strip of the reservation, nor because so many white men had left Minnesota and gone into the Union army. It was not the result of the councils of the soldiers' lodge, nor of any other Indian plot. The twenty or more Indians who left Rice Creek on August 12 for the hunt did not intend to kill white people; if they had so intended, Island Cloud and all the rest would have been present at and have participated in the murders at Baker's and Jones', and carried off much portable property, including horses. The trouble started as has been stated—from finding a few eggs in a white man's fence corner."

About six o'clock on the morning of the next day, August 18, 1862, according to Neill's account, a large number of Sioux warriors, armed and in their war paint, assembled about the buildings at the Lower Agency. It had been rumored purposely in advance that a war-party was to take the field against the Chippewas, but no sooner had the Indians assumed their several positions, according to the program, than an onslaught was made indiscriminately upon the whites, and with the exception of two or three men who concealed themselves, and a few of the women and children who were kept as captives, no whites escaped destruction but George H. Spencer, who although twice seriously wounded, was saved from instant death by the heroic intervention of his Indian comrade, Wak-ke-an-da-tah, or "Red Lightning." A number of persons also were slain at the Upper Agency, but through the agency of "Other Day," a Christian Indian, the missionaries, the Rev. Stephen R. Riggs and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Williamson and their families and others, numbering in all about sixty persons, were saved, the party being conducted safely through the Indian country to the white settlements.

#### EVERY FRONTIER DWELLING A CHARNEL HOUSE.

The massacre of the people, the pillage of stores and dwellings, and the destruction of the buildings having been consummated, parties were dispatched to fall upon the settlers on farms and in villages along the entire frontier, extending nearly two hundred miles. The scenes of horror consequent upon the general onslaught can better be imagined than described. Fortunate, comparatively speaking, was the lot of those who were doomed to instant death, and thus spared the agonies of lingering tortures and the superadded anguish of witnessing outrages upon the persons of those nearest and dearest to them. The fiends of hell could not invent more fearful atrocities than were perpetrated by the savages upon their victims. The bullet, the tomahawk and the scalping-knife spared neither age nor sex, the only prisoners taken being the young and comely women, to minister to the brutal lusts of their captors, and a few children. In the short space of thirty-six hours, as nearly as could be computed, eight hundred whites were cruelly slain. Almost every dwelling house along the extreme frontier was a charnel house, containing the dying or the dead. In many cases the torch was applied and maimed and crippled sufferers, unable to escape, were consumed with their habitations. The alarm was communicated by refugees to the adjacent settlements, and soon the roads leading east and to the pro-

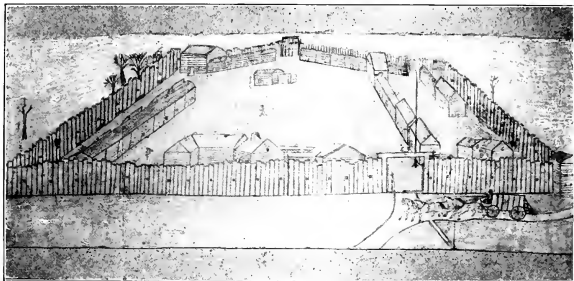
tected centers were crowded by thousands of men, women and children, in the wild confusion of sudden flight.

After accomplishing their mission of death the savages assembled in force and attempt to take Ft. Ridgely by a *coup de main*. In this they were foiled by the vigilance and determination of the garrison, aided by volunteers who had escaped from the surrounding settlements. The attack was continued for several days, but without success. The town of New Ulm also was assailed by a strong force of the savages, but was gallantly defended by volunteers from the neighboring counties, under the command of Col. C. H. Flandrau. Captain Dodd, an old and prominent citizen of St. Peter, was among the killed at this latter point. Ft. Abercrombie, on the Red river, also suffered a long and tedious siege by the bands of Sioux from the Lac qui Parle country, until relieved by a force dispatched by Governor Ramsey from St. Paul.

#### SUPPRESSION OF THE SIOUX.

The first advices of the outbreak reached the state capital on the day succeeding the massacre at the Lower Agency. Instant preparations were made by Governor Ramsey to arrest the progress of the savages. At his personal solicitation, Henry H. Sibley, a resident of Mendota, whose long and intimate acquaintance with Indian character and habits was supposed to render him peculiarly fitted for the position, consented to take charge of military operations. He accordingly was commissioned by the governor, colonel commanding, and upon him in person devolved the conduct of the campaign.

Unfortunately, the state of Minnesota was lamentably deficient in the means and appliances requisite to carry on successfully a war of the formidable character which this threatened to assume. The Sioux allied bands could bring into the field from eight hundred to one thousand warriors, and they might be indefinitely reinforced by the powerful divisions of the prairie Sioux. Those actually engaged in hostilities were good marksmen, splendidly armed, and abundantly supplied with ammunition. They had been victorious in several encounters with detachments of troops, and had overwhelming confidence in their own skill. On the other hand, the state had already dispatched five thousand, more or less, of her choicest young men to the South, her arsenal was stripped of all the arms that were effective, and there was little ammunition on hand, and no rations. There was no government transportation to be had and the prospect was not by any means favorable. Governor Ramsey, notwithstanding, acted with promptness and



OLD STOCKADE AT ALEXANDRIA. FROM A CRAYON DRAWING MADE IN 1862, DURING THE DAYS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY THERE.



U. S. LAND OFFICE—KNUTE NELSON IN DOORWAY.





vigor. He telegraphed for arms and ammunition to the war department and to the governors of adjoining states. He authorized also the appropriation for the public use of the teams belonging to individual citizens, and adopted such other measures as the emergency demanded.

There were at Ft. Snelling, happily, the nuclei of regiments that had been called into service. Colonel Sibley left Ft. Snelling with four hundred men of the Sixth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, early on the morning of August 20. Upon an inspection of the arms and cartridges furnished, it was found that the former comprised worthless Austrian rifles, and the ammunition was for guns of a larger and different calibre. The command was detained several days at St. Peter, engaged in swedging the balls so as to fit the arms and in preparing canister-shot for the six-pounders. Meantime arms of a better quality were received, reinforcements of troops arrived and the column took up the line of march for Ft. Ridgley, which was reached without interruption, and the troops went into camp a short distance from the post, to await the reception of rations and to make the final preparations for an advance upon the hostile Indians, who had drawn in their detached parties and were concentrating for a decisive battle.

#### BATTLES OF BIRCH COOLIE AND WOOD LAKE.

Scouts were dispatched to ascertain the location of the main Indian camp, and upon their return they reported no Indians below Yellow Medicine river. A burial party of twenty men, under the escort of one company of infantry and the available mounted force, in all about two hundred men, under the command of Major J. R. Brown, was detailed to proceed and inter the remains of the slain at the Lower Agency and at other points in the vicinity. The duty was performed, fifty-four bodies buried, and the detachment was en route to the settlements on Beaver river and had encamped for the night near Birch Coolie, a long and wooded ravine debouching into the Minnesota river, when, about dawn the following morning, the camp was attacked by a large force of Indians, twenty-five men killed or mortally wounded and nearly all the horses, ninety in number, shot down. Providentially, the volleys of musketry were heard at the main camp, although eighteen miles distant, and Colonel Sibley marched to the relief of the beleaguered detachment, drove off the Indians, buried the dead, and the weary column then retraced its steps to the camp.

The period spent in awaiting necessary supplies of provisions was made

useful in drilling the men and bringing them under discipline. So soon as ten days' rations had been accumulated, Colonel Sibley marched in search of the savages, and on September 23, 1862, was fought the severe and decisive battle of Wood Lake. The action was commenced by the Indians and was bravely contested by them for more than two hours, when they gave way at all points and sent in a flag of truce, asking permission to remove their dead and wounded, which was refused. A message was sent back to Little Crow, the leader of the hostile Indians, to the effect that if any of the white prisoners held by him received injury at the hands of the savages, no mercy would be shown the latter, but that they would be pursued and destroyed without regard to age or sex.

The success at Wood Lake was not achieved without serious loss. Two officers were severely wounded and nearly forty non-commissioned officers and privates were killed or wounded. The loss of the enemy was much greater, a half-breed prisoner stating it at thirty killed and a larger number wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall and Major Bradley, of the Seventh Regiment, distinguished themselves, the former leading a charge of five companies of his own and two companies of the Sixth Regiment, which cleared a ravine of the enemy, where they had obtained shelter. Lieutenant-Colonel Averill and Major McLaren, of the Sixth Regiment, also performed signal service, as did all the officers and men of both regiments. The Third Regiment, composed of fractions of six companies, fought gallantly, having for a time, in conjunction with the Renville Rangers, borne the brunt of the fight, and their loss was great in proportion.

#### PITIFUL SCENES AT CAMP RELEASE.

One of the main objects of the campaign, the deliverance of the white captives, was yet to be accomplished, and required the exercise of much judgment and caution. There was good reason to fear that, in the exasperation of defeat, the helpless prisoners might fall victims to the savages. Colonel Sibley, therefore, delayed his march towards the great Indian camp until the second day after the battle, to allow time to the friendly element to strengthen itself and to avoid driving the hostile Indians into desperate measures against their prisoners. On the 25th of September, the column, with drums beating and colors flying, filed past the Indian encampment and formed camp within a few hundred yards of it, on the heights overlooking the junction of the Chippewa and the Minnesota rivers, at a point about two miles southwest of the present city of Montevideo. Colonel Sibley, with his staff

and field officers, then proceeded to the lodges of the Indians and directed that all the captives should be delivered up to him, which was forthwith done; a sight thus being presented that sufficed to suffuse the eyes of strong men with tears. Young and beautiful women, who had for weeks endured the extremity of outrage from their brutal captors, followed by a crowd of children of all ages, came forth from the lodges, hardly realizing that the day of their deliverance had arrived. Convulsive sobbing was heard on every side and the poor creatures clung to the men who had come to their relief, as if they feared that some savage would drag them away. They were all escorted tenderly to the tents prepared for their reception and made as comfortable as circumstances would admit. The number of pure whites thus released amounted to about one hundred and fifty, including one man only, George H. Spencer, whose preservation by "Red Lightning" has been noted above. Mr. Spencer expressed his gratitude to Colonel Sibley that the latter had not made a forced march upon the camp after the battle, stating emphatically that if such a course had been pursued, it was the determination of the hostile Indians to cut the throats of the captives and then disperse to the prairies. There were delivered also nearly two hundred and fifty half-breeds, who had been held as prisoners.

#### PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY.

Two of the principal objects of the campaign, the defeat of the savages and the release of the captives, having thus been consummated, there remained but to punish the guilty. Many of these, with Little Crow, had made their escape and could not be overtaken, but some of the small camps of refugees were surrounded and their inmates brought back. The locality where these events transpired was appropriately called Camp Release and the spot has been marked by a grateful state by the erection of a beautiful granite shaft, suitably inscribed, commemorating the deeds of Colonel Sibley's relief expedition and the release of the captives.

At the proper time the Indian camp was surrounded by a cordon of troops and four hundred of the warriors were arrested, chained together in pairs, and placed in an enclosure of logs made by the troops, under strong guard. Others who were known to be innocent were not interfered with. Colonel Sibley constituted a military commission, with Colonel Crooks, commanding the Sixth Regiment, as president, for the trial of the prisoners. A fair and impartial hearing was accorded to each and the result was the finding of three hundred and three guilty of participation in the murder of the

whites, and the sentence of death by hanging was passed upon them. Others were convicted of robbery and pillage and condemned to various terms of imprisonment, and a few were acquitted. The witnesses were composed of the released captives, including mixed bloods, and of Christian Indians, who had refused to join Little Crow in the war.

The preparations for the execution of the guilty Indians were brought to a summary close by an order from President Lincoln prohibiting the hanging of any of the convicted men without his previous sanction, sentimental persons in the East having demanded of the President a review of the proceeding of the military court. The people of the state were highly indignant at this suspension and an energetic protest was made by their senators and representatives in Washington. Finally, after much delay, Colonel Sibley was directed to carry out the sentence of the commission in certain cases specified, and on December 26, 1862, thirty-eight of the criminals were executed accordingly at Mankato, on the same scaffold, under the direction of Colonel Miller, commanding that post. The remainder of the condemned were sent to Davenport, Iowa, early in the spring, where they were kept in confinement for more than a year, a large number dying of disease in the meantime. Those that remained eventually were dispatched to a reservation on the Upper Missouri, where the large number of prisoners taken by Colonel Sibley, principally women and children, had already been placed.

#### EFFECT OF THE UPRISING IN DOUGLAS COUNTY.

When the stage brought the news to the Alexandria settlement during those fateful days in August, 1862, that the Indians were collecting and putting on the war paint at the Yellow Medicine agency, much alarm was created in the hamlet and throughout the county, for trouble had been feared for some time, and the settlers were warned to flee if they desired safety. When the stage driver brought the news of the uprising all the settlers in the vicinity of Alexandria congregated on the town site and held a "council of war." After some discussion of the news it was decided that the alarm must be a hoax and the farmers were advised to return to their fields, which they did. Four days later a messenger from Governor Ramsey reached this part of the state, driving post haste, distributing arms and ammunition and commanding the settlers to gather together, or rendezvous, and arm themselves for safety. At Alexandria a few muskets and some ammunition were left with J. H. Van Dyke for distribution and all the settlers that could be reached were notified to arm or prepare for flight. On that same day prac-

tically all the settlers in the community assembled at Alexandria and it was then and there decided that the women and children should at once be taken to Sauk Center or St. Cloud for safety, and the party lost no time in setting out, all save their most valuable personal possessions being left behind. At the same time the settlers in the several vicinities of Holmes City, Chippewa (Brandon) and Evansville and the few who had gathered in the vicinity of Osakis—who had not already gone, got together and all left, most of them going to Sauk Center or St. Cloud, while others scattered in various directions, it being said that but two of the settlers remained in the county, Andreas Darling and N. P. Barnes. They conveyed their families to places of safety, but returned straightway and remained on their farms, undisturbed.

When the first squad of refugees from this section arrived at Sauk Center a consultation was held and it was decided that the men should return to their farms and attend to their crops. Accordingly, within a few days, they were on their way back, most of them being armed with some kind of a weapon, among those who returned at that time being recalled the names of Messrs Dicken, Barr, Redman, Darling, Barnes, Shotwell, Cowing, Canfield, Thompson, Ridley, Gager, Austin, Lewis, Rogers and several young men. Upon their arrival at Alexandria the party found everything just as it had been left, even the tables set as they were when the affrighted settlers had fled.

#### TRAGIC EVENT CREATES FRESH ALARM.

Upon finding things at the settlement undisturbed, the party separated, the settlers leaving for their respective farms. A number started for the Chippewa settlement where Henry Gager's claim was located and when that place was reached eight or ten of the party, including Andrew Austin and Ben Lewis started for Evansville to see about Rogers's property and to learn whether the Indians had burned the house. Andrew Austin and Ben Lewis were riding ponies and had proceeded on quite a distance in advance of the remainder of the party who were riding in a wagon. On the way Austin and Lewis shot a hawk and stuck the feathers in their hats. When but a short distance from their destination they were surprised by a band of about forty Indians, who sprang up from their ambush along the trail and surrounded the two, firing upon them at close range. The party in the wagon was far to the rear and unable to render aid to the entrapped horsemen; and, indeed, it would have been a mark of foolhardiness for the small party to have attempted succor in the face of the overwhelming odds presented by the much superior band of redskins.

At the first volley, Austin was seen to reel from his horse, while Lewis headed toward the south, escaping the bullets of the savages, his nimble-footed pony quickly putting a safe distance between him and his red foe, and was soon out of sight—never to be heard of again in this community. In a moment the Indians had gathered about the prostrate form of Austin and those in the wagon straightway wheeled about and beat a precipitate retreat to the point where they had left the rest of the party. There they waited for a time, prepared to resist to the death the expected attack, but as none came they presently all set out on the return to Sauk Center, abandoning their previous design of remaining on the farms which they had left at the first alarm. Through the haste of getting away a gun was accidentally discharged, the contents entering the back of a girl who had accompanied the party. At Sauk Center medical aid was secured and she eventually recovered. The body of the ill-fated Andrew Austin remained where it fell for several weeks, a squad of soldiers that had been dispatched to this part of the state then giving it proper burial, a coffin for that purpose being obtained at Alexandria. The soldiers found that the savages had cut off Austin's head and one of his hands and then had cut out his heart.

#### THE OLD STOCKADE AT ALEXANDRIA.

After the terrible event above related none of the settlers returned to Douglas county until after the soldiers were sent to this section, which was not until the latter part of October or early in November, and Alexandria was created a government post. The first company detailed to that post was Company B, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, under Captain Joshlin, who had quarters erected for his command at a point near the original Kinkaid log cabin, the first house erected in the county, about a square south of the present railway station of the Great Northern Railroad Company. About two months later Captain Joshlin's command was relieved by Company K, Eighth Minnesota, under command of Captain Rockwood, who caused to be erected, as quarters for his command and as a means of greater security to the settlers hereabout, the famous old stockade, which for some years was the center of social and commercial activity for this whole region. The old stockade was of the familiar form of construction of such structures, generally, erected with a view to stability and security against assault, the walls being constructed of logs set endways into the ground, the enclosure being about ten rods square. It was erected on the hill near the Van Dyke Store, just south of the present freight depot of the Great Northern Railroad Company, and

the building of it in the period of mid-winter was quite a task for the soldiers and settlers thus engaged. Upon the completion of the stockade practically all the settlers who had returned to the vicinity of Alexandria moved into the same, J. H. Van Dyke even moving his store inside, all thus acquiring a greater sense of security against possible further marauding bands of savages, and thus the situation remained at the settlement until the Indian excitement had wholly subsided, further fears of an uprising being pretty generally at an end before the close of another year, after which there was little excitement over the Indians, although it is recalled that as late as 1873 there was a "scare" throughout this part of the state, vague rumors of an Indian uprising driving not a few of the settlers in the sparsely populated districts to more populous centers and causing all to take effective precautionary measures such as the molding of bullets and seeing to it that effective bolts were placed on houses, but that rumor seemed to be a "false alarm," as there was found to be no foundation for it whatever.

The troops remained at the old stockade until the spring of 1866, by which time a sufficient number of settlers had returned to Douglas county, or new ones had come in to take the places of those who had fled during the uprising, to pave the way for the re-establishment of a formal local government again, Douglas county being officially and permanently reorganized in the spring of 1866, as set out elsewhere. During the time the troops remained at the stockade there generally was about half a company stationed there. Captain Grosvener, with a company of Hatch's battalion, succeeded Captain Rockwood and he in turn was succeeded by Capt. G. C. Whitcomb, who remained in charge until the post was discontinued and the soldiers discharged in the spring of 1866. In the meantime, the Civil War had been going on and in this great struggle Douglas county nobly performed her part in raising men, her quota being furnished without the painful necessity of resorting to the draft. After it was discontinued the stockade fell into disuse, its timbers were found useful for other building purposes and it long since has been a matter of memory only; but among the old settlers the memories that cluster around it are imperishable—some sad, some gay, but all linked with that early period that witnessed the permanent establishment of a definite social order hereabout, a process in which the old stockade played no small part, the security the presence of the soldiers there gave to the settlers having been a very pronounced factor in the restoration of civic conditions after the setback occasioned by the dread rising of the Sioux in the summer of 1862.

## CHAPTER VI.

### ORGANIZATION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.

For some time after Douglas county was first set apart by the state Legislature it was attached to Stearns county for civil and judicial purposes. In 1859 a move was started to establish Douglas as an independent county. P. L. Gregory was the prime mover, and an election was held—the first in the county—at Gregory's hotel. Some of the settlers were opposed to the project, and only a few voted. It was, therefore, given up, as the election was held without authority and was illegal. At the session of the state Legislature in 1858-1859 a bill was passed authorizing the organization of Douglas county for certain purposes, and the Governor appointed J. H. Van Dyke, S. B. Cowdry and A. Darling, as the first board of county commissioners. The board met at the store of Mr. Van Dyke, at Alexandria, and appointed the following county officers: Alexander Kinkaid, register of deeds; J. A. James, sheriff, and P. L. Gregory, judge of probate. This organization was kept up until the Indian outbreak in 1862, when it was abandoned and all records which had been made were lost. Nothing further was done with official matters until 1866, when the county was permanently organized.

Douglas county was established with its present boundaries by act of the Legislature in 1866, when it was ordered that "The county of Douglas is established and bounded as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of township 130 north, range 36 west from the fifth principal meridian; thence west on the line between townships 130 and 131, to the northwest corner of township 130, of range 40; thence south on the line between ranges 40 and 41, to the southwest corner of township 127, of range 40; thence east on the line between townships 126 and 127, to the southeast corner of township 127, of range 36; thence north on the line between ranges 35 and 36, to the place of beginning."

#### FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD.

In the spring of 1866 the governor appointed a new board of commissioners to organize the county, consisting of the following: J. H. Van Dyke,



James F. Dicken and Donald Stevison. This board held its first meeting on June 15, 1866, at Alexandria, which village, on account of its being the principal settlement and located near the center of the county, had been designated as the county seat. Mr. Van Dyke was chosen chairman of the county board which then proceeded to appoint the following officers: J. Mont Smyth, auditor; Charles Cook, judge of probate; J. Mont Smyth, register of deeds; Thomas F. Cowing, sheriff; J. Mont Smyth, clerk of the court; William Shaw, attorney; T. W. Moore, surveyor; Thomas F. Cowing, treasurer; Robert Wyman, coroner.

At this first meeting of the county board two townships were established, Osakis and Alexandria. Osakis township consisted of congressional townships 127 and 128, range 36, and Alexandria township included all the balance of the county. The board appointed the first officers for Osakis township as follows: William Shaw, clerk; J. Maguire, treasurer; T. M. Works, assessor; William Shaw and Roland Sanderson, justices; Thomas Adams and Charles Gilbert, constables. The first officers appointed for Alexandria township were: J. Mont Smyth, clerk; H. S. Rutherford, treasurer; T. W. Sprague, assessor; George Cowing and N. B. Johnson, justices; John Johnson and Henry Blackwell, constables.

At the second meeting of the board of county commissioners, held at Alexandria on October 4, 1866, a petition having been presented from the legal voters in that territory, congressional townships 127 and 128, ranges 39 and 40, were set apart as a separate civil township, to be known as Holmes City township. The board appointed the following judges and clerks of the election to be held there: Henry Blackwell, N. B. Johnson and Nels Nickelson, judges; T. W. Sprague and Noah Grant, clerks.

#### EVOLUTION OF COUNTY BUILDINGS.

When Douglas county was organized there was a provision in the laws of the state allowing county officers, in counties where there was no court house, to keep their offices at their homes. For some months this plan was followed by the first officers of Douglas county. At a meeting of the county board held on January 1, 1867, Commissioner Dicken made a motion, which was formally adopted, that "The county auditor be instructed to procure an office, furnish the same with stove and the necessary furniture, including a desk for the safe-keeping of books and papers, and also to furnish said office with fuel, all of which at the expense of the county; also to procure a suitable desk for the clerk of the district court."

On February 2, 1867, the board voted to issue county order No. 1 for twenty-five dollars, to J. H. Van Dyke, to pay for seals for the clerk of the court and the register of deeds. At that same meeting the board issued county order No. 2 for four hundred dollars, to W. E. Hicks, J. H. Bondy and Thomas F. Cowing, for county books.

In the spring of 1867 W. E. Hicks and Thomas F. Cowing erected a frame building on lot 10, block 59, in the original plat of the village of Alexandria, where N. P. Ward's store now stands. It was a two-story structure, having four rooms and an entry on the first floor and one large room on the second floor. On March 30, 1867, the county commissioners voted to pay Hicks and Cowing two hundred and fifty dollars per annum for the use of this building for county offices, the room on the second floor to be used only when required for holding court, possession to be given on June 1, 1867.

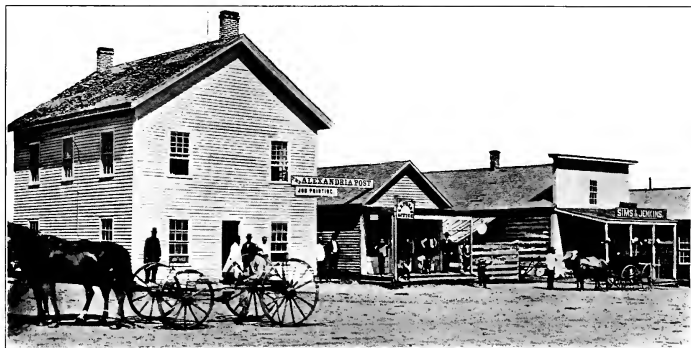
The county officers established themselves in the building on Main street in the fall of 1867. Furniture, stoves and fuel were provided and all the county business was for a time transacted there. On September 4, 1867, James Troag was paid fifty-five dollars for a fine hand-made desk for the use of the clerk of the court. At that time none of the county officers devoted all their time to the county duties but had private business which required attention. Anyone having in hand a matter which required the attention of a county official would first find the officer at his place of business, when they would repair to the building used as a court house and give the matter official consideration. On account of the small amount of county business to be attended to at that time, the early officials soon found that this plan seriously interfered with their private affairs and secured permission from the county board to take their books and papers to their respective stores and offices in the village of Alexandria.

On December 30, 1868, the county auditor was instructed to lease the southeast corner room in the court house to J. H. Van Dyke for six months, with the privilege of using the room for the county treasurer when necessary, Mr. Van Dyke to pay at the rate of \$33.33 per year, quarterly in advance. At the same time the northeast corner room was rented to Lewis Lewiston, register of the United States land office, at the rate of \$66.66 per year. On January 6, 1869, the register of deeds was allowed to remove his books from the court house to his office, and on March 9, that same year, the county auditor removed his books to his store. On June 22, 1869, the southwest corner room, occupied by John S. Mower, superintendent of schools, was rented to Mr. Mower for his use as a lawyer's office, the court commissioner



FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN 1876.

Where C. O. Peterson's drug store now stands, in 1876 Bob Walker had his blacksmith shop. The next building was the home of the First National Bank of Alexandria.



THE OLD COURT HOUSE.

From a photograph taken in 1876, the site now being occupied by N. P. Wardstone. The little building was used by James Walker, as a jewelry store, express office, postoffice and office of the clerk of courts. The next building was the log store erected by William E. Hicks.



and sheriff to use the room when needed. The same room was rented to John S. Randolph on September 7, 1869. The northwest corner room was rented to W. F. Ball for nine dollars per month.

#### FIRST COURT HOUSE OWNED BY THE COUNTY.

The little frame building on Main street continued to be used more or less exclusively for public business for nine years, but very early the county fathers realized that in time the county would need a real court house, and with wise foresight began negotiations for ground for a public building. On May 26, 1871, the board conferred with W. E. Hicks to secure a piece of land in the townsite of Alexandria for a public square on which to erect county buildings. Mr. Hicks agreed to give the county a bond for a deed if the commissioners, on behalf of the county, would bind themselves to commence the erection of county buildings within three years and complete them in six years. The commissioners were unable to give any such assurance and the project was abandoned for the time being.

On March 27, 1875, Theresa T. Hicks, widow of W. E. Hicks, agreed to give the county a bond for a deed to block 34, in the original townsite of Alexandria, if the county would erect a court house costing not less than \$10,000 on or before January 1, 1880. This amount was decided to be more than the county could afford for a building and Mrs. Hicks was persuaded to give the land to the county on condition that a court house costing not less than three thousand five hundred dollars would be built before January 1, 1878. The county commissioners at that time were A. H. Taylor, K. C. Rustad, Robert Angus, Ole Amundson and M. J. Gordon. On April 6, 1876, they accepted the plans of J. N. Herder, for a building forty by fifty-four feet. The contract was awarded to Raymond & Owen, of St. Cloud, who agreed to build the court house for three thousand four hundred and forty-seven dollars.

J. N. Herder, L. K. Aaker and A. J. Arnes were appointed as a committee to superintend the construction of the building. This court house was completed and accepted on August 15, 1876. It was a two-story frame building, with five office rooms on the first floor and a court room up-stairs. A fire-proof vault, nine by twelve feet, was built at the rear of the court house, by Stephen King, at a cost of six hundred and seventy dollars. When the officials moved into this building in the fall of 1876 the county business had increased to such an extent that the principal officers devoted all their time to their official duties. For almost twenty years this building served

for county purposes, when it was replaced by a modern structure which provided not only larger working space, but what was even more important, safety vaults for the storage of the many valuable records of the county.

#### PRESENT COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

Back in the eighties when Theodore Bordsen was a county auditor he was largely instrumental in establishing a fund for a new court house. This fund accumulated through the years and finally grew to sufficient proportions to enable the county to erect a new building without issuing a single dollar's worth of bonds. On July 11, 1893, the board of county commissioners appointed a committee consisting of Fred von Baumbach, L. J. Brown, James H. White, John B. Cowing and James Quinn, to procure and select plans and specifications for a new court house. The plans of Buechner & Jacobson were accepted on October 10, 1893, and on January 3, 1894, the general contract was awarded to Hinckley & Powers, who agreed to put the building under roof during 1894, for \$26,037.43. Many of the common brick for this building were furnished by parties in this county, namely: J. A. McKay, of Alexandria; Norton & Berg, of Evansville, and Gilbert Bracken, of Ida. The facing brick were brought from St. Paul.

Auditor Fred von Baumbach and Commissioner James H. White were appointed as a committee to superintend the construction of the building. At the time this new court house was erected the county was suffering from a serious industrial depression; cost of material and labor was at a low figure and easily secured, and it was principally for this reason that Douglas county was able to erect her present handsome court house, including heating, lighting, plumbing and vault fixtures, for the sum of \$35,000.

The building was completed and accepted in the fall of 1895. It is a two-story brick structure, the facing being of pressed brick and the trimmings of Kasota sandstone. There are eight offices on the first floor and five offices and the court room on the second floor. Fire-proof vaults are provided for the safe storage of official records. A basement extends under the entire building, providing space for the heating system, work shop and storage.

#### FIRST COUNTY JAIL.

On June 27, 1867, the board of county commissioners voted to authorize the county attorney and George B. Cowing to fit up a suitable building to be used as a county jail. On January, 1868, the county auditor was instructed

to ask Charles A. Gilman, then the state senator from this district, to procure the passage of an act authorizing the county to issue bonds for the purpose of building a jail. However, nothing definite resulted from these various projects, and for about two years after the organization of the county prisoners were detained wherever the sheriff saw fit. On May 30, 1868, a committee consisting of F. B. Van Hosen, J. H. Van Dyke and George C. Whitcomb was appointed to get proposals and make an estimate on the cost of building a jail twelve by fourteen feet, to be built of oak timber, with walls, floor and ceiling six inches thick. The contract for a building of that description was let on June 30, 1868, and it was completed in September, of that year, at a cost of three hundred and fifty dollars.

This first jail building was located on the rear of the lot back of the court house on Main street. Some slight alterations and improvements were made to it at various times, but it was never more than the old-fashioned "calaboose" common in those days. After the county officials had moved to the new frame court house in 1876, the little oak jail was sold to R. Wegener for twenty-five dollars.

#### BRICK JAIL BUILT ON THE COUNTY GROUNDS.

Plans for a new brick jail drawn by H. L. Sage were accepted by the county board on February 3, 1880. Bids were received on February, 1880, and the lowest was that of J. N. Herder, who offered to put up the building for \$8,640. As this was more than the county could afford to spend for a jail all bids were rejected and the board advertised for plans of a jail of eight cells to cost more than \$6,000. New plans of H. L. Sage were accepted and the building contract was awarded to John Aiton for \$6,250.

This brick jail was built due east of the frame court house, twenty-five feet west of E street. Surveyor John Abercrombie determined the proper grade. After the construction was started the contractor was allowed two hundred dollars extra to make the wall one foot higher all around. The building was completed in the fall of 1880, and accepted by the county, but it was not long, however, until the county officials realized that it was a very unsatisfactory jail building. It was mostly underground, dark and damp, and while it probably would have been considered a very proper prison in the Middle Ages, it did not meet the humanitarian ideals of the present day.

After it had been made to serve as a county jail for a number of years the county grand juries began to condemn it as an unfit place in which to confine prisoners. The building was dark, damp and unhealthful, afforded

no proper accommodation for female prisoners, was dangerous in case of fire and too small for the county needs. In 1899 the state board of corrections and charities finally and formally condemned the jail, and on July 18, 1899, the board of county commissioners voted to erect a new jail and sheriff's residence. The board at that time consisted of Anton H. Strom, John F. Landeen, J. H. White, Michael Hickey and Roland Bentson.

#### PRESENT JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE.

On February 9, 1900, the county board accepted plans for a new jail which had been approved by the state board of corrections and charities, and on March 22, 1900, the contract for its erection was let to Aiton Brothers, for \$8,916. The contractor was to pay \$400 for the material in the old jail and remove the same from the court house grounds. The contract for heating and ventilating was awarded to T. M. Maguire, for \$930; the contract for the plumbing was given to John M. Bailey, for \$620, and the steel cell work to the Diebold Safe and Lock Company, for \$4,280. The building was completed and accepted by the county on December 3, 1900.

It is a two-story brick building, with sandstone trimmings, of architectural design to harmonize with the court house, and stands a short distance southeast of the last mentioned building. Comfortable quarters for the sheriff and family are provided in the front part of the building, and ample provision is made in the rear for the accommodation of the few persons in Douglas county who need be detained under law. The building has every modern convenience.

#### POPULATION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.

The population of Douglas county in 1910, according to the Federal census report, was 17,669, of which number 4,619 were foreign born, divided among the principal foreign countries as follows: Sweden, 1,998; Norway, 960; Germany, 753; Austria, 244; Denmark, 230; Canada, 116; Finland, 86; all other countries, 232. While the different nationalities of the foreign born population are largely separated into distinct communities they are all enthusiastic patriots for the land of their adoption. The population for three decades is set out in the following table:

	1910.	1900.	1890.
Alexandria city .....	3,001	2,681	2,118
Alexandria township .....	678	672	470
Belle River township.....	719	892	711
Brandon township .....	632	675	570



	1910	1900	1890
Brandon village .....	276	272	225
Carlos township .....	557	507	435
Carlos village .....	167	---	---
Evansville township .....	474	589	580
Evansville village .....	389	483	452
Forada village .....	66	---	---
Garfield village .....	160	---	---
Holmes City township.....	682	761	746
Hudson township .....	492	561	509
Ida township .....	729	910	746
Kensington village .....	244	207	---
La Grand township .....	850	859	545
Lake Mary township .....	610	709	506
Leaf Valley township .....	674	672	614
Lund township .....	634	687	627
Millerville township .....	552	600	673
Millerville village .....	150	---	---
Miltona township .....	417	399	228
Moe township .....	689	763	672
Nelson village .....	157	---	---
Orange township .....	418	456	343
Osakis township .....	623	703	479
Osakis village .....	924	815	472
Solem township .....	590	622	714
Spruce Hill township .....	602	673	530
Urness township .....	513	616	641
Total .....	17,689	17,964	14,696

## NATURALIZATION RECORDS.

A large majority of the settlers of this county who came here from abroad have become naturalized citizens of this county by due process of law. The first step in naturalization is for the applicant to make declaration of his intention to become a citizen of this country, and is known as taking out the first papers. The first person to apply for first papers in Douglas county was John Nelson, from Sweden, who appeared before county clerk J. H. Van Dyke on February 28, 1867. The second was Thurston Severson, on March 4, 1867. Halvor Halvorson, from Norway, also came on the same day. The fourth man was Thomas Oatmason, on March 15, 1867, and the fifth was Erick Peherson Eng., on March 20, 1867. In 1867 there were 97 applicants for first papers, of whom 59 were from Denmark; 3 from Austria, and 1 from France.

The first applicant for second papers, or final proof of citizenship, in Douglas county, was Henry Blackwell, a native of England, who appeared

before county clerk F. B. Van Hoesen on October 5, 1870. Mr. Blackwell had taken out his first papers in Meeker county. The second applicant was Peter Stranstrup, on October 5, 1870, who presented an honorable discharge showing he had served three years in the Union army during the Civil War. The third name on the records is that of Ole Brandon, who also appeared on October 5, 1870, and also presented an honorable discharge showing three years' service in the Union army. The fourth man was Thomas F. Cowing, a native of England, who had made his declaration of intentions in Dane county, Wisconsin, and secured his final proof of citizenship on October 6, 1870. On that same day Thurston Halvorson, a native of Norway, applied for his second papers, having taken out his first papers in Stevens county.

In 1870 and 1871 there were 95 applicants for second papers in Douglas county, of whom 61 were from Norway and Sweden; 29 were from England; 3 from Prussia; 1 from Denmark, and 1 from Russia. In 1896 it became necessary for minor aliens to make application for citizenship on a separate form. This applied to those who came to this country before their eighteenth birthday, but the law was changed in 1906. The following table sets out the naturalization record since the organization of the county:

	<i>First Papers.</i>	<i>Second Papers.</i>	<i>Minor. Aliens.</i>		<i>First Papers.</i>	<i>Second Papers.</i>	<i>Minor. Aliens.</i>
1867	97			1892	63	17	
1868	128			1893	36	21	
1869	382			1894	180	17	
1870	470	6		1895	18	16	
1871	592	89		1896	214	280	21
1872	194	82		1897	27	352	75
1873	98	157		1898	44	334	79
1874	78	141		1899	25	106	30
1875	62	134		1900	25	100	23
1876	92	157		1901	15	32	7
1877	28	64		1902	31	60	14
1878	24	51		1903	32	20	11
1879	30	32		1904	44	18	6
1880	92	28		1905	38	16	7
1881	198	18		1906	39	26	4
1882	318	22		1907	27	13	
1883	74	22		1908	21	12	
1884	224	21		1909	23	20	
1885	64	13		1910	28	18	
1886	130	28		1911	26	21	
1887	41	31		1912	23	9	
1888	180	29		1913	32	19	
1889	34	23		1914	44	18	
1890	132	12		1915	27	4	
1891	34	13					

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The following financial statement is taken from the report of the county auditor for the year ending December 31, 1915:

<i>Assets.</i>	
Court house and grounds .....	\$ 34,700.00
Jail and site .....	14,900.00
Woodlots and barn .....	1,500.00
Office and vault furniture and fixtures.....	3,500.00
Ditch liens, assessed but not due.....	105,023.81
Ditch liens, accrued but not assessed.....	4,490.79
Balance cash in ditch fund.....	42,998.92
Balance cash in revenue fund .....	3,537.27
Balance cash in incidental fund .....	132.45
Balance cash in mortgage registry fund .....	1,960.99
Balance cash in county sanatorium fund .....	7,629.55
Balance cash in assurance fund .....	7.26
Due from state of Minnesota, road refund.....	2,804.42
Due from state of Minnesota, wolf bounty.....	229.50
Taxes for the year 1914 due and unpaid.....	7,261.10
Uncollected taxes for 1913 and prior years, estimated.....	4,936.43
Fuel in yard and basement .....	165.00
	\$235,777.49
<i>Liabilities.</i>	
Claims filed and not audited .....	\$ 1,144.37
Ditch bonds issued but not due .....	101,800.00
Warrants outstanding .....	4,435.86
Road and bridge fund overdraft .....	1,213.73
Assets and liabilities .....	127,183.53
	\$235,777.49

## CHAPTER VII.

### OFFICIALS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.

Mention has already been made in the chapter on county organization of the officers appointed during the temporary organization effected in 1859. During the Indian outbreak in 1862 the county was almost deserted, the organization was abandoned and the records lost. It was not until the spring of 1866 that permanent government was established in the area now known as Douglas county. Governor William R. Marshall appointed J. H. Van Dyke, James F. Dicken and Donald Stevison as a board of county commissioners to organize the county. This board met at Alexandria on June 15, 1866, and appointed the first officers of Douglas county under the permanent organization, as follows: J. Mont Smyth, auditor; Charles Cook, judge of probate; J. Mont Smyth, register of deeds; Thomas F. Cowing, sheriff; J. Mont Smyth, clerk of the court; William Shaw, attorney; T. W. Moore, surveyor; Thomas F. Cowing, treasurer; Robert Wyman, coroner.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The board of county commissioners has always been one of the most important official bodies of the county government. The first board proceeded to divide the county into townships, also into commissioner districts, established school districts and roads and ferries. The minutes of the meetings of the board as kept by the county auditor, who is clerk of the board of commissioners, serves as a record of the organization and development of the county. Following is a complete list of the county commissioners, the first name being that of the chairman of the board; beginning with 1886 the names are given in the order of their respective commissioner districts:

- 1866—J. H. Van Dyke, James F. Dicken, Donald Stevison.
- 1867—Donald Stevison, James F. Dicken, N. B. Johnson.
- 1868—S. T. Russell, O. G. Lincoln, N. B. Johnson.
- 1869—E. G. Holmes, Levi E. Thompson, O. G. Lincoln.
- 1870—Levi E. Thompson, Warren Adley, T. Evenson.
- 1871—Levi E. Thompson, N. S. Worden, T. Evenson.

- 1872—Levi E. Thompson, N. S. Worden, T. Evenson.
- 1873—Levi E. Thompson, N. S. Worden, O. Amundson, C. F. Kingsland, S. Thompson.
- 1874—Robert Angus, K. Rustad, O. Amundson, A. H. Taylor, M. Gordon.
- 1875—Robert Angus, K. Rustad, O. Amundson, A. H. Taylor, M. Gordon.
- 1876—A. H. Taylor, K. Rustad, O. Amundson, Robert Angus, M. Gordon.
- 1877—A. H. Taylor, K. Rustad, O. Amundson, Robert Angus, L. H. Webster.
- 1878—A. H. Taylor, R. Bentson, O. Amundson, Robert Angus, L. H. Webster.
- 1879—A. H. Taylor, R. Bentson, Thoren Evenson, James Knapton, L. H. Webster.
- 1880—James Knapton, R. Bentson, Thoren Evenson, H. H. Wilson, James Fitzgerald.
- 1881—H. H. Wilson, R. Bentson, Thoren Evenson, James Knapton, N. B. Smith.
- 1882—H. H. Wilson, R. Bentson, Thoren Evenson, Robert Angus, N. B. Smith.
- 1883—H. H. Wilson, R. Bentson, Thoren Evenson, Robert Angus, N. L. Reuter.
- 1884—George W. Robards, O. Amundson, Thoren Evenson, Robert Angus, N. L. Reuter.
- 1885—George W. Robards, O. Amundson, V. D. Nichols, Robert Angus, N. L. Reuter.
- 1886—A. G. Johnson, Ole T. Vinkjer, Robert Angus, Rudolph Wegener, James Shinnars.
- 1887—A. G. Johnson, Ole T. Vinkjer, Robert Angus, Rudolph Wegener, James Shinnars.
- 1889—A. G. Johnson, Ole T. Vinkjer, Robert Angus, Rudolph Wegener, James Shinnars.
- 1891—A. G. Johnson, Ole T. Vinkjer, Peter Sweet, Rudolph Wegener, W. H. Crowe.
- 1893—Ole J. Thurstad, Charles J. Johnson, Peter Sweet, James H. White, James Quinn.
- 1895—Ole J. Thurdstad, Anton H. Strom, Peter Sweet, S. O. Stedje, James Quinn.

1897—Roald Bentson, Anton H. Strom, John F. Landeen, S. O. Stedje, Michael Hickey.

1899—Roald Bentson, Anton H. Strom, John F. Landeen, James H. White, Michael Hickey.

1901—Nels Ekblad, Anton H. Strom, John F. Landeen, James H. White, John L. Sather.

1903—Nels Ekblad, John C. Egeberg, John F. Landeen, Edward A. Olsen, John L. Sather.

1905—Nels Ekblad, John C. Egeberg, C. A. Anderson, Edward A. Olsen, John L. Sather.

1907—Nels Ekblad, L. O. Larson, C. A. Anderson, C. J. Lindstrom, John L. Sather.

1909—D. J. Davidson, L. O. Larson, Louis Malmberg, C. J. Lindstrom, John L. Sather.

1911—D. J. Davidson, Peter Hoplin, Louis Malmberg, John H. O'Brien, John L. Sather.

1913—Theodore Walstead, Peter Hoplin, Louis Malmberg, John H. O'Brien, John Severson.

1915—Theodore Walstead, Peter Hoplin, Louis Malmberg, John H. O'Brien, John L. Sather.

#### AUDITORS.

The board of county commissioners appointed J. Mont Smyth as the first auditor of Douglas county. The record makes no mention of what his salary was to be to start with, but on January 1, 1867, the commissioners voted to pay the county auditor five hundred dollars per annum. Like the other county officers he did not at first devote all his time to the duties of his office.

Following is a list of those who have held the office of auditor, together with the years of their service: J. Mont Smyth, 1866-67; G. C. Whitcomb, 1867-69; William M. Pye, 1866-71; George A. Freudenreich, 1871-72; James Fitzgerald, 1872-73; Fred von Baumbach, 1873-80; Theodore Borden, 1880-89; Fred von Baumbach, 1889-98; E. P. Wright, 1898-1909; E. J. Brandt, 1909-15; C. H. Jenson, 1915, term expires in 1919.

#### TREASURER.

The commissioners also appointed the first county treasurer, Thomas F. Cowing, at their meeting on June 15, 1866. Naturally, there was no

money in the treasury upon the organization of the county and the early expenses were met by issuing orders or warrants on the credit of the county. These orders were discounted at the local banks, sometimes as low as sixty per cent on their face value, and as they could later be cashed in full they returned a very satisfactory profit to the purchaser.

A complete list of the treasurers of Douglas county is here given: Thomas F. Cowing, 1866-69; J. H. Van Dyke, 1869-71; T. W. Sprague, 1871-75; H. K. White, 1875-79; John Kron, 1879-87; John C. Thornstad, 1887-89; Erick Erickson, 1889-91; Theodore Bordsen, 1891, present term expires in 1919.

#### REGISTER OF DEEDS.

During the first organization of Douglas county the record books were kept at St. Cloud, the county seat of Stearns county; but in 1866, upon effecting the permanent organization, they were sent to Alexandria. The first record made regarding land within the limits of Douglas county bears the date of July 25, 1862. It is a deed from A. D. Campbell and wife, of Dakota county, to H. T. Welles, of Hennepin county, conveying the west half of the northeast quarter, and the west half of the southeast quarter, of section 19, township 128, range 37, and the southwest quarter of section 19, township 126, range 37, in all three hundred and one acres. The consideration was two hundred dollars. The first mortgage recorded in Douglas county bears the date of June 17, 1867. Robert Thomas was the mortgagor and J. C. Bodwell was the mortgagee. The land mortgaged was the southeast quarter of section 34, township 128, range 36.

The following have served as register of deeds since the organization of the county: J. Mont Smyth, 1866-67; G. C. Whitcomb, 1867-69; F. B. Van Hoesen, 1869-71; A. J. Ames, 1871-77; Theodore Bordsen, 1877-79; W. F. Canfield, 1879-87; Nels E. Nelson, 1887-1900; Oscar Erickson, 1900-15; John Nelson, 1915, term expires in 1919.

#### SHERIFFS.

The duties of the sheriff of Douglas county have never been very difficult in the way of dealing with criminals, though there is considerable work in the line of civil duties. Some of the early sheriffs were thought to favor the saloon element too much, and on one or two occasions a sheriff was removed by the governor on account of being a too liberal patron of the saloon himself.

A list of the county sheriffs is here set out: Thomas F. Cowing, 1866-67; A. Robinson, 1867-68; Lorentz Johnson, 1868-69; G. W. Harper, 1869-71; Magnus Lundgren, 1871-72; Nels A. Nelson, 1872-73; Ole Amundson, 1873-77; Ole Urness, 1877-86; John A. Thordsted, 1886-87; Ole Urness, 1887-88; T. J. Barros, 1888-89; A. W. DeFrate, 1889-99; J. E. Lundgren, 1899-1911; L. S. Kent, 1911, present term expires in 1919.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

On March 10, 1868, the board of county commissioners voted "That the salary of the county attorney be fixed at one hundred dollars for the year 1868, and in addition thereto the board will, in case of an accumulating amount of business, entertain favorably a bill for extra charges." On March 9, 1869, the salary of the county attorney was fixed at three hundred dollars per annum. Increases in salary corresponding with the increases in business have been made at various times since that date.

The following have served as attorney for Douglas county: William Shaw, 1866-69; F. B. Van Hoesen, 1869-71; John Randolph, 1871-73; Knute Nelson, 1873-75; Nelson Fulmer, 1875-79; George H. Reynolds, 1879-83; H. Jenkins, 1883-85; C. J. Gunderson, 1889-1903; Constant Larson, 1903-13; Hugh E. Leach, 1913, term expires in 1919.

#### JUDGES OF PROBATE.

It was not until the county offices were moved to the present county grounds in 1876 that the judge of probate had any regular office, and not until several years later that he was in his office as often as one day a week. It was not long, however, until the work of the office increased so that the incumbent devoted all his time to his official duties as at present.

The judges of probate in Douglas county have been as follows: Charles Cook, 1866-71; H. S. Boyd, 1871-73; William S. Best, 1873-77; William McAboy, 1877-85; James S. Fitzgerald, 1885-93; A. G. Sexton, 1893-1912; George L. Treat, 1912-13; George P. Craig, 1913, term expires in 1917.

#### SURVEYORS.

The land in Douglas county was first surveyed and the corners of all sections located by government surveyors. Occasional mistakes in measurements, however, have caused some difficulty in running some of the lines,



though the original work in Douglas county was done better than in some other counties of the state. Besides determining section lines the work on the roads and ditches requires the attention of the surveyor.

Following is a list of the surveyors of Douglas county: T. W. Moore, 1866-69; Henry Blackwell, 1869-71; L. W. Rima, 1871-75; Charles L. Thompson, 1875-79; John Abercrombie, 1879-83; Henry Blackwell, 1883-89; John Abercrombie, 1889-1907; E. R. Lausted, 1907-1911; John Abercrombie, 1911, present term expires in 1919.

#### CORONERS.

In the early years of the county government it was not customary as at present to choose a physician for coroner. The duties of the office were extremely light and it was not then considered necessary to make a careful inquest should a fatality come under the consideration of the coroner.

The coroners in Douglas county have been as follows: Robert Wyman, 1866-71; Daniel Shotwell, 1871-73; Godfrey Vivian, 1873-81; S. W. McEwan, 1881-91; H. J. Boyd, 1891-93; S. W. McEwan, 1893-99; E. A. Hensel, 1899-1903; H. J. Boyd, 1903-07; E. A. Hensel, 1907-11; A. D. Haskell, 1911-15; M. B. Ruud, 1915, term expires in 1919.

#### CLERK OF THE COURT.

The records of the board of county commissioners show that J. Mont Smyth was appointed as the first clerk of the district court. He evidently did not qualify nor serve for the earliest papers in the clerk's office bear the signature of J. H. Van Dyke as clerk whose name appears on case No. 1 and also on the naturalization and other records.

Following is a list of those who have served as clerk of the court for Douglas county: J. H. Van Dyke, 1866-69; F. B. Van Hoesen, 1869-73; James Purden, 1873-79; W. E. Chidester, 1879-81; H. K. White, 1881-1903; W. F. Sundblad, 1903, present term expires in 1919.

#### COURT COMMISSIONERS.

The court commissioner has jurisdiction in certain matters when the court is not in session in this county, and some of his duties are similar to those of the judge of probate.

Those who have served as court commissioner in Douglas county are

as follows: N. B. Patterson, 1869-73; Charles Schultz, 1873-91; W. E. Chidester, 1891-99; Joseph Gilpin, 1899-1901; J. A. McKay, 1901-07; George P. Craig, 1907-13; C. H. Jensen, 1913, term would have expired in 1917, but W. F. Sundblad is now acting as court commissioner.

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

The early superintendents of the county schools had no certain office room and were usually paid so much a day for the time devoted to their official duties. Several of the early incumbents in this office were appointed by the county commissioners.

Following is a list of all who have served as superintendent of schools in Douglas county: John A. Mower, 1869-73; Smith Bloomfield, 1873-75; W. H. Sanders, 1875-87; E. T. Carroll, 1887-91; A. D. Gaines, 1891-95; A. W. Curtis, 1895-99; C. W. Van Dyke, 1899-1903; Godfrey T. Englund, 1903-07; Theodore A. Erickson, 1907-15; George Susens, 1915, term expires in 1919.

#### DOUGLAS COUNTY IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Douglas county was first represented in the state legislature under the apportionment of 1860, which divided the state in twenty-one districts, of which Douglas county was a part of the third district, together with eighteen other counties. This district was entitled to one senator and three representatives.

The third Legislature assembled on January 8, 1861, and adjourned on March 8. Lieut.-Gov. Ignatius Donnelly was the presiding officer in the senate, and Jared Benson, of Anoka county, was the speaker of the lower house. The third district was represented by Seth Gibbs in the senate, and by Thomas Cathcart, Levi Wheeler and P. S. Gregory in the house.

Fourth Legislature—1862. S. B. Lowry in the senate, and R. M. Richardson, Peter Roy and John Whipple in the house.

Fifth Legislature—1863. William S. Moore in the senate, and L. R. Bently, H. C. Wait and R. M. Richardson in the house.

Sixth Legislature—1864. J. P. Wilson in the senate, and R. M. Richardson, W. T. Rigby and C. A. Ruffee in the house.

Seventh Legislature—1865. J. P. Wilson in the senate, and Oscar Taylor, Louis A. Evans and W. T. Rigby in the house.

Eighth Legislature—1866. R. M. Richardson in the senate, and N. F. Barnes, Thomas Cathcart and B. Overpeck in the house.

## APPORTIONMENT OF 1866.

Under the apportionment of 1866 the state was divided into twenty-two districts, of which Douglas county was still a part of the third. This district was now entitled to one senator and two representatives.

Ninth Legislature—1867. Louis A. Evans in the senate, and N. H. Miner and N. Richardson in the house.

Tenth Legislature—1868. C. A. Gilman in the senate, and D. G. Pettijohn and N. H. Miller in the house.

Eleventh Legislature—1869. C. A. Gilman in the senate, and Ludwig Robbers and William E. Hicks in the house.

Twelfth Legislature—1870. H. C. Wait in the senate, and John L. Wilson and Isaac Thorson in the house.

Thirteenth Legislature—1871. H. C. Wait in the senate, and W. S. Moore and Luke Marvin in the house.

## APPORTIONMENT OF 1871.

Under the apportionment of 1871 the state was divided into forty-one districts, of which Douglas county was a part of the thirty-ninth, together with Pope, Stevens, Grant, Big Stone and Lake counties. The district was entitled to one senator and two representatives.

Fourteenth Legislature—1872. Ole Peterson in the senate, and F. B. Van Hoesen and G. W. Rockwell in the house.

Fifteenth Legislature—1873. J. G. Whittemore in the senate, and Warren Adley and G. W. Rockwell in the house.

Sixteenth Legislature—1874. J. G. Whittemore in the senate, and Warren Adley and Henry Foss in the house.

Seventeenth Legislature—1875. Knute Nelson in the senate, and Martin Stowe and J. G. Whittemore in the house.

Eighteenth Legislature—1876. Knute Nelson in the senate, and Martin Stowe and J. D. Good in the house.

Nineteenth Legislature—1877. Knute Nelson in the senate, and Michael A. Wollan and Ole Amundson in the house.

Twentieth Legislature—1878. Knute Nelson in the senate, and John B. Cowing and H. W. Stone in the house.

Twenty-first Legislature—1879. A. A. Brown in the senate, and John B. Cowing and Ole N. Barsness in the house.

Twenty-second Legislature—1881. L. K. Asker in the senate, and C. F. Washburn and F. B. Van Hoesen in the house.

#### APPORTIONMENT OF 1881.

Under the apportionment of 1881 the state was divided into forty-seven districts, of which Douglas county was a part of the forty-first, together with Pope county. This district was entitled to one senator and two representatives.

Twenty-third Legislature—1883. F. B. Van Hoesen in the senate, and J. H. Van Dyke and Ole Peterson in the house.

Twenty-fourth Legislature—1885. F. B. Van Hoesen in the senate, and George W. Thacker and H. L. Lewis in the house.

Twenty-fifth Legislature—1887. G. W. Thacker in the senate, and M. A. Wollan and H. H. Wilson in the house.

Twenty-sixth Legislature—1889. G. W. Thacker in the senate, and H. H. Wilson and Edwin Cox in the house.

#### APPORTIONMENT OF 1889.

Under the apportionment of 1889 the state was divided into fifty-four districts, of which Douglas and Pope counties constituted the forty-seventh district, entitled to one senator and two representatives.

Twenty-seventh Legislature—1891. Herman A. Grafe in the senate, and H. G. Lewis and L. B. Cattleberry in the house.

Twenty-eighth Legislature—1893. Herman A. Grafe in the senate, and A. G. Johnson and John E. Johnson in the house.

Twenty-ninth Legislature—1895. A. G. Johnson in the senate, and C. P. Reeves and G. J. Strang in the house.

Thirtieth Legislature—1897. A. G. Johnson in the senate, and R. J. McNeil and C. P. Reeves in the house.

#### APPORTIONMENT OF 1897.

Under the apportionment of 1897 the state was divided into sixty-three districts, of which Douglas and Pope counties were made the fifty-eighth district, entitled to one senator and two representatives.

Thirty-first Legislature—1899. C. P. Reeves in the senate, and R. J. McNeil and H. C. Estby in the house.

Thirty-second Legislature—1911. C. P. Reeves in the senate, and T. T. Ofsthun and G. B. Ward in the house.

Thirty-third Legislature—1903. G. B. Ward in the senate, T. T. Ofsthun and H. L. Lewis in the house.

Thirty-fourth Legislature—1905. G. B. Ward in the senate, and T. T. Ofsthun and John F. Landeen in the house.

Thirty-fifth Legislature—1907. C. J. Gunderson in the senate, and E. M. Webster and E. E. Lobeck in the house.

Thirty-sixth Legislature—1909. C. J. Gunderson in the senate, and Iver J. Lee and E. E. Lobeck in the house.

Thirty-seventh Legislature—1911. C. J. Gunderson in the senate, and Iver J. Lee and John J. Anderson in the house.

Thirty-eighth Legislature—1913. C. J. Gunderson in the senate, and Nels E. Nelson and T. T. Ofsthun in the house.

#### APPORTIONMENT OF 1913.

Under the apportionment of 1913 the state was divided into sixty-seven districts, of which Douglas and Pope counties were made the forty-seventh district, entitled to one joint senator and one representative from each county.

Thirty-ninth Legislature—1915. E. E. Lobeck in the senate, and Carl A. Wold (Douglas county) and Iver J. Lee (Pope county) in the house.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION AND EARLY SETTLERS.

Douglas county is divided into twenty civil townships which coincide in each instance with the respective congressional townships, each one being six miles square. The first three townships were established by the county board, but the later townships were established by petition of a majority of at least twenty-five legal voters.

#### OSAKIS TOWNSHIP.

At the meeting of the county board held on June 15, 1866, the commissioners established the first township, to be known as No. 1 or Osakis township. As then formed it comprised all of congressional townships 127 and 128, range 36. Its name was taken from the lake which lies on the eastern boundary of the township. The commissioners appointed the first officers for Osakis township, as follow: T. M. Works, assessor; William Shaw and Roland Sanderson, justices; Thomas Adams and Charles Gilbert, constables; William Shaw, clerk; J. Maguire, treasurer. The present area of Osakis township includes only township 128, range 36.

John Potter is said to have been the first settler in Osakis township, taking up a claim on section 25 in 1859. A number of other settlers came in soon afterwards but nearly all left this vicinity during the Indian outbreak in 1862. As nearly as can be ascertained the first settler on each section in the township is mentioned in the following list. John Derocher took land on section 1 in 1862, Thomas C. McClure on section 2 in 1862, Elias Formeshill on section 3 in 1864, Elling Semmen on section 4 in 1871, Adam Anderson on section 5 in 1866, Ole Solum on section 6 in 1863, Sven Anderson on section 7 in 1869, Peter F. Peterson on section 8 in 1868, Benjamin W. Viles on section 9 in 1862, William A. Seamans on section 10 in 1861, Henry H. Anderson on section 11 in 1861, John S. Countryman on section 12 in 1867, Albert S. Alderman on section 13 in 1861, Elijah G. Gibbs on section 14 in 1863, Thomas A. Adams on section 15 in 1861, Ingrim Nelsen on section 17 in 1867, Hans Hanson on section 18 in 1868, John E. Rineheart on section 19 in 1861, Charles Peterson on section 20 in 1869, Charles Giles

on section 21, 1861, John B. Scherman on section 22 in 1867, Armstead M. Gideon on section 23 in 1868, Stephen D. Seamans on section 25 in 1862, Hiram M. Works on section 26 in 1864, Lemmel H. Webster on section 27 in 1869, James Chambers on section 28 in 1864, Edwin Fairfield on section 29 in 1863, Thor Peterson on section 30 in 1868, Matthew Bartlett on section 31 in 1862, William B. Glover on section 31 in 1864, Clay Moore on section 33 in 1866, Olinda Graves on section 34 in 1861, and Thomas L. Adams on section 35 in 1866.

The present officers of Osakis township are as follows: A. A. Rooney, clerk; Edward Hanson, treasurer; George W. LaMonte, assessor; Joel Hanson, A. G. Sorenson and Thomas Masteller, supervisors.

#### ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP.

When the board of county commissioners held its first meeting on June 15, 1866, it was decided that all of Douglas county not included in Osakis township should be known as Alexandria or No. 2 township. The commissioners appointed the first officers, as follow: T. W. Sprague, assessor; George Cowing and N. B. Johnson, justices; John Johnson and Henry Blackwell, constables; J. Mont Smyth, clerk; H. S. Rutherford, treasurer.

William and Alexander Kinkaid located in Alexandria township in 1859 and other settlers came in soon afterward. The few who remained in the township during the Indian troubles sought safety in a stockade on the Alexandria townsite. The present area of Alexandria township includes only congressional township 128, range 37. Some of the first settlers on each section are as follows: John B. Gilfillan took land on section 1 in 1863, Thomas Watts on section 2 in 1863, William B. Mitchell on section 3 in 1863, Thomas Aadson on section 5 in 1868, Wooster P. Wyman on section 6 in 1869, James Bedman on section 1 in 1861, Laura A. Kinkaid on section 8 in 1863, Aaron Doty on section 9 in 1862, Andrew Holes on section 10 in 1864, Edward O'Brien on section 11 in 1868, Peter T. Peterson on section 12 in 1864, Nels Anderson on section 13 in 1865, George Caison on section 14 in 1865, Annie P. Smith on section 15 in 1863, Chester Wait on section 17 in 1864, Peter L. Gregory on section 18 in 1860, A. D. Campbell on section 19 in 1860, James S. Mitchell on section 20 in 1862, Charles Walker on section 21 in 1863, Martin Debord on section 22 in 1863, Thomas White on section 23 in 1862, Hans Anderson on section 24 in 1870, Mary Larson on section 25 in 1869, Michael Kennedy on section 26 in 1863, Richard Dent on section 27 in 1863, Rufus Colby on section 28 in 1870, L. W.

Killbourn on section 29 in 1865, Roderick D. Hathaway on section 30 in 1862, Jesse Hosford on section 31 in 1863, Mary E. Latimer on section 32 in 1863, Wilhelm Dummert on section 34 in 1869, and Robert Walker on section 35 in 1867.

The present officers of Alexandria township are as follow: A. E. Anderson, clerk; J. H. Schlein, treasurer; Emil E. Gahlon, assessor; Louis Thorson, Louis Anderson and Soren Jensen, supervisors.

#### HOLMES CITY TOWNSHIP.

Holmes City township was established by the board of county commissioners on October 4, 1866, and at that time included all of congressional townships 127 and 128, ranges 39 and 40. The commissioners appointed the following election officers for the township: Henry Blackwell, N. B. Johnson and Nels Nickelson, judges; T. W. Sprague and Noah Grant, clerks. At present Holmes City township is comprised of congressional township 127, range 39.

A Mr. Holmes, Noah Grant and W. S. Sandford located in Holmes City township in 1858. Noah Grant proved up on a claim on section 2, but the others did not secure title to any land. Among the other early settlers were: Lloyd L. Bly, who took land on section 1 in 1868, George Blackwell on section 3, in 1868, Simon Christenson on section 4 in 1870, Jonas Sjullson on section 5 in 1868, Erick Johanson on section 6 in 1869, Olaf Paulson on section 7 in 1869, Nils B. Johnson on section 8 in 1865, Peter O. Kron on section 9 in 1865, Henry J. W. Brown on section 10 in 1868, Martin H. Strandvold on section 11 in 1870, Andrew Knudson on section 12 in 1869, John W. Gilbreath on section 13 in 1868, Francis Guiles on section 14 in 1869, Kittel Sampson on section 15 in 1865, John A. Anderson on section 16 in 1867, Carl A. J. Wahlstrom on section 17 in 1868, Olof Falin on section 18 in 1869, Thurston Severson on section 19 in 1865, Ingerinus E. Lobeck on section 21 in 1867, Lars Isakson on section 22 in 1869, Charles F. Canfield on section 23 in 1868, Miner Van Loon on section 24 in 1865, Thomas W. Price on section 25 in 1867, William H. Guiles on section 26 in 1870, H. B. Westmoreland on section 27 in 1863, Halvor D. Strandvold on section 28 in 1866, Nels A. Nelson on section 29 in 1868, John Freeborn on section 30 in 1868, Lars J. Dalen on section 31 in 1868, John Mattson on section 32 in 1868, Swan N. Swanson on section 33 in 1868, Ole Evenson on section 34 in 1863, and Halvor Toraasen on section 35 in 1870.



## PIONEER LIFE IN HOLMES CITY.

In response to a request from the *Park Region Echo*, Hon. E. E. Lobeck, state senator from this district, recently prepared the following brief review of pioneer conditions in the neighborhood of his boyhood home in Holmes City township. "To enumerate the struggles and hardships the first settlers had to go through," wrote Senator Lobeck, "would take up too much space, but suffice me to say that this lot fell upon a rugged class of people, strong in body and mind, who converted the wilderness into a garden spot.

"My father came to Holmes City in the fall of 1867 and settled down in section 21. At that time it took longer to go across the country than now. Here is a little bit from father's note book: 'Came to New York May 5, then on board a train via Easton, Reading and Harrisburg to Cleveland. There we were stuffed into one of those renounced, dingy, dirty steamboats and taken across Lake Erie to Detroit—on board a train again to Grand Haven and then on steamboat across Lake Michigan to Milwaukee, where a train stood puffing ready to take us westward, and after a few days of jolting and jerking we were dumped off at Prairie du Chiene on the Mississippi river and tugged up to St. Paul on a river boat.' There we rested for a few days and stretched our arms and legs to find out if everything was in order and when we found that we had every limb with us, we boarded a train and came to St. Cloud, which was then the terminal of the domain of the steam-horse.

"In St. Cloud father bought an ox-team for one hundred and seventy-five dollars, a second-hand wagon for one hundred and five dollars, stretched a cover over it and took part of the luggage, together with mamma and us children and stuck us in the vehicle. 'Get up, Dick and Charley!' and off we were and landed in Holmes City the 29th day of May. It took us twenty-four days from New York to Holmes City, a trip which is now made in four days.

"In the township of Holmes City we found a few Norwegians, Swedes and Americans—Yankees, we called the Americans at that time. Among the Norwegians we had Kjettel Koltvedt, who lived where Nils Thompson used to live later on; Nils Mikkelsen (Haatvedt's place), where we stayed a few days, and Gunder Knutson, where we stayed during the summer. A few other Norwegians were scattered here and there. Among the Swedes, I may name H. L. Lewis, who is still tilling the soil in Holmes City, and Messrs. Svenson, Ole Fahlin, Ole Erickson, Christopher Person and others,

and among the Americans I will mention Messrs. Blackwell, Canfield, Westmoreland and the Guiels brothers. These were among the first to tackle the big oaks and turn the sod in Holmes City. The Holmes City village was founded in the fall of 1858 and it is today one of the most beautifully located and cozy inland towns you can find. No one had any crop when we came, but three or four seeded a few acres that spring, but did not get much, as the blackbirds did most of the harvesting.

"Father thought conditions would be better farther to the northwest, so he yoked up his team and took the government trail in the direction of Ottertail county, but when we reached the old fort at Pomme de Terre and from a hilltop looked west across the country—no settlers between there and the Rockies, he got lonesome. 'Ho, back, haw, Dick and Charley!' and at once he was on his way back to Holmes City. In crossing Chippewa river he discovered that the water was packed with fat and beautiful hogs. He grabbed a handspike and went down to see what was up and found that the river was teeming with fish—buffalo fish, mind you—and as no game warden was around, father manipulated the spike in such a way that after awhile he had the wagon-box full of fish and came in triumph back to Gunder Knutson's. 'America is all right!'

"In the spring of 1867 father bought three cows and paid fifty dollars to fifty-five dollars for each. He also paid nineteen dollars for a barrel of flour and nine dollars for a barrel of salt. He broke up two and one-half acres that year, which was seeded the following spring and we children had to run from one end of the field to the other all day chasing blackbirds. In the fall after the cradle had been swung and threshing was done, father stored away forty-nine bushels of wheat and fifty bushels of potatoes.

"In the fall of 1867 we moved into our own home. Not very much furniture—a few chairs, minus backs; a rude table, and beds one above the other—and we children scrambled for the upper one, as it was a glorious thing to look down from the 'heights' and note what was going on in the room. Lamps? Oh, no! A home-made candle had to do at that time. The winter of 1867-68 was bitterly cold and severe. Geese, ducks and deer were plentiful in the fall and we lived high. During the summer we had fish daily, as the lakes were teeming with members of the finny tribe and we youngsters had no trouble catching whole strings of them.

"During the succeeding springs of 1868, 1869 and 1870 a stream of immigrants came and soon every available quarter section was taken. School districts were organized, congregations formed, ministers called, and the people went afoot four to five miles to get to prayer meetings and other gath-

erings of that kind in the evenings—singing both going and coming. As the population increased, strife and quarrels came. It was a mighty hard thing to get the school houses and churches in the right places. Well do I remember a day when hard words were flying, fists were used and axes flourished at the foot of the hill between where Ole Mauseth and Ole Johnson now reside. A school house had been erected at that place and the people farther to the south came and demanded that the institution of education and learning be moved. At the foot of the hill the battle was fought. A gentleman of some reputation led the forces for the faction that wanted the school house moved—and a genuine Viking, chunky, strong and fearless, by the name of Lars Isakson, was the leader for the other side. This Lars Isakson was looked upon by us youngsters as a mighty man. He once caught a deer. The brush was thick and Lars dropped himself down beside the deer track and all of a sudden a buck came. Lars stuck out his hand and grabbed the hind foot of the deer and you may imagine what happened. The brush was uprooted—at times they were rolling on the ground, at times they were up in the air—but Lars brought some venison home to his family, all right. In that school house fight he stood like a wall, even if an ax was flourished over his head. I have a vivid picture of that typical Viking in my mind yet. Some small scrapplings occurred about fishing places in the spring. An heroic battle was fought on a hill between two study pioneers, because both claimed the right to a creek where the fish went to spawn. A handspike was used by one of the men, breaking the arms and legs of the other fellow and for many years that hill went under the name of 'Slagter bakken,' the butcher hill.

"The potato bugs came to visit Holmes City for the first time in June, 1870, and they came to stay. These abominable, persistent creatures kept us children busy and we did not love them at all. Two years afterward the black potato bugs came for the first time and threatened to devour every potato plant in the township, and then both young and old had to be out and do some killing. In the fall the prairie fire kept the people on the lookout and many a night the men folks had to leave home to meet this foe, while the women and children sat at the windows starrng at the glare in the sky, fearing that both house and barn would go up in smoke. Great damage was done every fall. Nils Abrahamson lost all his grain in the fall of 1872, during a terrific fire. The cold winters and the long drives to market made it a severe task for the people to dispose of their grain and many a man was found dead along the roadside on what we called the Morris prairie.

We had two extremely severe storms in February, 1872, and when those storms were over the prairie were strewn with dead bodies. Some were caught going to Morris and some were caught coming from that place. A few saved their lives by tipping over the wagon-box and creeping under it, wrapping themselves in blankets and empty sacks; but we may imagine how it felt to be confined in such a place for three days and three nights.

"The years went on and the people went through hardships of all kinds. The last of the set-backs came in 1876-77, when the grasshoppers came and devoured everything. After that time conditions changed; market places sprang up closer at hand and today the farmers in Holmes City seem to be happy and contented. The first market place was St. Cloud, seventy-five miles away; Melrose next, fifty miles away; then Benson, forty-five miles; then Morris, twenty-five to thirty miles away, and then, all of a sudden, the Manitoba road hit Alexandria and then the people were singing; and then, more than twenty years ago, the Soo came, still closer at hand."

#### FURTHER RECOLLECTIONS OF HOLMES CITY.

One of the very earliest settlers in the Holmes City neighborhood was the trader and trapper, Lewis, who located a station there for trading with the Indians, and he is recalled by settlers who came in as late as 1867. At a very early date a postoffice was established at Holmes City and some time later a postoffice was established at Moe, with Gunder Johnson as postmaster. When the railroad reached Douglas county the postoffice at the home of Robert Angus, was moved to Garfield and Brandon postoffice was moved over to the present location of that town on the railroad. It is related that Holmes and Grant, who had come up into this country before the days of the Indian uprising, bought out the Lewis trading post and that the trading point thus created later came to be known as Holmes City, which it still bears, and which name was given the township when it later came to be organized, the lake on which the village is situated being named Grant, in honor of the other partner in the concern.

The present officers of Holmes City township are as follow: S. O. Wagenius, clerk; John Backelin, treasurer; Olof Wallner, assessor; N. G. Nelson, Theodore Swenson and Emil Guldbanson, supervisors.

#### BRANDON TOWNSHIP.

On September 3, 1867, the board of county commissioners established Chippewa township, comprised of congressional townships 129 and 130.

ranges 39 and 40. The first meeting was to be held at the house of George A. Freundereich, September 28, 1867. The name was later changed to Brandon, which township now comprises congressional township 129, range 39.

Henry Gager is thought to have been the first settler in Brandon township. He located on section 5 about 1860 and others came in soon afterward. Haagan Holing, who died in February, 1907, at his home in Brandon township, was one of the early settlers in this township, having come out here from Minneapolis, where he was working in the mills, in 1865, and filing on the homestead on which he spent the rest of his life. When he built his cabin after his arrival here, his nearest neighbor was four miles distant. Mr. Holing served as treasurer of Brandon township for more than thirty years.

In the list following is given the names of one of the first settlers on each section of the township, with the approximate date of their location. Charles A. Dollner took land on section 2 in 1863, John J. Nichols on section 3 in 1862, Solon Moore on section 4 in 1862, Joseph Hunt on section 6 in 1867, George Ward on section 7 in 1865, George A. Freundenreich on section 9 in 1861, A. A. Noble on section 10 in 1862, Andrew Holes on section 11 in 1862, John Sundblad on section 12 in 1865, Lars Nilson on section 13 in 1863, Elijah Sandford on section 15 in 1860, Job Smith on section 17 in 1866, Martin Stowe on section 18 in 1862, Hans J. Solem on section 19 in 1870, Matilda McIntosh on section 20 in 1862, L. Fletcher on section 21 in 1862, Fletcher Thom on section 22 in 1862, John D. Aldrich on section 23 in 1868, Ingebret Peterson on section 24 in 1863, John Salmon on section 25 in 1862, John Nelson on section 26 in 1865, Ole Peterson on section 27 in 1864, Ole Thompson on section 28 in 1861, Jonetta Halvorson on section 29 in 1868, Nels Nelson on section 28 in 1863, Thomas H. Klevan on section 31 in 1863, Halvor Rasmussen on section 32 in 1863, Hans A. Strom on section 33 in 1863, and Halvor G. Kylvlo on section 34 in 1869.

The present officers of Brandon township are as follow: Emil E. Bergh, clerk; Henry O. Olson, treasurer; Anton Holing, assessor; C. O. Augdahl, Knute Oberg and H. H. Evju, supervisors.

#### MOE TOWNSHIP.

On September 3, 1867, a petition signed by fourteen legal voters was presented to the board of county commissioners, requesting that congressional township 128, range 39, be established as a separate civil township. This

petition was granted with instructions that the first meeting be held at the house of Thomas Adkins, September 21, 1867. The township was first called Adkinsville, in honor of one of the first settlers, but later the name was changed to Moe, in memory of a district in Norway, from which a number of the pioneers came.

Torer Evenson and family, who had come from Norway to America in 1857, settling in Wisconsin, were among the early settlers in Moe township, settling on the old Evenson homestead there in 1865, coming through by ox-team and prairie schooner from Wisconsin and living in their covered wagon until a cabin could be built. Moe township then was practically a wilderness, there being but few settlers there and those far between, among these having been Lars Amundson and Johannes Hanson, Indians being more commonly seen there than white people. Amundson had brought out with him a grind-stone and that useful article proved so popular with his pioneer neighbors and was borrowed so widely that finally, so the story goes, nothing was left of it but the hole, and that the neighbor who used it last neglected to return.

Some of the first settlers on each section in Moe township, together with the approximate date of their location, are mentioned in the following list. Arthur A. Flom took land on section 1 in 1864, Ole Thompson on section 2 in 1865, Ole Bergerson on section 3 in 1868, Thomas Olson on section 4 in 1868, Patrick Brown on section 5 in 1864, Monroe Nichols on section 6 in 1864, Gulick Johnson on section 7 in 1868, Mary E. Chute on section 8 in 1864, Thomas Larson on section 10 in 1870, Ole K. Lappinger on section 13 in 1866, John Arntson on section 14 in 1863, Charles Brown on section 17 in 1868, Amos Johnson on section 18 in 1863, Peter Johnson on section 19 in 1868, Thomas E. Lajord on section 20 in 1863, Knudt C. Brackle on section 21 in 1863, Lewis Lewiston on section 22 in 1864, Lathan J. Ellsworth on section 23 in 1863, George B. Wright on section 24 in 1865, Peter Peterson on section 26 in 1863, James S. Mitchell on section 27 in 1865, Henry C. Wait on section 28 in 1865, Hendric Johnson on section 29 in 1864, Ole Amundson on section 30 in 1865, John Nord on section 31 in 1869, Ole Brandon on section 32 in 1863, John Blackwell on section 33 in 1863, Sylvester Yates on section 34 in 1866, and Maths Anderson on section 35 in 1868.

The present officers of Moe township are as follow: Alfred B. Anderson, clerk; Peter Syverson, treasurer; Peter Hanson, assessor; O. E. Sletto, Lauritz Severson and Carl J. Pipo, supervisors.

## LAKE MARY TOWNSHIP.

Lake Mary township was established on September 3, 1867, as requested in a petition presented to the board of county commissioners signed by fifteen legal voters in congressional township 127, range 38. The first meeting was to be held at the home of A. L. Robinson, September 21, 1867. The township was named for the large lake of that name in the northwestern part of the township.

The records do not give the exact date of entry of the homesteads in many instances, but the following list has the approximate date of settlement of most of the sections in Lake Mary township. Matthew Britendahl took land on section 1 in 1864, Charles E. Jenkins on section 2 in 1863, William E. Hicks on section 3 in 1863, Hendrick Erickson on section 4 in 1868, George W. McComber on section 5 in 1864, Elon Holmes on section 6 in 1865, Ferdinand Keflo on section 7 in 1867, James C. Miller on section 9 in 1864, Porter Davis on section 12 in 1865, Charles T. McKillips on section 13 in 1870, Horace A. McComber on section 14 in 1863, William Hounsell on section 15 in 1868, Thomas Crooks on section 17 in 1868, Samuel M. Jones on section 18 in 1868, Gottlieb Greibe on section 19 in 1868, Stephen W. Miller on section 20 in 1868, Margaret J. Fox on section 21 in 1869, Harrison Crandall on section 22 in 1870, Fred J. Colby on section 23 in 1870, John Tompkins on section 24 in 1868, Benton A. Livingston on section 25 in 1863, William Matthews on section 26 in 1865, David Townsend on section 27 in 1868, George Lansing on section 28 in 1869, Andrew Lansing on section 29 in 1869, Thomas C. McClure on section 30 in 1864, Isaiah Fairies on section 31 in 1864, James A. Beaver on section 32 in 1864, Fred C. Holmes on section 33 in 1864, George B. Wright on section 34 in 1864, and William H. Harris on section 35 in 1864.

The present officers of Lake Mary township are as follow: Charles Danneck, clerk; Wenzel Bruzek, treasurer; Thomas J. Barros, assessor; A. Koudela, Andrew Roth and Frank Radil, supervisors.

## LEAF VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

Leaf Valley township was established by the board of county commissioners on November 23, 1867. The first meeting was to be held at the house of Willard B. Ellis, December 14, 1867. This township comprises congressional township 130, range 38.

In the following list are given the names of some of the first settlers on each section in Leaf Valley township, together with the approximate date of their location. Enoch H. Alden took land on section 1 in 1868, George Mumm on section 2 in 1870, William Marquadt on section 3 in 1866, Henrick Thies on section 4 in 1866, Wilhelm Fentzke on section 5 in 1869, John Johnson on section 6 in 1869, Adam Peffer on section 7 in 1866, Emil Nuscke on section 8 in 1869, John S. Evans on section 9 in 1868, Herman Peterman on section 10 in 1870, Willard A. Alden on section 11 in 1869, Wesley Smith on section 12 in 1873, Wallace Kibbe on section 13 in 1870, Samuel Pollard on section 14 in 1871, John S. Evans on section 15 in 1870, Peter Smith on section 17 in 1872, Andreas Reger on section 18 in 1870, Peter Ley on section 19 in 1871, Wilson Davidson on section 20 in 1870, Mary A. Lane on section 21 in 1870, Lorenzo D. Peck on section 22 in 1868, Isaac Johnson on section 23 in 1871, John H. Hartew on section 24 in 1872, Simon L. West on section 26 in 1873, J. F. W. Grosnick on section 27 in 1875, August Lawrenz on section 28 in 1871, John Comoford on section 29 in 1871, Elbridge G. Paddock on section 30 in 1871, Patrick Kelly on section 31 in 1873, John Mullins on section 32 in 1872, Andrew Anderson on section 34 in 1871, and Jonas Hult on section 35 in 1871.

The present officers of Leaf Valley township are as follow: Michael Kelly, Jr., clerk; W. H. Venzke, treasurer; H. Julig, assessor; Charles L. Julig, J. G. Loeffler and William Schmidt, supervisors.

#### MILLERVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Millerville township was established on November 23, 1867, by the board of county commissioners, in answer to a petition signed by sixteen legal voters from congressional township 130, range 39. The first meeting was to be held at the house of John Miller, one of the early and prominent settlers, for whom the township was named.

Some of the first settlers on each section in Millerville township, with the year about when they located, are mentioned in the following list. Nicholas Langshausen took land on section 1 in 1869, August Keplien on section 2 in 1870, Rolden M. Finch on section 4 in 1871, Ignatz Kroll on section 6 in 1876, John Schwartz on section 7 in 1871, Andrew Bader on section 8 in 1872, Aaron Dewey on section 9 in 1871, John Engler on section 10 in 1873, Bernhard Nuss on section 11 in 1873, John Woyda on section 12 in 1873, Anton R. Cicky on section 13 in 1872, Mathias Portz on section 14 in 1872,



Mathias Wunch on section 15 in 1871, John F. Busse on section 17 in 1875, Hans G. von Stackhausen on section 18 in 1870, Olof Landin on section 20 in 1873, John Schafer on section 22 in 1868, John Flesch on section 23 in 1873, John N. Peck on section 24 in 1871, Joseph Goetz on section 25 in 1872, George Wagner on section 26 in 1873, William W. Arness on section 27 in 1873, Andrew J. Arness on section 28 in 1871, Magnus Johnson on section 29 in 1871, Edward Uhde on section 30 in 1872, Thomas Lauder on section 32 in 1876, Andrew J. Goodwin on section 33 in 1872, and Henry McKibben on section 34 in 1873.

Charles Debetzan, who died at St. Cloud in 1906, was one of the early settlers in Millerville township. He and his family moved to this state from Pennsylvania in 1688, settling in Douglas county. At the time of his death Mr. Debetzan had twenty-nine grandchildren and fifty-two great-grandchildren.

The present officers of Millerville township are as follow: John M. Prazak, clerk; Henry Meissner, treasurer; Albin Beckman, assessor; John Bitzan, Peter Renkes and Frank Lederman, supervisors.

#### EVANSVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Evansville township was established on January 7, 1868, and originally included all of congressional townships 129 and 130, range 40. At present it comprises only congressional township 129, range 40. The first meeting was to be held at the house of Jacob Shaw, February 24, 1868. The township was named for a Mr. Evans, who carried the mail through here in 1859 on the old St. Cloud and Ft. Abercrombie stage road. Later he put up a little store on the present site of the town of Evansville and the village was also named for him. Evans was killed by the Indians during the outbreak. A number of claims were taken about 1860 but the country was deserted during the Indian troubles.

In the fall of 1865, L. E. Thompson took a homestead on the banks of Lake Fanny, and was the first settler to locate after the outbreak. A number of the sections in Evansville township were first settled by the men named in the following list, at about the years given, as nearly as can be ascertained. Luther Dearborn took land on section 1 in 1865, Gustav Willius on section 2 in 1866, Ole H. Lockren on section 3 in 1865, John Johnson on section 5 in 1866, Monroe Nichols on section 6 in 1866, John Partridge on section 7 in 1867, Hans Hanson on section 8 in 1866, Olof Dahlheim on section 9 in

1870, Jacob Shanar on section 10 in 1865, James G. Butterfield on section 11 in 1866, Robert White on section 13 in 1865, Pascal Smith on section 14 in 1866, Knut Larson on section 15 in 1865, Thomas Aadson on section 17 in 1866, Martin Erickson on section 18 in 1870, Ole A. Knutson on section 19 in 1867, Andrew Nass on section 21 in 1866, Joseph A. Jenkin on section 22 in 1867, Isaac Skiles, Jr., on section 24 in 1865, Jonathan Morrell on section 25 in 1868, William H. Sanders on section 26 in 1871, Mordecai C. Plummer on section 27 in 1871, Edward Peterson on section 29 in 1866, Ole Alberts on section 30 in 1865, Varano G. Bryant on section 32 in 1866, James A. Beaver on section 34 in 1866, and George Ward on section 35 in 1867.

The present officers of Evansville township are as follow: A. B. Anderson, clerk; John Saterlie, treasurer; J. H. Kronberg, assessor; T. C. Thronson, Fritz Lindstrom and Ole O. Larson, supervisors.

#### ORANGE TOWNSHIP.

Orange township was established on January 7, 1868, by the board of county commissioners, in answer to a petition from a majority of the legal voters in congressional township 127, range 36. The first meeting was to be held at the house of I. S. English, February 24, 1868.

Among the early settlers who located in Orange township were Donald Stevenson, who took land on section 1 about 1864, James B. Wickham on section 2 in 1864, Elijah G. Gibbs on section 3 in 1864, Gilbert Sargent on section 4 in 1865, Thomas Smith on section 5 in 1866, Julia M. Allen on section 7 in 1866, George Plank on section 8 in 1864, James Holes on section 9 in 1864, Daniel W. McCart on section 10 in 1864, George E. Hanford on section 11 in 1866, Albert A. Gilbert on section 13 in 1865, Oliver Hanford on section 14 in 1866, John M. Scott on section 15 in 1866, Charles Walker on section 17 in 1866, John W. Fulkerson on section 18 in 1866, Nelson H. Miner on section 20 in 1866, Isaac T. Andrews on section 23 in 1865, Morris Ladd on section 25 in 1865, Luther LaPlant on section 26 in 1864, Gustavus Klatt on section 28 in 1863, John F. Walker on section 29 in 1864, Patrick Maloney on section 30 in 1865, Robert Thomas on section 31 in 1863, Jeremiah Plank on section 32 in 1864, George W. Radabaugh on section 33 in 1864, and William T. English on section 34 in 1863.

The present officers of Orange township are as follow: W. W. Rarick, clerk; Mike Dunn, treasurer; August J. Mechels, assessor; M. G. Dockham, Lewis Baker and John Cassell, supervisors.

## IDA TOWNSHIP.

Ida township was established on March 2, 1868. It comprises congressional township 129, range 38. The first meeting was held at the house of Robert Angus, on the first Tuesday in April, 1868.

James F. Dicken, who located on the shores of Lake Ida, was one of the first settlers of Ida township. James Barr and Myron Coloney were also early settlers. Some of the first to locate on a number of the sections of Ida township, with the approximate date of their settlement, are mentioned in the following list of homesteaders who secured a patent to their land from the government. Thomas Brown took land on section 2 in 1864, John Torry on section 3 in 1863, August F. Braski on section 4 in 1868, Claus V. Johnson on section 5 in 1871, Leonard West on section 6 in 1871, Pehr Anderson on section 7 in 1873, Sylvester Dicken on section 8 in 1865, John Reid on section 9 in 1864, Gilbert Brakken on section 12 in 1873, Lars Pederson on section 14 in 1871, Erick Ersson on section 15 in 1873, Daniel Russell on section 16 in 1863, Solomon R. Kaiser on section 17 in 1864, Benjamin Stewart on section 20 in 1868, Jesse Hosford on section 21 in 1864, Erick Larson on section 22 in 1871, Henry Richards on section 24 in 1870, Charles E. Thomas on section 25 in 1868, William Rutherford on section 27 in 1864, J. M. Smith on section 28 in 1865, John J. Muir on section 29 in 1868, James Holes on section 30 in 1864, Alexander Richardson on section 31 in 1864, Julius Frost on section 32 in 1863, Owen Osborn on section 34 in 1863, and S. M. Thompson on section 35 in 1864.

The present officers of Ida township are as follow: C. J. Christopher-son, clerk; Charles Kloehn, treasurer; John A. Norgren, assessor; P. M. Videen, Charles G. Olson and Emil Bruske, supervisors.

## CARLOS TOWNSHIP.

Carlos township was established on May 1, 1868, at which time the board of county commissioners gave notice that the first meeting should be held at the house of A. H. Hall, on May 19, 1868. As originally established Carlos township included all of congressional townships 129 and 130, range 37; township 130, range 36, and the west half of township 129, range 36. At present it comprises only congressional township 129, range 37.

Carlos township settled up rapidly after the Indian outbreak, the greater part of the land being taken up under homestead entry. Some of the first settlers on a number of the sections of this township, with the year of their

arrival, as nearly as can be ascertained, are mentioned in the following list of those who secured title from the government. Joseph B. Plymouth took land on section 1 about 1864, William A. Wheeler on section 2 in 1870, Charles Engstrom on section 6 in 1865, Sarah J. Brown on section 7 in 1868, Antoine Klein on section 8 in 1871, John Torrey on section 10 in 1864, William H. Sparrell on section 11 in 1864, Timothy Enright on section 12 in 1864, Samuel Beidleman on section 13 in 1863, Ova A. Hall on section 15 in 1864, William A. Cosgrove on section 17 in 1864, Gustav O. Hegg on section 18 in 1864, James F. Dilley on section 19 in 1863, Joshua N. Daudna on section 21 in 1868, William W. Kaine on section 22 in 1863, Alfred W. Prettyman on section 24 in 1863, Hugh Hamill on section 27 in 1864, John Van Hoesen on section 28 in 1864, John B. Ellison on section 30 in 1864, Daniel McCarthy on section 31 in 1864, and Napoleon Beedan on section 32 in 1866.

The present officers of Carlos township are as follow: A. F. Miller, clerk; J. O. Stedje, treasurer; W. B. Nelson, assessor; Emil Lundeen, Albert Ritten and Tollef Dahl, supervisors.

#### URNESS TOWNSHIP.

On March 22, 1869, the board of county commissioners set apart congressional township 128, range 40, as a separate civil township, to be known as Red Rock. The first meeting was held at the house of Ole Moe, on April 13, 1869. On February 7, 1871, the commissioners received a petition requesting that the name of the township be changed to Urness, in memory of a certain district in Norway.

In the following list are given the names of some of the first settlers in a number of the sections of Urness township, together with the approximate date of their arrival. Ole Strand took land on section 1 in 1871, John Johnson on section 2 in 1864, Christopher Isakson on section 3 in 1864, Martin Anderson on section 4 in 1864, Johannes Hanson on section 5 in 1864, Karie Petersdatter on section 6 in 1871, Christopher Christopherson on section 7 in 1864, Hans Johnson on section 8 in 1864, Erick Paulson on section 9 in 1863, Andrew J. Burke on section 10 in 1863, Thomas S. Holleque on section 11 in 1863, Ole J. Urness on section 12 in 1865, Bernt J. Burke on section 15 in 1870, Erick Nelson on section 17 in 1871, J. Henry Holmes on section 18 in 1867, John L. Merriam on section 20 in 1864, Ole E. Fjeld on section 21 in 1866, Jens Olsen on section 23 in 1869, Andrew J. Urness on section 24 in 1865, John Johnson on section 25 in 1864, Nels Iverson on sec-

tion 27 in 1863, Edwin O. Hillstad on section 29 in 1863, William H. Bradford on section 30 in 1868, Ole Olson on section 32 in 1866, Charles R. Stewart on section 33 in 1863, Isaac Oberg on section 34 in 1863, and Nels O. Shattleboe on section 35 in 1862.

The present officers of Urness township are as follow: O. A. Burkee, clerk; Oscar Barsness, treasurer; John Endreson, assessor; Nils Bye, Olaf Hakenson and A. K. Burkey, supervisors.

#### HUDSON TOWNSHIP.

On March 30, 1869, the board of county commissioners granted a petition to establish congressional township 127, range 37, as a separate civil township. The first meeting was held at the house of John Brown, on April 16, 1869. Later the name of this township was changed to Hudson.

Below are given the names of some of the early settlers on each section in Hudson township, with the approximate date of their arrival. William Smith took land on section 1 in 1871, Joseph Strong on section 2 in 1870, John M. Sissler on section 3 in 1868, William H. Rowe on section 4 in 1869, William P. Burgan on section 5 in 1869, James H. White on section 6 in 1870, Edward Phernetten on section 7 in 1867, Orson Shippey on section 8 in 1866, Henry H. Russell on section 9 in 1868, Jacob Gasper on section 10 in 1867, Thomas Stricker on section 11 in 1869, Pleates Fry on section 12 in 1868, James Purdon on section 13 in 1867, Edwin R. Childs on section 14 in 1867, Nelson B. Fullmer on section 15 in 1869, Creighton J. Bondurant on section 16 in 1869, Hiram Shippey on section 17 in 1868, George G. Mitchell on section 18 in 1867, Rial Moulton on section 19 in 1869, Thomas Parks on section 20 in 1869, Marden Brown on section 21 in 1869, James W. Meyers on section 22 in 1869, William W. Sheldon on section 23 in 1867, William H. Briggs on section 24 in 1868, John McCellan on section 25 in 1869, John Meyers on section 26 in 1868, Benjamin Sheldon on section 27 in 1868, Hollis S. Boyd on section 28 in 1868, Eleazer C. Phelps on section 29 in 1868, Leander Kellogg on section 30 in 1864, Nancy Campbell on section 31 in 1865, William Hogan on section 32 in 1866, William H. McGee on section 33 in 1866, Porter Davis on section 34 in 1869, Joseph DeCramer on section 35 in 1868, and George Cassell on section 36 in 1869.

The present officers of Hudson township are as follow: Fred C. Meade, clerk; John Lorenz, treasurer; Peter Cassell, assessor; George McMahan, James Butler and John Lorenz, supervisors.

## BELLE RIVER TOWNSHIP.

On March 8, 1870, the board of county commissioners received a petition to establish congressional township 129, range 36, as a separate civil township. This petition was granted and the township named Riverdale, with instructions that the first meeting should be held at the house of Mathias Klein, March 22, 1870. On January 4, 1871, a communication was sent to the county board saying that the township meeting had adopted the name of Belle River, instead of Riverdale. This action was approved by the commissioners.

Some of the first to locate on a number of the sections in Belle River township are mentioned in the list which follows, together with the date of their arrival, as nearly as can be ascertained. John Moriarty took land on section 1 in 1865, Martin Lee on section 2 in 1873, Martin Crowson on section 4 in 1873, Michael Fitzgerald on section 6 in 1865, Peter Henry Jr., on section 7 in 1865, John Clouser on section 8 in 1868, Frank Quinn on section 9 in 1870, Henry Cook on section 10 in 1867, Johnston W. Lowry on section 11 in 1865, John Dunn on section 12 in 1865, John Collins on section 13 in 1871, John Petruick on section 15 in 1873, Charles Baumers on section 17 in 1868, Stephen Miller on section 18 in 1865, Anders G. Sjogren on section 19 in 1875, Nicholas Botzel on section 20 in 1873, Gustav Anderson on section 22 in 1875, George B. Craig on section 23 in 1871, Andrew Ellsworth on section 24 in 1870, Luther Dearborn on section 25 in 1865, Anders L. Hehrud on section 26 in 1875, Lars Bergsten on section 27 in 1875, Haymond W. Clark on section 28 in 1865, John B. Gilfillian on section 31 in 1865, August Forsgren on section 32 in 1873, John A. Nelson on section 33 in 1869, Joseph Van Epps on section 34 in 1866, and Obadiah Brown on section 35 in 1865.

George B. Craig, who arrived in 1865, is referred to as probably the first settler in Belle River. Several others soon settled in that same neighborhood, among these being John Anderson and his brother-in-law, M. A. Anderson. The country in general thereabout was very marshy at that time. Mr. Craig had a yoke of steers and a wagon. One of these steers had the bad habit of balking in the most undesirable places in the road, and would lie down when the roadway didn't suit him. One day Mr. Craig prepared to go to market with a load of potatoes. He had no sacks and no money with which to buy them and the potatoes were loaded into the wagon-box loose. The roads were bad and, sure enough, in crossing one of the difficult spots in the road the balky steer laid down on the job. Mr. Craig was thus

put to the tedious task of carrying the potatoes across to a dry spot. When the wagon-box was emptied the steer concluded to get up and go.

There was no mill nearer than Melrose at that time and thither the settlers went to grind. The first year Mr. Anderson was on his place he raised but twelve bushels of rye, which was to be the year's supply for his family. He started to Melrose, a trip requiring about five days at that time. When he arrived at the mill there the miller declined to grind rye and Mr. Anderson had to return with the grain, which Mr. and Mrs. Anderson ground during the winter in their coffee-mill. Mr. Craig did the same. He bought a coffee-mill of Johnson, the Osakis merchant, the latter guaranteeing the machine. After a few weeks of use the coffee-mill was worn out by the extraordinary demand upon it and Mr. Craig took it back to the store and claimed a new one, under the terms of the guarantee. This second machine also wore out in due course and another machine was secured on the guarantee, this process being repeated a third or fourth time during the winter and it was not until long afterward that Mr. Craig told Mr. Johnson how those coffee-mills failed to stand up to the guarantee.

For about two years during the most trying period a band of about two hundred Indians camped on the other side of the river, on the land now known as the Reuter farm. These Indians were friendly and often visited with the new settlers. The Indians had plenty of meat and fish and would give liberally of these stores in exchange for potatoes, salt, rye and the other products of the white man's husbandry. That they were perfectly honest is shown by the following incident. John Anderson had a sieve, which he had brought from the old country, and which he used in sifting the grain at threshing time. An old Indian had borrowed this sieve and one night about two o'clock he brought it back, explaining to Mr. Anderson that the Sioux were coming and that the Chippewas were going. The entire camp was gone in the morning. The traditional enmity existing between the Sioux and the Chippewas from time immemorial made it impossible for bands of the two rival tribes to live in peace in the same neighborhood. A gruesome reminder of this ancient feud was unearthed in the neighborhood of Chippewa Lake some years ago, when the curiosity aroused over the probable cause of a slight mound led to an excavation which revealed a few feet under ground the bones of a considerable number of human beings, clearly those of Indians. From the promiscuity with which the bones were mingled it is evident that the bodies had been thrown into a shallow trench without regard to any orderly arrangement and had then been covered over. These evidently were the bodies of the victims of one of the numerous battles which were fought

between warring tribes in this section long before the coming of the white man.

The present officers of Belle River township are as follow: L. E. Olson, clerk; Nicholas Hintzen, treasurer; John L. Reuter, assessor; Mattis Clark, John J. Dunn and Paul Blank, supervisors.

#### SOLEM TOWNSHIP.

Solem township was established on March 10, 1870, in answer to a petition signed by Osmund Thompson and others. It comprises congressional township 127, range 40. The first meeting was held at the house of Ole O. Sauslin. The township takes its name from a district in Norway, from which place many of the pioneers came.

In the list which follows are mentioned some of the pioneers who settled on a number of the sections of Solem township, with the approximate date of their arrival. Erick Johanson took land on section 1 in 1870, Jens Lekander on section 2 in 1871, Ole O. Sarsland on section 3 in 1869, Ole E. Field on section 4 in 1866, John Johnson on section 5 in 1866, Daniel Linquist on section 6 in 1871, Ole Olson on section 9 in 1871, Paul Nielson on section 10 in 1869, John Hedstrom on section 11 in 1870, Olof Paulson on section 12 in 1871, Abraham Nilson on section 13 in 1871, Halvor Halvorson on section 14 in 1866, John Peterson on section 15 in 1872, Jens Fahlin on section 17 in 1872, Peter Knutson on section 18 in 1872, Andrew Kullander on section 21 in 1871, Christen Olson on section 23 in 1874, Isaac Peterson on section 24 in 1870, Andrew G. Sohlberg on section 25 in 1867, Erick Hagg on section 26 in 1872, Erick Snar on section 27 in 1871, Peter Swenson on section 28 in 1872, Erick Pehrson Eng on section 30 in 1873, and Joseph E. Wetterling on section 34 in 1872.

The present officers of Solem township are as follow: Jorgen Spilseth, clerk; Frank Kullander, treasurer; John S. Benson, assessor; L. A. Larson, N. M. Anderson and William Peterson, supervisors.

#### MILTONA TOWNSHIP.

Miltona township was established on December 19, 1871. It comprises congressional township 130, range 37. The odd sections in this township were secured by the old St. Paul & Pacific Railway Company. The even sections were mostly taken by homestead entry and some of the early settlers on the various sections are mentioned in the list which follows, together with



the dates of their arrival, as nearly as they can be ascertained. Durfee Marquette took land on section 2 in 1878, James H. Abbott on section 4 in 1880, Frederick W. Balfour on section 6 in 1871, Sven Olson on section 8 in 1878, Jason Bumpus on section 10 in 1875, Mary Hill on section 12 in 1885, George L. Taplin on section 14 in 1874, Joseph C. Carter on section 18 in 1877, Delia Lucas on section 20 in 1876, Harrison Foster on section 22 in 1880, Timothy Martin on section 24 in 1875, Charles Jungrath on section 26 in 1871, Frank Schram on section 32 in 1877, and Garrett Cronk on section 34 in 1879.

The present officers of Miltona township are as follow: John O. Hiller, clerk; Edward Miller, treasurer; G. J. Thompson, assessor; William Betterman, Lewis Olbeckson and John Eggleston, supervisors.

#### LUND TOWNSHIP.

Lund township was established on March 1, 1872. It comprises congressional township 130, range 40. The first meeting was held at the house of John Wahlin. The original petition asked that the township be named Christina, but the name Lund was adopted. About two weeks after the new township was established the commissioners received a petition asking that it be set back in the township of Evansville, to which it had formerly been attached, but as all the signatures to the petition were in the same handwriting it was not given any serious consideration.

Some of the homesteaders on the various sections of Lund township located about the years given in the following list: They were among the first to settle in the township. Hans F. Peterson took land on section 2 in 1877, Nils J. Walstad on section 4 in 1876, Ole Peterson on section 6 in 1868, Sven S. Ebbjorn on section 8 in 1869, Thomas Olson on section 10 in 1871, Lars Ellingston on section 11 in 1877, Anders N. Fjillstrom on section 12 in 1877, Andrew Janson on section 13 in 1876, Ole S. Hernm on section 14 in 1876, Olof Larson on section 15 in 1875, August Peterson on section 18 in 1874, Kam Swenson on section 19 in 1869, Anders Janson on section 21 in 1876, Gabriel Peterson on section 22 in 1876, Andrew Skon on section 28 in 1869, Grager Kittelson on section 30 in 1876, Charles Johnson on section 31 in 1873, Andrew Johnson on section 32 in 1875, John Johnson on section 33 in 1865, and Milton M. Morrell on section 34 in 1868.

The present officers of Lund township are as follow: Victor E. Johnson, clerk; Andrew A. Lang, treasurer; A. G. Johnson, assessor; Anton Olson, A. G. Olson and Andrew P. Nelson, supervisors.

## LA GRAND TOWNSHIP.

On September 4, 1873, the board of county commissioners established congressional township 128, range 38, as a separate civil township, to be known as West Alexandria. The first election was held at the school house in district No. 47, on September 23, 1873. On December 11, 1873, the commissioners were notified that the legal voters of the township had chosen the name of La Grand, instead of West Alexandria, and the county board had the change properly recorded in the archives of the state.

Andrew Darling was the first settler to locate in what is now La Grand township. He took up a claim in 1860. Others came in about the same time but there was very little permanent settlement until after the Indian troubles were quieted. Robert Smith took land on section 1 about 1864, Jacob Ly Brand on section 2 in 1862, James F. Dicken on section 3 in 1863, Engebret Nielson on section 4 in 1870, Carl G. Johnson on section 5 in 1868, Charles Peterson on section 6 in 1871, Francis B. Van Hoesen on section 7 in 1865, Niels P. Christenson on section 8 in 1869, George F. Cowing on section 9 in 1861, L. J. Brown on section 10 in 1868, Samuel B. Cowdry on section 11 in 1860, James Bedman on section 12 in 1861, Hugh O'Donnell on section 13 in 1861, George Diment on section 14 in 1861, Samuel B. Pinney on section 15 in 1864, Daniel Egan on section 17 in 1864, Caroline S. Edwards on section 18 in 1863, John O'Brien on section 19 in 1862, George B. Wright on section 20 in 1862, James Knapton on section 21 in 1871, Oscar W. Day on section 22 in 1865, Mary A. Kinkaid on section 24 in 1861, Louis Morain on section 25 in 1860, James B. Lattimer on section 26 in 1861, Sophus N. Miller on section 27 in 1868, Amund Mattison on section 28 in 1871, Anders O. Solberg on section 31 in 1865, George W. McComber on section 32 in 1863, and Hendrick Erickson on section 34 in 1872.

The present officers of La Grand township are as follow: P. M. Englund, clerk; O. M. Englund, treasurer; S. M. Carlson, assessor; Ole Satterlund, S. J. Wedin and A. A. Magnuson, supervisors.

## SPRUCE HILL TOWNSHIP.

Spruce Hill township was established on January 5, 1875. It comprises congressional township 130, range 36. The first election was held at the school house in district No. 51, on March 9, 1875.

The odd sections in this township were part of the land grant of the St. Paul & Pacific Railway Company, and therefore were not available for



LAKE OSAKIS.



SPEARING FISH, LAKE OSAKIS.



homesteads. Some of the early settlers who located claims on the even numbered sections arrived here about the years given in the following list. Samuel Hasbrouck took land on section 2 in 1878, Stekan Slekicher on section 4 in 1876, Joseph Friet on section 6 in 1875, Michael Barta on section 8 in 1875, Ole Janson on section 10 in 1878, Tracy Bardwell on section 12 in 1878, Thomas Primrose on section 14 in 1875, Gilbert F. Sciven on section 18 in 1877, Louis Nilson on section 20 in 1875, Alvin Milligan on section 22 in 1879, Chester H. Bardwell on section 26 in 1878, Martin B. Hagblad on section 28 in 1875, Hans Matson on section 32 in 1875, and Andrew Lustig on section 34 in 1875.

The present officers of Spruce Hill township are as follow: Nels Nelson, clerk; Frans Anderson, treasurer; E. V. Larson, assessor; Axel Peterson, John Lindberg and Charles Hallock, supervisors.

## CHAPTER IX.

### DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

In the days of the beginning of the settlement of this part of the state, the development of agriculture was probably as rapid as in any section of Minnesota. It already has been noted that the earliest settlers attracted to this region were of an energetic and thrifty type and little time was lost in bringing the wilderness under cultivation. In nearly all sections of the county there was a sufficient area of natural meadow to enable the settler to begin his farming operations at once, without the tedious and arduous labor of clearing a patch of land before he could get in his first crop and thus nearly all were enabled to make an immediate and effective start toward the tilling of the soil after the little log cabin had been erected as a temporary shelter for the family. Plenty of excellent timber was easily accessible for this latter purpose and with the expenditure of ordinary energy there was little to prevent the average family from becoming fairly comfortably settled within a year after taking up a location in the new country. Added to this abundance of good timber, the numerous running streams and the many lakes of good, pure water, together with the unbounded fertility of the virgin soil made this section an ideal one for settlement and it was not long after the tide of immigration had definitely settled in toward this part of the state that the most desirable lands were taken up by industrious and earnest homesteaders, who quickly brought their places under cultivation; by the time of the middle seventies it having been most effectually demonstrated that Douglas county was one of the garden spots of the state, a fact which the experience of the later years has served to accentuate.

### LOCATION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.

Douglas county is situated a little southwest of the central part of the state of Minnesota, in the division of the state known as the West Central Section, about one hundred and thirty miles northwest of the city of St. Paul, the state capital, and is nearly on the dividing ridge of that part of the state. Within a few miles of its north and west lines the waters flow north into the Red river, south into the Minnesota river and east into the Mississippi

river. It lies in that part of the state which, from its beautiful lakes, streams and prairies, dotted with groves of magnificent native trees, is appropriately named the "Park Region" of Minnesota. At Alexandria, nearly in the center of the county, the altitude is one thousand three hundred and ninety-one feet, and on the north line of the county it is somewhat over one thousand four hundred feet, being as high as any part of the state except the extreme northeast and southwest. The surface of the county is undulating, fine, level and rolling prairies, interspersed with living streams, beautiful lakes and magnificent woodland. An almost perfect drainage of the county is secured by several chains of lakes, flowing out through the Chippewa river in the western part of the county, into the Minnesota river, and through the Long Prairie river to the east into the Mississippi. There are about two hundred lakes in the county, many of them very deep, and most of which have high banks surrounded with beautiful timber extending close to the shores, with many fine sandy beaches. One of these, Lake Carlos, a few miles north of Alexandria, is said to be the deepest lake in the state, and has been sounded to a depth of one hundred and fifty feet. There is comparatively little marsh or wet land, and much of that has been, or can be, drained. An abundance of good, pure well water can always be found at an average depth of thirty feet.

#### LAND AND WATER AREA, TIMBER, SOIL AND CLIMATE.

Douglas county contains 722.6 square miles, divided into twenty townships, extending thirty miles from east to west and twenty-four miles from north to south. According to the United States government surveys it has an area of 462,500.62 acres, of which 401,014.74 acres are land and 61,485.88 acres water. The 1910 census report, however, increases the land area to 414,720 acres, a part of the increase being due to the drainage of shallow lakes and ponds within recent years.

Throughout the county of Douglas there is an abundant supply of choice timber. The northeastern side of the county has a heavy growth of native forest, while the central and western parts are dotted over with groves which furnish abundant fuel and shelter for stock. Much of the timber suitable for lumber has been cut, but there is still some remaining which can be used in building barns and other farm buildings. Much timber land has been cleared and converted into fine fields. Among the hardwoods native to the country are the maple, white, red and burr oak, ironwood, birch, ash and elm, while of the soft varieties the principal are the different varieties of poplar, basswood, soft maple, cottonwood, tamarack and spruce.

The soil, almost without exception, is of excellent quality. A heavy black loam, or a black sandy loam, from eight inches to six feet deep, with clay or hardpan subsoil, varying in depth from eighteen inches to several feet, prevails, forming a quality of land of a character best suited to bear the extremes either of wet or drought. There are several distinct classes of soil found in the county which may be termed—the black sandy loam prairie soil, the black loam prairie soil, the black sandy loam timber soil and the black loam timber soil, all of excellent quality and each having its special adaptability to particular crops. There is also the deep, rich black soil of the natural lowland meadows and of the lake bottoms which have been reclaimed by drainage, conditions thus described rendering the county extremely well adapted to the demands of diversified farming.

The winters are generally cold and the summers generally warm, but this locality is not subject to those sudden and unexpected changes which are so fatal in their effects and which afflict seaboard and more southern regions. The atmosphere is clear, dry and pure and has a tonic property which braces and develops the energies and fits a man for great mental and physical exertion. It is declared by experienced travelers that a person will suffer far less bodily discomfort with the thermometer at twenty degrees below zero in this locality than he will in the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio or Illinois with the thermometer indicating zero. Usually there is fine sleighing and no slush during the winter. In summer the nights are cool. Malarial diseases are unknown in this locality and the rating given to the state of Minnesota abreast of any other state in the Union for general healthfulness. Hail storms are not so frequent as in states further south and cyclones have seldom visited these parts. Hot winds, such as prevail in some sections, are practically unknown here.

#### TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL AND POPULATION.

The records of the United States weather department, kept at Alexandria, show the mean annual temperature for the past twenty-one years to be 41.4 degrees. In 1914 the highest temperature was 95 degrees on August 8, and the lowest was 32 degrees below zero on February 8. According to an admirable review of crop conditions recently prepared under the direction of the Douglas County Agricultural Association, the average dates of the earliest and latest killing frosts for sixteen years up to 1908 are September 23 and May 18. The earliest frost in autumn during the sixteen years occurred on September 9 and the latest in the spring was on June 8. In 1914



the earliest frost was on September 22 and the latest in the spring was on May 10.

The mean annual rainfall for twenty years, 1888 to 1908, as kept by the weather station at Alexandria, was 24.23 inches, and for the six years, 1909 to 1914, it was 24.18 inches. In 1914 the total rainfall was 29.43 inches. The following figures show the mean rainfall at Alexandria, by months, for twenty years to 1908, and also for the five years, 1909 to 1913, during the months of April, May, June, July and August, which comprise practically the entire crop season, and show that the great bulk of the rainfall occurs during those months:

	20 yrs.	5 yrs.
April -----	2.23	1.96
May -----	3.31	3.98
June -----	3.97	2.22
July -----	3.44	4.09
August -----	3.71	3.98

The foregoing figures show that the average growing season is one hundred and twenty-eight days, which compares favorably with southern Wisconsin, Iowa and northern Illinois, and is sufficiently long for the maturing of excellent crops of corn.

The population of the county in 1910 was 17,669, of which number 4,619 were foreign born, divided among the principal foreign countries as follow: Sweden, 1,998; Norway, 960; Germany, 753; Austria, 224; Denmark, 230; Canada, 116; Finland, 86; all other countries, 232. The different nationalities of the foreign-born population and their descendants are largely separated into distinct communities and settlements; that is, there are Swedish, Norwegian, German, Bohemian, Danish and Finnish settlements.

#### FARMS AND PRINCIPAL CROPS.

According to the census of 1910 the number of farms in Douglas county in 1909 was 2,265, comprising 354,379 acres, the average size of the farm being 156.5 as against 177 acres for the whole state. The percentage of all lands in farms was 85.4 and the percentage of improved land was 62, the average number of acres improved on each farm being 97. The value of farm lands was \$10,694,213, and the value of all farm property was \$16,312,224, the average value of farm land per acre being placed at \$30.18. According to the 1914 report of the state tax commission the value of farm lands in that year had increased to \$16,976,453, and the average value of land per acre to \$42.84.

Douglas county was long famous for raising the largest crops of wheat of any county in the state, holding the record for the highest average yield per acre for many years. In the earlier years of its history wheat and other cereals constituted its principal crops and little attention was given to the raising of corn, live stock or dairying. But the farmers have long since awakened to the fact that it does not pay to put all their eggs into one basket, and the methods of farming have for the past fifteen years been gradually changing. The acreage of wheat has been gradually decreased and that of corn increased, while more and more attention is being given to dairying and stock raising. The result has been better farming methods practiced in the raising of all crops, and increased prosperity.

The following gives the acreage and amounts of the principal crops raised in 1909, the latest date for which accurate statistics are available:

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
Corn -----	8,927	308,805
Oats -----	23,385	820,913
Wheat -----	63,653	1,208,710
Barley -----	15,609	413,066
Rye -----	3,148	70,998
Flax seed -----	4,859	54,013
Timothy seed -----	401	2,135
Potatoes -----	1,532	178,466
Hay and forage -----	56,170	85,972

In 1915 corn increased to about twelve thousand acres, wheat decreased in acreage, while rye and potatoes largely increased. The following figures show the average yield per acre of Douglas county crops in 1909, compared with the average yield of the same crops in the state:

	<i>Average of State.</i>	<i>Average of Douglas County.</i>
Corn -----	33.99 bu.	34.6 bu.
Oats -----	31.5 bu.	35. bu.
Wheat, spring -----	17.4 bu.	19. bu.
Barley -----	22.2 bu.	26.5 bu.
Rye -----	16.6 bu.	22.5 bu.
Flax seed -----	9.1 bu.	11.1 bu.
Hay and forage -----	1.53 tons	1.53 tons
Potatoes -----	110.8 bu.	116.5 bu.

Corn has been successfully grown in Douglas county for many years. In 1899 there were 6,593 acres; in 1909 the acreage had increased to 8,927; in 1915 there were at least 12,000 acres, which acreage was considerably increased in 1916. In the past few years, with the coming of farmers from southern Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, who are skilled in its cultivation, the yield of corn has rapidly increased until it begins to rival the best yields of those states. Farmers also are raising more corn for fodder and, while in 1910 there was hardly a silo to be found in the county, there are now in the neighborhood of one hundred and fifty, there being at least twenty-five in one township alone. By the experiments of the State Agricultural College, a number of varieties of white and yellow dent corn have been produced that are well adapted to the county, mature early, yield well and are very successfully grown. Among these are Minnesota No. 23, Minnesota No. 13, Rustler White, Silver King, Reeves' Yellow Dent and others.

Douglas county farmers have taken a number of prizes at recent corn shows which are worthy of record here. At the corn contest of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association held at Albert Lea, January 2 to 7, 1911, George McMahan was awarded the first prize for the northern section of the state for best ten ears of Minnesota No. 13. At the same contest Samuel Preston, of Carlos township, received the second prize for the best twenty-five ears of any variety, his corn being White Dent; and Eugene Korkowski, of Brandon township, received first prize for the entire state for the best ten ears of flint corn. And this flint corn was the best in the United States, for the second prize winner afterward entered his corn at the national corn show at Columbus, Ohio, and received first prize. In 1912 Mr. McMahan won first prize for the entire state for the best ten ears of white dent at the northwestern live-stock show at South St. Paul.

#### POTATO CULTURE, FRUITS, LIVE STOCK AND DAIRYING.

For vegetables, it is declared that no soil in the state is better suited than that of Douglas county. Potatoes, beets, turnips, onions and all kinds of garden and field vegetables grow to fine size and give large yields. The growing of potatoes for outside markets has in the past few years become an assured success and many carloads are now shipped each year outside the state at a good profit. No finer potatoes are grown in the state, a fact attested at the scoring at the county exhibits at the Minnesota state fair during recent years, where Douglas county potatoes came into competition with a large number of the best counties of the state; in one year, out of a

possible score of 150 points, Douglas county scoring 149, the highest of the twenty-three counties exhibiting. The next year the score was 147 points, the highest of the thirty-four counties contesting.

The first potato warehouse in the county was built at Garfield in 1911 by a farmers co-operative company, and was so much of a success that in 1912 a second warehouse was built at that point, since which time warehouses have been built at Alexandria, Osakis, Brandon, Carlos, Nelson, Forada and Melby. As a consequence of this success the acreage of potatoes has increased to above four thousand acres and the potato crop is now becoming one of the leading crops of the county.

On many of the older farms of the county apples of good size and fine quality and other cultivated fruits are successfully grown, and within the past few years many thousands of hardy apple, crab, plum and cherry trees have been set out and are doing well. Forty-five varieties of apples were shown at the Douglas county exhibit at the state fair recently and the fruit exhibits as a whole have scored as high as many counties one hundred miles farther south. Large numbers of grape vines and strawberries also have been planted and the strawberry crop is especially fine. As much as four hundred dollars has been realized from one acre of strawberries. Wild fruits are abundant in all parts of the county, grapes, plums, raspberries, gooseberries and juneberries are excellent in quality and large in quantity.

The soil, climate, pure water and timber all combine to make this section especially adapted to stock raising and dairy farming. The soil and climate being well adapted to growing corn, clover, timothy, alfalfa and nutritious grasses, all kinds of stock do well and cattle and hogs especially are increasing rapidly. There have been in the past no serious diseases among cattle, very little hog cholera and very few diseases among horses, while sheep do extra well here, besides being a great aid in clearing up timber and brush lands. According to the bulletin of the Douglas County Agricultural Association above referred to, the creameries are getting the very highest prices for butter in the Eastern markets and taking premiums wherever they enter butter in competition. There are now fourteen creameries in the county, eleven co-operative, two independent, and one large central creamery, with the largest capacity, when built, of any creamery in the state, owned by the North American Storage Company at Alexandria. A breeders association was formed in 1909, the first one to be organized in the state, and it has been quite successful, having about sixty members, covering about half the county. A number of full-blood Holstein and Guernsey sires have been purchased and hundreds of grade calves have been raised by its





FARM SCENE NEAR ALEXANDRIA.



EVIDENCES OF PROSPERITY.



WHEAT HARVEST SCENE.





members. The association has also stimulated outside farmers to purchase full-blood sires and twenty-five or thirty such sires are now owned by individuals. Recent statistics show that the fourteen creameries had 1,917 patrons owning 15,107 cows, made 2,215,819 pounds of butter and paid out during the year \$573,686.02 to patrons for butter fat. To this must be added the large amounts received by farmers for cream shipped to central creameries in adjoining counties and the amounts received by farmers for butter made upon the farms, which probably amounts to nearly as much as the sum received from the creameries in the county. A recent report of the Minnesota tax commission gave the numbers and value of the live stock in Douglas county as follow:

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Cattle -----	30,281	\$ 870,516
Horses -----	10,352	1,045,737
Swine -----	10,203	95,064
Sheep -----	3,512	14,802

#### RURAL MAIL DELIVERY, TELEPHONES AND GOOD ROADS.

Douglas county has a complete county system of rural free delivery routes by which every farmer in the county is reached. There is also a complete system of rural telephones maintained by eight companies, connecting with each other and with exchanges in Alexandria, Osakis and other villages, and with long-distance lines, covering nearly every part of the county and giving good service. The county is noted for its good roads, having many miles of first class graveled roads, which are being added to each year. The National Parks Highway, known as "The Red Trail," extending from New York to Seattle, passes through the county nearly parallel to the Great Northern railway, following practically the route of the old Red River trail, which was the highway for the famous old Red River carts in the days of the fur traders. This road is practically all now graded and graveled, as a state road, throughout its forty-mile course in the county.

Farmers clubs for the discussion of farm problems and for social intercourse flourish in Douglas county, nine or ten such clubs doing splendid work along those lines. There are also a number of farmers co-operative associations for conducting elevators, potato warehouses, the shipping of live stock and other produce, the buying of farm machinery and other bulky merchandise at wholesale, besides the co-operative creameries above mentioned, and largely attended farmers institutes for the study of scientific

agriculture and farm problems, conducted by state experts, are held in different parts of the county every winter. The prices at which improved farms can be bought in Douglas county vary considerable, according to circumstances, ranging from forty dollars to one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. A successful county fair is held each year at Alexandria by the Douglas County Agricultural Association, which also makes an annual county exhibit at the state fair.

#### DOUGLAS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

The efforts to hold county fairs and agricultural exhibits in Douglas county have passed through three successive stages of development. From the very beginning of agricultural development in this section of the state, the farmers and business men of Douglas county have exerted their energies in the direction of making a creditable showing of the resources of the county and the annual exhibits, together with a constant succession of the exhibits of the county's agricultural resources at the Minnesota state fair, have done much to establish the reputation of this section as a region of much productivity. Early in the seventies voluntary exhibits began to be made in the village of Alexandria after the passing of the harvest season and on January 18, 1874, the Douglas County Fair Ground Association was organized and incorporated for the purpose of holding annual fairs in the village of Alexandria, the county seat, the articles of incorporation of this association having been signed by Christ H. Raiter, L. G. Sims, Hiram Shippey, Thomas F. Cowing, Fred von Baumbach, Charles Shultz, Charles F. Sims, J. B. Cowing, Knute Nelson, C. Offel, Charles Sunday, John A. Flesch, George H. Roe, Thomas W. Sprague, James H. Van Dyke, Joseph Gilpin, J. M. Doudua, Godfrey Vivian and Frank E. Lewis.

The above association established fair grounds and conducted annual exhibits with a varying measure of success for some years and was presently reorganized and succeeded by the Douglas County Agricultural Society, which filed articles of incorporation on April 2, 1888. This society was organized with a capital stock of ten thousand dollars, with the following stockholders: Fred C. Meade, of Hudson; John Landeen, of Ida; B. W. Blakesley, of Lake Mary; N. N. Hardy, of Alexandria; Mathias Kline, of Belle River; Jacob Kohlhaas, of Carlos; J. F. Dicken, of La Grand; D. E. Robinson, of Lake Mary; Frank Reynolds, Fred von Baumbach, J. H. Letson and G. W. Robards, of Alexandria, and the following directors: F. C. Meade, John Landeen, B. W. Blakesley, Mathias Kline, Jacob Kohlhaas, J. F.

Dicken and N. N. Hardy. The Douglas County Agricultural Society continued holding county fairs and some very creditable exhibits were made from year to year, but finally the direction of the society gradually passed into other hands, too much attention was paid to the sporting side of horse racing and the sporting element which attached itself to the enterprise eventually brought the county fairs into such local disrepute that the people of the county generally paid little attention to the same, attendance and interest both dwindling to such proportions that the society finally was disbanded and the fair ground was bought by the city of Alexandria for eventual park purposes or such purposes as may eventually be found most advantageous to the city, and the annual county fair exhibits ceased for a time. During the years 1907-10, annual fairs were held at Alexandria under the auspices of the Alexandria Commercial Club.

On August 25, 1911, the present Douglas County Agricultural Association was organized and on September 5 of that year filed articles of incorporation, under the above title, the names and addresses of the incorporators being as follow: Nels Bye, of Urness; Ole J. Berg, of Moe; B. E. Howe, of Osagis; C. H. Cooper, of Carlos; John H. O'Brien, of Alexandria; Fred C. Meade, of Hudson; John A. Johnson, of Ida; Theo. A. Erickson, J. A. Wedum, G. A. Kortsch and A. H. Gregerson, of Alexandria, with the following officers: President, Theo. A. Erickson; vice-president, Fred C. Meade; secretary, George L. Treat, and treasurer, G. A. Kortsch. This association has not yet purchased fair grounds, but has done a fine work in making a concerted effort to promote the agricultural interests of Douglas county and to introduce the advantages of this section as an agricultural region by means of well-designed publications and other forms of publicity to persons seeking homes in the beautiful park region of which the association's base of operations is the virtual center. Attractive exhibits have been made in the city of Alexandria with a view to showing the advance that has been made in recent years in the methods and results of modern farming and as a further means of interesting all in the wonderful agricultural possibilities of the county. The association also makes an annual county exhibit at the state fair and through this latter means has done much to attract the attention of people from all parts of the state to Douglas county.

#### DOUGLAS COUNTY AS A SUMMER RESORT.

Douglas county is a famous summer resort. Its two hundred lakes of pure, deep water, with their beautiful, timbered shores and sandy beaches,

furnish a resting place and recreation for many hundreds of people from all parts of the United States during the summer months. The finishing is of the best, among the varieties of fish to be found in the lakes being pickerel, wall-eyed pike, Great Northern pike, crappies, and at least six varieties of bass, including the gamey, small-mouthed gray bass and the black bass, all of which attain a size wholly unknown outside of the Minnesota park region. While the tourist resorts center at Alexandria and Osakis, good accommodations also are provided at many small resorts and farm houses throughout the county.

#### REGISTERED FARM NAMES.

The Minnesota state Legislature passed an act in 1909 under the provisions of which any farm owner in the state may secure exclusive right to a name for his farm by having the same recorded with the register of deeds in the county where he lives. A fee of only fifty cents is charged to cover the cost of the clerical work. Up to August, 1916, one hundred and nineteen farm names were registered in Douglas county, and the owners and location of the same are set out in the following paragraphs:

"Birch Hill"—Owned by C. H. Jenson; registered on July 2, 1909; located on section 24, township 128, range 37.

"Riverview"—Owned by Oscar Erickson; registered on July 2, 1909; located on section 32, 33, township 129, range 40.

"Lakeside"—Owned by Newton J. Trenham; registered on July 9, 1909; located in section 18, township 128, range 37.

"Pleasant View"—Owned by C. H. Cooper; registered on July 10, 1909; located on section 13, township 129, range 37.

"Lund"—Owned by Ole Haglund; registered on July 13, 1909; located on section 17, township 128, range 38.

"Eagle Point"—Owned by E. E. Hedeem; registered on July 20, 1909; located on section 12, township 129, range 39.

"Lake Shore"—Owned by Jacob E. Jacobson; registered on July 20, 1909; located on section 13, township 129, range 39.

"Cloverdale"—Owned by Leander Kellogg; registered on July 23, 1909; located on sections 28, 29, 32, 33, township 127, range 37.

"Runboholm"—Owned by Oscar Wolf; registered on July 26, 1909; located on section 2, township 127, range 39.

"Coney Island"—Owned by Paul W. Hanson; registered on July 26, 1909; located on section 2, township 127, range 39.

"Elmwood"—Owned by C. E. Warberg; registered on July 27, 1909; located on section 25, township 129, range 36.

"Urness Lakeside"—Owned by E. J. Olson; registered on July 28, 1909; located on sections 14, 23, township 128, range 40.

"Greenwing Pass"—Owned by John E. Anderson; registered on July 28, 1909; located on section 12, township 127, range 40, and section 7, township 127, range 39.

"Elm Grove"—Owned by C. J. Peterson; registered on July 28, 1909; located on section 11, township 127, range 39.

"Maple Hill"—Owned by Annie Johnson; registered on July 28, 1909; located on section 11, township 127, range 39.

"Lakeview"—Owned by Louis Morris; registered on July 30, 1909; located on section 20, township 127, range 37.

"Oak Grove"—Owned by Peter N. Johnson; registered on July 31, 1909; located on section 26, township 128, range 38.

"Maple Lane"—Owned by George A. Swaren; registered on August 2, 1909; located on section 27, township 128, range 37.

"Sunnyside"—Owned by Ambrose Peet; registered on August 14, 1909; located on section 23, township 128, range 38.

"Fairview"—Owned by C. O. Weatherwax; registered on August 16, 1909; located on sections 21, 22, township 129, range 37.

"Riverside"—Owned by F. W. Craig; registered on August 21, 1909; located on sections 13, 14, 24, township 129, range 36.

"Korum Farm"—Owned by Aune O. Korum; registered on August 28, 1909; located on sections 5, 6, township 128, range 39.

"Fairfield"—Owned by Anton Lund; registered on September 11, 1909; located on section 15, township 128, range 38.

"Butternut Lawn"—Owned by Carolina Miessner; registered on September 18, 1909; located on sections 27, 34, township 120, range 39.

"Evansville Fairview"—Owned by Ellen J. Okerlund; registered on September 23, 1909; located on sections 29, 31, 32, township 129, range 40.

"Cosy Nook"—Owned by Ellen J. Okerlund; registered on September 23, 1909; located on section 32, township 129, range 40.

"Sandvik"—Owned by C. H. Larson; registered on September 24, 1909; located on section 14, township 128, range 37.

"Oakland"—Owned by Charles O. Anderson; registered on October 4, 1909; located on sections 31, 32, township 129, range 37.

"Grand View"—Owned by Mina O. Newhouse; registered on October 9, 1909; located on sections 29, 32, township 129, range 39.

"Woodland"—Owned by John Anderson; registered on October 9, 1909; located on sections 26, 27, 35, township 128, range 39.

"Maplewood"—Owned by B. W. Blakesley; registered on October 23, 1909; located on sections 11, 13, 14, township 127, range 38.

"Clover Crest"—Owned by William Hermanson; registered on October 26, 1909; located on section 7, township 129, range 38.

"The Oaks"—Owned by R. J. Ballentine; registered on November 10, 1909; located on section 7, township 128, range 37.

"Glen Oak"—Owned by C. Nauman; registered on November 17, 1909; located on sections 27, 28, township 129, range 37.

"Birch Lawn"—Owned by E. H. Boerner; registered on November 17, 1909; located on sections 28, 29, township 129, range 37.

"Oakdale"—Owned by Erick E. Ekdahl; registered on November 24, 1909; located on section 35, township 129, range 38, and section 2, township 128, range 38.

"Lake Center"—Owned by J. N. Tilleskjoer; registered on November 26, 1909; located on section 11, township 128, range 40.

"Clover Leaf"—Owned by John S. Wagner; registered on November 30, 1909; located on section 33, township 130, range 39.

"Oak Lawn"—Owned by John Kelly; registered on December 8, 1909; located on section 28, township 130, range 38.

"Willow Grove"—Owned by Christian Pitirson; registered on December 11, 1909; located on section 22, township 128, range 38.

"Lugn Vik"—Owned by Per Hanson; registered on December 16, 1909; located on section 2, township 127, range 39.

"Cranberry Farm"—Owned by James Lauda; registered on December 28, 1909; located on sections 2, 3, 11, township 129, range 39.

"Broadview"—Owned by J. O. Brandon; registered on December 31, 1909; located on sections 32, 33, township 128, range 39.

"Park Hill"—Owned by A. J. Peterson; registered on January 13, 1910; located on section 9, township 129, range 39.

"Pine Hill"—Owned by A. H. Englund; registered on January 24, 1910; located on section 15, township 127, range 39.

"Lilac Grove"—Owned by Gustaf Olson; registered on January 26, 1910; located on section 15, township 127, range 39.

"Lake Park"—Owned by P. A. Lofdahl; registered on February 7, 1910; located on sections 20, 21, township 130, range 39.

"Prairie Violet"—Owned by Amund Holverson; registered on February 7, 1910; located on section 2, township 128, range 40.

"Woodside"—Owned by Paul E. Foslin; registered on February 7, 1910; located on sections 15, 16, township 128, range 39.

Geneva Hill"—Owned by F. O. Erickson; registered on February 14, 1910; located on section 15, township 128, range 37.

"Green Briar"—Owned by Erick T. Sletto; registered on February 19, 1910; located on sections 17, 18, 19, 20, township 128, range 39.

"Prairie Home"—Owned by J. H. Cooley; registered on February 26, 1910; located on sections 7, 8, township 127, range 37.

"Spring Hill"—Owned by E. J. and Jennie Robards; registered on February 28, 1910; located on sections 4, 5, township 127, range 37.

"Hazel Grove"—Owned by J. W. Lund; registered on March 17, 1910; located on section 26, township 128, range 37.

"Carlos Lakeview"—Owned by John P. Peterson; registered on March 21, 1910; located on sections 16, 17, township 129, range 37.

"Andrewborg"—Owned by Andrew A. Anderson; registered on May 9, 1910; located on section 21, township 128, range 39.

"The Blom Farm"—Owned by John J. Blom; registered on May 14, 1910; located on section 15 township 128, range 38.

"Oakwood"—Owned by Charles Guenther; registered on May 23, 1910; located on section 20, township 130, range 38.

"Hampton"—Owned by Gustav Tonn; registered on May 27, 1910; located on sections 11, 12, township 129, range 37.

"Golden Willow"—Owned by Louis Thoreson; registered on May 31, 1910; located on section 2, township 128, range 37.

"Fosmoe Farm"—Owned by John Fosmoe; registered on June 7, 1910; located on section 28, township 128, range 39.

"Summit"—Owned by L. G. Hermanson; registered on June 22, 1910; located on section 12, township 129, range 39.

"Meadow Lawn"—Owned by Fritz Lindstrom; registered on August 8, 1910; located on section 33, township 129, range 40.

"Brookside"—Owned by Fred Peterson; registered on August 26, 1910; located on section 13, township 129, range 39.

"Brook Hill"—Owned by Emil Peterson; registered on August 26, 1910, located on section 18, township 129, range 38.

"La Glade"—Owned by William H. Lee; registered on October 4, 1910; located on section 23, township 128, range 38.

"Green Park"—Owned by Ole L. Berglund; registered on October 20,

1910; located on section 4, township 129, range 36, and section 33, township 130, range 36.

"Green Hill"—Owned by Charles A. Anderson; registered on October 31, 1910; located on section 5, township 128, range 36.

"Wood Lawn"—Owned by Samuel Preston; registered on December 7, 1910; located on section 30, township 129, range 37, and section 25, township 129, range 38.

"The Willows"—Owned by Frank Danielson; registered on January 12, 1911; located on section 31, township 127, range 40.

"Botner Farm"—Owned by Ole P. Botner; registered on January 17, 1911; located on sections 12, 13, township 128, range 39.

"Shore Acres"—Owned by Jerry L. Blodgett; registered on January 30, 1911; located on section 31, township 129, range 37.

"The Highlands"—Owned by H. L. Lewis; registered on February 15, 1911; located on section 15, township 127, range 39.

"Homewood"—Owned by John Bolin; registered on February 28, 1911; located on section 2, township 128, range 37.

"Victoria Lodge"—Owned by Josephine Helen Van Cleve; registered on March 18, 1911; located on section 21, township 128, range 37.

"Interlachen Lodge"—Owned by Mary E. Finch; registered on June 9, 1911; located on section 6, township 128, range 37.

"Glendale"—Owned by Albert W. Allen; registered on June 24, 1911; located on section 21, township 128, range 37.

"Fair Acres"—Owned by John C. Ames; registered on September 11, 1911; located on section 2, township 129, range 38.

"La Grand Lake Park"—Owned by Peter Sweet; registered on September 24, 1911; located on sections 2, 3, township 128, range 38.

"Highland"—Owned by J. P. Gran; registered on November 10, 1911; located on sections 1, 12, township 127, range 40.

"Circle Beach"—Owned by Constant A. Wesen; registered on December 18, 1911; located on section 24, township 127, range 39.

"Heather Brae"—Owned by J. A. McKay; registered on December 26, 1911; located on section 17, township 128, range 37.

"Oak Hill"—Owned by E. J. Brandt; registered on December 27, 1911; located on section 30, township 130, range 36.

"Belle Plaine"—Owned by Gust Mattson; registered on December 28, 1911; located on section 29, township 129, range 36.

"Sunny Slope"—Owned by John Nelson; registered on December 30, 1911; located on section 19, township 128, range 36.



"Cloverland"—Owned by August Anderson; registered on December 30, 1911; located on section 12, township 128, range 37.

"Urness Homestead"—Owned by John A. Urness; registered on December 30, 1911; located on sections 13, 14, 24, township 128, range 40.

"Pleasant Grove Stock Farm"—Owned by John A. Olson; registered on January 2, 1912; located on sections 17, 18, township 128, range 36.

"Honeydale"—Owned by Albin Anderson; registered on March 18, 1912; located on section 1, township 129, range 36.

"Lakewood"—Owned by Samuel Preston; registered on March 22, 1912; located on section 11, township 128, range 38.

"Pleasant Home"—Owned by Edward A. Olson; registered on April 6, 1912; located on sections 24, 25, township 128, range 37.

"Crescent Grove"—Owned by O. H. Kahlon; registered on June 12, 1912; located on section 1, township 128, range 37.

"The Meadows"—Owned by E. O. Fritz; registered on August 30, 1912; located on sections 28, 33, township 129, range 36.

"North Star"—Owned by Theodore Walstad; registered on September 12, 1912; located on section 4, township 130, range 40.

"Terre Bonne"—Owned by Stephen A. Blackwell; registered on October 31, 1912; located on section 13, township 127, range 39.

"Peaceful Grove"—Owned by Theodore Johnson; registered on March 8, 1913; located on sections 29, 32, township 127, range 40.

"Oakdene Park"—Owned by W. J. B. Moses; registered on June 23, 1913; located on section 23, township 128, range 38.

"Plain View"—Owned by Augusta Peterson; registered on July 9, 1913; located on section 21, township 127, range 40.

"Ferndale Stock Farm"—Owned by Peter Rutten; registered on November 15, 1913; located on sections 1, 2, township 128, range 36.

"Park Region"—Owned by Mrs. H. B. Hobart; registered on December 27, 1913; located on sections 34, 35, township 129, range 37.

"Meadow Lane Jersey Farm"—Owned by J. O. Rosenquist; registered on February 6, 1914; located on section 10, township 130, range 36.

"Evergreen Valley Orchard Green Lawn Roadside Farm"—Owned by Robert Berglund; registered on February 9, 1914; located on section 3, township 127, range 40.

"Orchard Grove"—Owned by A. G. Carlson; registered on February 12, 1914; located on section 4, township 127, range 37.

"Geneva Crest"—Owned by A. G. Carlson; registered on March 18, 1914; located on section 22, township 128, range 37.

"Brook Dale"—Owned by J. J. Volker; registered on May 16, 1914; located on section 30, township 127, range 36.

"Golden Summit Dairy Farm"—Owned by George Workman; registered on June 15, 1914; located on section 31, township 127, range 36.

"Hillcrest"—Owned by Ellie L. Hitchcox; registered on July 3, 1914; located on section 1, township 128, range 38.

"Brown's Dale Stock Farm"—Owned by John N. Brown; registered on May 11, 1915; located on sections 7, 18, township 129, range 36.

"Cowdry Park"—Owned by John M. Green; registered on May 19, 1915; located on section 14, township 128, range 38.

"Sunny Brook"—Owned by Peter Streed; registered on October 23, 1915; located on section 14, township 129, range 37.

"Garden Grove"—Owned by Frank O. Kullander; registered on March 1, 1916; located on section 21, township 127, range 40.

"Pleasant Hill"—Owned by Matt Johnson; registered on March 10, 1916; located on section 28, township 128, range 39.

"Hill View"—Owned by Gust Mattson; registered on April 1, 1916; located on section 35, township 129, range 37.

"Maple Grove"—Owned by E. Herman Peterson; registered on May 2, 1916; located on section 16, township 130, range 36.

"Alexandria Fruit and Nursery Farm"—Owned by W. H. Horton; registered on June 17, 1916; located on section 24, township 128, range 38.

"Oak Valley"—Owned by C. Hermanson; registered on July 3, 1916; located on section 27, township 129, range 39.

## CHAPTER X.

### TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION.

From the days of the lumbering Red River carts and the "prairie schooners," with their plodding oxen as motive power, to the wonderful trans-continental steel vestibuled trains that roar amid the lake-begemmed park region comprised within the confines of Douglas county, on their swift flight to and from the coast, and from the creaking wagons of the pioneers to the cushioned ease of the automobile "super-sixes" of the present day is a far cry, indeed; and yet this amazing transformation in the transportation system of the people has been accomplished within the easy recollection of many persons now living in Douglas county.

White men began to travel through the then wilds of this section of Minnesota as early as the second decade of the past century, the French voyageurs and, later, the hardy *coureurs des bois*, or rangers of the woods, blazing the ways that later became well-developed and much traveled trails from the rich fur-trading stations of the Red River country to the outposts of civilization on the Mississippi. For many years the voyageurs and semi-wild wood rangers, employees of the various fur companies, ranged through the wilds of Minnesota and traded with the Indian tribes on the Minnesota, the Mississippi, the Red River of the North and other streams. These hardy men penetrated to all parts of the land and explored it mile by mile. Trading posts were established at all convenient points from the headwaters of the Mississippi westward to the Red River of the North, from Lake Superior, Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods on the north to the valley of the Minnesota; many of these posts being carried on by private individuals in competition with the rich fur-trading companies of the East, and the trails through the forests and over the prairies created by these wandering and roving traders later became the first highways of the pioneers, the first permanent settlers of the land. Towards the middle of the century communication between the Red River valley and the outside world became all the more frequent. Cart routes leading to the head of navigation on the Mississippi began to be established by traders who, independent of the fur companies, began to locate at Pembina and other points, Mendota,

near Ft. Snelling becoming one of the chief objective points of the Red River cart trails through Minnesota for many years before St. Paul was founded and became a determined rival of the equally busy port at Prairie du Chein. The aristocracy of the plains in those times consisted of the officers, traders and clerks at the posts and the buffalo hunters. While the Selkirk colonists generally dressed in homespun clothing and lived plainly, the men at the posts had every luxury they could procure, including a stock of the finest liquors. In fact, liquor was one of the essentials of a well-stocked post in that time and there was rarely a lack of the ardent spirits among the roving, reckless people of that day, it not being an infrequent thing to *cache* barrels of whiskey at convenient points along the trail, presumably for the better progress of the carters and rovers of the fur country. It is related that Whisky Lake, just to the north of the present village of Brandon, in Douglas county, has its name from the circumstance that it was noted in those days as the place of one of the best-known liquor *caches* of that period.

Afterward, the military trails began to open up new lines of travel, one of the most notable of these being the old military trail that was cut through Douglas county and on to the Red River by Colonel Abercrombie, who established the fort which long bore his name, in the neighborhood of the present city of Breckenridge, and then came the stage lines, enterprising individuals finding that there was enough transient travel developing to warrant the establishment of regular stage routes and stage stations. It was in the spring of 1859 that J. C. Burbank & Company, of St. Cloud and St. Paul, commenced running a line of stages through Douglas county, stations along that route being established in this county at Osakis, Alexandria, Chippewa, about two miles from what is now the village of Brandon, and Evansville, the western terminus of the line at first being Ft. Abercrombie and later St. Vincent. The road followed was the one surveyed by the government the year before and opened by the troops, the same now being the old state road, with certain modifications of route to suit later conditions. For years that road was the main thoroughfare of travel between St. Paul, St. Cloud and the Red River region. The stage line was continued by Burbank & Company until about 1874, when the railroad, following the same general line of direction, reached Melrose, after which, as the distance then was only about forty miles, local stage companies and local freighters began gradually to take over the business and regular stages and freight hauls were established out of Alexandria to the railway station. In 1874 a stage line also was established between Benson and Alexandria

and the competing lines had the effect to reduce the price of freighting considerably.

The railway was graded as far west as Alexandria in the years 1873 and 1874, but owing to the failure of the company, the road was not completed until in 1878, and on the 5th day of November in that year, the first train of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad Company reached Alexandria, an occasion of general rejoicing throughout the entire county. The railway, entering the county at the south shore of Lake Osakis, accommodating the village already established at that point, proceeded on in a northwesterly direction, continuing to follow virtually the line of the old stage route, through Osakis, Alexandria, La Grand, Ida Brandon, Evansville and Lund township and passed out at a point a little more than two miles south of the north edge of the latter township, the northern boundary of the county, along the south shore of Lake Christina, striking the old stage station at Evansville on its way. The station at Chippewa was passed by on the other side by the railway surveyors and what small commercial activities had been started there were moved over to the railroad and thus began the village of Brandon. Between Osakis and Alexandria another station was established and was given the name of Nelson, in honor of United States Senator Knute Nelson, and later about midway between Alexandria and Brandon another station was established, which developed into the present village of Garfield. Still later the station at Melby was established in the upper part of Lund township, just south of the Lake Christina, and all have developed into prosperous trading points, the centers of the extensive shipping interests of their respective territories.

#### THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD.

The railroad above mentioned, now the main line of the Great Northern railroad, running from Chicago to the coast, is a part of the great system of railroads evolved under the directive genius of the late James J. Hill. At the time of the failure of the banking house of Jay Cook & Company in 1873, and the consequent bankruptcy of the Northern Pacific Railroad, a part of that system formerly known as the St. Paul & Pacific was involved in difficulties with its bondholders and encumbered by a heavy mortgage. It was at that time in the hands of a receiver appointed by the court and a syndicate was formed, under the direction of James J. Hill, which purchased the whole property and reorganized it under the name of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad Company, George Stevens, of Montreal, being

chosen president of the company and Mr. Hill, general manager. On August 22, 1882, Mr. Hill was elected president of the company and the history of the magnificent railway system which he gradually built up, under the name of the Great Northern, is a matter of common knowledge. It was in 1880 that the trans-continental line crossed the Red River and its progress then on over the mountains and the plains to the coast was but a matter of sure and steady pushing along until more than half a continent had been crossed with its iron bands, from the shores of Lake Superior and the banks of the Mississippi to the Pacific.

Douglas county again was penetrated by a railroad in 1902, the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie, or "Soo" line entering the county on section 32, of Hudson township, proceeding northerly through that township to Alexandria and thence, through Alexandria township, northeasterly through Carlos township and out of the county, north, on section 2, of Miliona township. Florida, in Hudson township; Carlos, in the township of that name, and Miliona, in the township of that name, being the stations established along the route, besides that at Alexandria, the new line opened up valuable markets to Duluth and the lake. The western line of the "Soo" but in 1887 crossed the extreme southwest corner of Douglas county, entering the same in section 36 of Solem township and crossing the lower part of that township in a northwesterly direction, passing out in section 19 of the same, the village of Kensington being the only station on that line in the county.

With the rapid development of the automobile as a means of rapid and convenient transportation, local travel throughout this part of Minnesota, as well as all over the country, has been practically revolutionized. Since the farmers have found that an automobile is one of the best investments that can be made on a farm, there are few well-equipped farm plants in the county that have not an automobile now, the farm thus being brought within easy distance of the market, and in consequence the growing cry for better roads have resulted in much more systematic attention to the construction and maintenance of highways. The many attractive lakes throughout the county bring thousands of tourists into Douglas county during the summer season and most of these come in by automobile, the license plates of widely remote states being noted among these touring cars, covering a range from Oregon to Florida and from New York to Texas.

County road No. 1, the St. Cloud and Breckenridge, or Ft. Abercrombie road, already referred to, was surveyed in 1858 and 1859 by Theodore H. Barrett and opened up in part during the year 1859. In 1869 this road

was resurveyed as far as the village of Alexandria by the then county surveyor, Henry Blackwell.

County Road No. 2, the Osakis Townsite and Ottertail Lake road, was surveyed by W. Adley in 1866.

County road No. 3, the Lake George and Ottertail lake road, was surveyed in 1869 by Charles Tengwall.

County road No. 4, the St. Paul & Pacific railroad and Ft. Ripley road, was surveyed by Henry Blackwell in 1869.

## CHAPTER XI.

### EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

The development of the schools of Douglas county from the days of the little log school house in the wilderness to the present highly organized and effective high-school system with a course as good as that offered by the colleges in that earlier day is one of the wonders of modern social progress. So gradual has this development been, however, that those of the present generation of pupils are hardly sensible of the wonderful advancement that has been made along that line, accepting, as a matter of course, advantages in the way of schooling that hardly could have been dreamed of by the pioneers who cleared the way in this region a couple of generations ago.

There was little time lost, after the settlers began to make over the wilds hereabout, in getting schools established and very soon after a settlement was found to possess a sufficient number of children to warrant the effort, the district school came into being; districts being organized in accordance with the effective Minnesota system until there finally came to be one hundred and two school districts in the county, all of which now are doing effective work. In many instances at first these little district schools, by reason of the natural and inevitable limitations of the circumstances and surroundings, were but crude affairs, indeed; but they served their purpose in their own day and generation and the torch of learning was bravely held aloft in the wilderness. By the time of the early seventies, when the settlement of the county was rapidly progressing, there had come to be excellent schools in all the considerable settlements and villages, while even in the remoter districts there had come to be a well-organized system with respect to the schools, no neighborhood being without a fitting place of schooling for the youth of the same. The wonderful impetus given to the cause of education throughout this state generally by Minnesota's wonderful educational system was felt from the very beginning throughout Douglas county and the gradual development of the schools of the county, as a result thereof, has been a matter of course, the high-minded men and women who took the lead in school matters, as well as in the general social matters of this community in an early day, having built very wisely and very well a founda-





THE J. A. JAMES CABIN, ON THE WEST SHORE OF LAKE AGNES, WHERE  
THE FIRST SCHOOL IN ALEXANDRIA IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN  
TAUGHT BY MISS JANVIER IN 1861.



tion upon which today rests the county's excellent school system, one of the most effectively organized in this part of the state.

#### THE COUNTY'S SCHOOL SYSTEM EPITOMIZED.

Included in the one hundred and two districts which comprise the system of public schools in Douglas county are two high schools, one at Alexandria and one at Osakis; two graded schools, each doing two years of high-school work and a course in manual training, at Evansville and Brandon; nine semi-graded schools and eighty-nine rural schools, with free uniform text books throughout the county, except in one district. Every school has a library. All rural schools except three receive state aid, and nearly all teachers have had special normal training. Five districts are known as consolidated districts and transport pupils living more than two miles from school, these districts being those at Alexandria, Osakis, Melby, Miltona and Nelson. Graduation exercises for the rural schools are held annually at the county seat, the class of 1916 numbering fifty-four, and graduates from the graded and rural schools are admitted to the high schools. Industrial education along the lines of agriculture, sewing and cooking, is successfully taught in the graded and rural schools and an annual county industrial contest is held in connection with the county fair, where the work and products of these schools are exhibited, there being large enrollments in the corn, potato, pig and bread contests.

The high school at Alexandria was one of the first ten high schools in the state to introduce the teaching of agriculture, and the district now maintains a ten-acre farm for the use of the pupils in both the grade school and in the high school. The Alexandria high school also maintains special departments, for which state aid is provided, such as agriculture, manual training, domestic science and art, commercial and normal training, and music also is taught. The high school at Osakis, though not numbering so many pupils, has the same departments and is doing excellent work, as are the graded and semi-graded schools in the county. The system of supervision of the schools compels a high standard of competency on the part of the teaching corps and Douglas county boasts of a highly trained and very competent force of teachers, practically all of whom hold first-grade certificates. With the improvement in the curriculum and in the methods of teaching in recent years there also has come a wonderful improvement in the manner of construction of school houses, all the newer school buildings in the county being built along modern lines with respect to sanitation

and for the better comfort of the pupils, every effort being made to render the school as attractive a spot as possible, bringing it more and more in harmony with the home and at the same time developing it as a social center of large influence throughout the entire district.

#### ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOLS.

In connection with the ceremonies incident to the dedication of the present magnificent high-school building at Alexandria in the spring of 1916, a brief sketch of the history of the Alexandria schools was read by R. C. Bondurant, of the *Alexandria Post-News*, who, as pupil, teacher, patron or school officer of the Alexandria schools, had enjoyed exceptional opportunities for observation of the gradual development of the same. In opening his review, Mr. Bondurant pointed out that it had been a difficult task to trace the earliest history of the school district. Old records, if any, had been destroyed, but, fortunately, his access to the early files of the old *Alexandria Post* and correspondence with friends of the early days had enabled him to prepare what is regarded locally as the most accurate history of the schools of the county seat of Douglas county that has ever been compiled.

The first school in the district was taught, probably, by Miss Janvier in 1861, in a little log cabin, the home of J. A. James, near where Major von Baumbach's residence now stands on the west side of Lake Agnes. It is claimed that Miss Olive Darling also taught in that building in 1865. The next school was taught in the old stockade, a small log building being used to accommodate the few pupils who attended. It seems that three women taught in the stockade, Mrs. Haynes probably having been the first. Miss Kate Platt, who later became Mrs. W. H. Cowing, was the second, and Miss Wright, of St. Cloud, also taught there. The first school up town was taught in the winter of 1867-68 by Miss Anna Worthington, the school room having been on the second floor of the old court-house building, which in later years was occupied by N. P. Ward as a grocery store. Miss Worthington also taught during the following winter and in the winter of 1860-70 there seem to have been two or three teachers, who met with indifferent success, the first having been a man of the name of Williams, whose reign was short. Just who followed Williams is not recalled. It is probable, however, that the third teacher of that winter was Miss Hannah Bennett, daughter of a Methodist preacher. During the summer of 1870 a short term was taught by Miss Mary Amelia Pye, in an old frame build-

ing which stood where the middle portion of the building of the Alexandria Hardware and Lumber Company now stands.

About that time a change for the better came in the affairs of the Alexandria school. In July or August of 1869 the first site for a school house was purchased. A half block of land, a part of the present school site, was acquired and has since remained the property of district No. 2. The old *Alexandria Post* records the fact that on Saturday, March 26, 1870, a school meeting was held for the purpose of electing school officers. Eighty votes were cast at that election and John McLeod was elected director; Smith Bloomfield, clerk, and F. B. Van Hoesen, treasurer. Mr. Bloomfield was later county superintendent and Mr. Van Hoesen was for many years a member of the school board.

In the spring of 1870 work on the first school building in Alexandria was commenced. The *Alexandria Post* of November 12, 1870, says of that building: "It is 44 by 24 feet on the ground, and about 24 feet from the ground to the eaves. The pitch of the roof is one-third. The frame is of oak. The studding, 2 by 5; the joists, 2 by 8. It is filled with gROUT to the top of plate of first story. The sheeting, flooring and lining are of basswood—the siding also, and carefully dressed. There is a porch in front, nine feet wide—six feet projection and eight feet posts, the roof, pitch and cornice correspond with the main building. There is a hall-way, or vestibule, in the lower story, formed by running a partition across the building eight feet from the entrance. This leaves a lower room 35 by 22 feet ten inches, and 10 feet 6 in the clear. This room is ceiled with matched pine flooring three feet from the ground. It is lighted by six twelve-lighted windows, size of glass, 10 by 8. The vestibule is lighted by two windows of same description. The upper room is 43 feet by 22 feet 10 inches, of same height as the lower room, and is lighted by eleven windows. Of these, there is a central front, sixteen-lighted, with a circle head; two front side windows, twelve-lighted, size of glass, 10 by 16, and four on either side of same description.

The *Post* of the same date says of the teacher who taught the first term of school in the new building: "Miss M. Frank Reynolds, a graduate of the Winona Normal School and a teacher of experience and ability, has been appointed to the charge of the school during the winter term. School will commence on Monday morning next, 15th instant, at 8½ o'clock." The following from the same issue of the *Post* should be of interest. "With such a building to instruct in, and with a teacher who is entitled to our confidence, let us help the excellent cause by showing our interest in the work of educa-

tion and by that co-operation and assistance in the households, without which the efforts of the best of teachers will meet with very partial success." This lady was the daughter of Judge Reuben Reynolds and a sister of George H. Reynolds, one-time attorneys of Alexandria.

About 1872 the second floor of the new building was furnished as a school room and two teachers were employed. A Mr. Willis was hired as principal and Miss Kate McClellan taught the primary pupils. These two teachers remained until the school closed in the spring of 1873. From that time on there is a complete list of principals and superintendents, which will be given later. In the summer of 1876 a "twin" building to the first one was erected about one hundred feet to the east. That fall one room in the new building was used. In 1878 the second floor of the new building was finished and four teachers were employed, Miss Mary Gunderson (Mrs. F. B. Van Housen) being the principal. About 1882 the schools became so crowded that one of the rooms in the old building was divided into two rooms. Also about that time the Norwegian Lutheran church was rented and used as a school room, this making the employment of six teachers necessary. In the summer of 1883, what is now known as the old high school building was erected, John Aiton having the contract. Just the two floors of this latter building were used for school purposes, they being considered ample for some time. The school grew faster than the town, however, and in 1888, the Ward school was opened and continued for several years, during the later years with two teachers. After being closed for some time, that building was reopened in 1910 with one teacher. About that time two routes for transporting pupils were established, one north and one to the west. In 1911 the district came under the consolidation act, and the Ward building was closed and three other routes established. The Washington building had been thought large enough to accommodate the schools for years, but in the course of a short time they were again crowded and during the summer of 1908 the old high school building was remodeled, rooms being furnished in the attic and in the basement, these rooms being added to later until four floors of the building were crowded.

In 1887, during the superintendency of Mr. Gaines, the school was put in the high-school class. When the Putnam act went into effect in 1909 a complete industrial course was added. Sewing and manual training had been taught during the two years previous and in 1909 the normal and commercial courses were added. In the fall of 1914 the normal department was crowded out of the school building and quarters were secured in the court house. That fall the school board began agitation in favor of a new and modern high school building; bonds were voted on, February 8, 1915, and

the contract was let to the National Contracting Company on June 4, 1915, forty-five years from the time the first school building in Alexandria was erected. One of the interesting features of Mr. Bondurant's sketch is a list of teachers who were at the head of the school from the time of its beginning in the little log cabin on the Baumbach hill. It may be that the order in which the first three or four teachers is given is not wholly accurate, as the memory of early settlers had to be depended on for the list and dates and these individual recollections do not all agree.

Miss Janvier seems to have been the first, teaching in 1861. She was a sister-in-law of George Kinkaid, one of the townsite proprietors. Whether Olive Darling or Mrs. Haynes is the next in order, is a question, Miss Darling probably having the honor. Then came Miss Platt and Miss Wright, Mrs. Haynes, Miss Platt and Miss Wright having taught in the stockade. Then came Miss Anna Worthington and a man named Williams, and it is thought that Miss Hannah Bennett taught a short term, followed by Miss Pye. The first school building then was occupied, Miss M. Frank Reynolds having been the first teacher in the same. The heads of the school since that time have been as follow: Mr. Willis, in the fall of 1872, with Miss Kate McClellan as primary teacher; J. H. Dunn, in the fall of 1873, Miss Mary Alden as primary teacher; A. H. Graham, who came in the fall of 1875 and taught during the following winter and until his death in the fall of 1876, W. H. Sanders finishing the winter term and J. H. Dunn returning to conduct the spring term of 1877, after which C. A. Carson taught until Christmas, 1877, when W. H. Sanders again took charge; Miss Mary Gunderson, in the winter of 1878-79; C. E. Norton, beginning the term of 1879, to be succeeded by J. W. Chaney, who finished the same; C. J. Gunderson, term of 1880-81; Joel N. Childs, 1881, remaining two years, during which time the school increased to six rooms, H. H. Kingsley and C. L. Greenough following, each remaining one year; A. D. Gaines, fall of 1885, remaining five years, a period of progress for the school; J. H. Manchester, one year, succeeded by J. E. Phillips, who remained three years, after which followed John Cranston, C. F. W. Carlson and W. P. Dyer, under the latter of whom the industrial and normal departments were added; C. S. Yeager, 1910-11, followed by J. B. Hagen, who remained two years, at the end of which time he was succeeded by F. M. Yockey, the present superintendent.

#### CLERKS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The clerks of the school districts in Douglas county for the current year (1916) are as follow: No 1, J. P. Olson, Osakis; 2, A. A. Urness, Alex-

andria; 3, Sylvester Chase, Forada; 4, Emil Gulbranson, Farwell; 5, J. O. Brandon, Kensington; 6, Henry A. Dau, Alexandria; 7, Aug. J. Mechels, Alexandria; 8, Alfred Foslien, Garfield; 9, Fred Sweet, Alexandria; 10, Otto T. Olson, Nelson; 11, A. A. Rooney, Osakis; 12, Mary A. Pollard, Osakis; 13, Reinhold Roth, Alexandria; 14, Chas. Danek, Lowry; 15, Emil E. Gahlon, Nelson; 16, Albert Covel, Alexandria; 17, John A. Norgren, Garfield; 18, Peter Cassell, Alexandria; 19, Frank Radil, Alexandria; 20, W. R. Guiles, Farwell; 21, Chas. Robertson, Osakis; 23, Walter C. Havens, Garfield; 24, T. J. Barros, Alexandria; 25, Eug. Korkowski, Brandon; 26, Alfred Strand Evansville; 27, Ole J. Holm, Kensington; 28, John Kelly, Garfield; 29, E. O. Steen, Farwell; 30, E. H. Boerner, Alexandria; 31, C. W. Meekstroth, Brandon; 32, Edward Erickson, Evansville; 33, M. G. Dockham, Osakis; 34, Frank Buscher, Brandon; 35, T. O. Bakken, Evansville; 36, R. J. Vickerman, Alexandria; 37, John Hopfner, Brandon; 38, Albert J. Flor, Ashby; 39, Peter Beheng, Carlos; 40, Martin Dahlberg, Nelson; 41, Thos. Collins, Osakis; 42, C. O. Colmark, Kensington; 43, Peter Faber, Parkers Prairie; 44, John Feigum, Brandon; 45, John P. Edman, Kensington; 46, John Eggleston, Parkers Prairie; 47, S. M. Carlson, Alexandria; 48, John H. Strom, Brandon; 49, Nels Christopherson, Hoffman; 50, Joseph Schlecter, Alexandria; 51, John Sundquist, Eagle Bend; 52, N. D. Anderson, Evansville; 53, Geo. Freudenberg, Parkers Prairie; Ole O. Lea, Brandon; 55, Nels A. Johnson, Carlos; 56, J. M. Prazak, Evansville; 57, H. A. Pries, Evansville; 58, Edwin Johnson, Melby; 59, Chas. Miller, Garfield; 60, Emil Johnson, Alexandria; 61, Chas. G. Olson, Garfield; 62, P. L. Blank, Carlos; 63, John Johnsrud, Kensington; 64, Frank Pexsa, Carlos; 65, Albert Engstrand, Carlos; 66, Frans Anderson, Carlos; 67, Phoebe Withers, Osakis; 68, C. J. Christopherson, Alexandria; 69, Swan Anderson, Alexandria; 70, Henry Oberg, Brandon; 71, N. M. Anderson, Hoffman; 72, C. A. Beckman, Evansville; 73, Roy Downing, Parkers Prairie; 74, C. A. Anderson, Alexandria; 75, Chas. Braunscheveig, Alexandria; 76, Frank Schwartz, Evansville; 77, C. J. Lindstrom, Alexandria; 78, Elling Ellingson, Hoffman; 79, A. S. Peterson, Farwell; 80, Emil J. Wahlstrom, Kensington; 81, Theo. Johnson, Kensington; 82, Henry Olson, Brandon; 83, J. H. Kapphahn, Osakis; 84, H. J. Marthaler, Osakis; 85, William Bosman, Osakis; 86, G. E. Willett, Osakis; 87, N. H. Strand, Evansville; 88, Henry Eggen, Garfield; 89, A. G. Olson, Evansville; 90, L. O. Larson, Evansville; 91, R. L. Smith, Villard; 92, M. Clark, Carlos; 93, A. L. Chapman, Alexandria; 94, John Tyrdik, Alexandria; 95 J. J. Sursely, Car-



los; 96, Frank Freske, Vining; 97, Albert Roth, Villard; 98, Peter Streed, Carlos; 99, F. L. Berglin, Garfield; 100, Henry Kloehn, Garfield; 102, R. A. Johnson, Melby; 103, Chas. F. Schelin, Nelson; 104, Aaron Edman, Evansville.

## TEACHERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.

The teachers in these several districts for the term 1916-17 were as follow: No. 1, Superintendent E. N. Hamilton; 2, Superintendent F. M. Yockey; 3, Elvira Flint; 4, Fanny Lehto; 5, Jennie Halverson; 6, Hattie Werline; 7, Susan Thirmesch; 8, Eunice Landa; 9, Tessie McIlravie; 10, Lydia Johnson; 11, Anna V. Donahue; 13, Mathilda Renner; 14, Sigrid Johnson; 15, Minetta Sweet; 16, Myrtle Parmeter; 17, Signe Peterson, principal, Ellen Sangstead; 18, Hilda Bostrom; 19, Meda Drussell; 20, Peter Nordby, Myrtle Weatherwax; 21, Martha Olson; 23, Clifford Larson; 24, Nora G. Viker; 25, Mary V. Schirber; 26, Alma Moen; 27, Rose Knutson, Minnie Stenberg; 28, Cathryn Augustine; 29, Frankie Nelson; 30, Minnie L. Johnson; 31, Mr. Hawley, principal, Jennie Beckman, Clara Nelson, Esther Erickson; 32, Minnie Johnson; 33, Bessie Lowry; 34, Margaret E. Lawler; 35, Mary Norem; 36, Grace Franklin; 37, Lillian Erickson; 38, Clara Tweeten; 39, Mary Palmer; 40, Rose Nelson; 41, Emma Fedá; 42, Grace Bondurant, principal, Lillian Johnson, Alphild Lund; 44, Jennie Barsness; 45, Ernest Olson, principal, Amelia Nelson; 46, Anna Owen; 47, Nettie McFarlane; 48, Isabelle Angus; 49, Constance Erickson; 50, Anna G. Olson; 51, Hazel Johnson; 52, Elizabeth Swenson; 53, Cecelia Donahue, Christine Ekman; 54, Elvera Johnson; 55, Jacob Bixby, principal, Freda Dahlstrom; 56, Mamie Tangle; 57, Herman Steubner, principal; 58, Alma Gradin; 59, Edith Anderson; 60, Olive Olson; 61, Victor Ostlund, principal, Mrs. Nelson; 62, Margaret Julig; 63, Louise Tax; 64, Amelia Fedá; 65, Ellen L. Hedin; 66, Hannah Clark; 67, Esther Lee; 68, Myrtle Olson; 69, Agnes Dahlstrom; 70, Mary Jacobson; 71, Petra Reckadahl; 72, Teckla Anderson; 73, Carrie Smith; 74, Ellen Anderson; 75, Alice Modahl; 76, Ruth Werner; 77, Clara Larson; 78, Alma Westerberg; 80, Nettie Maroney; 81, Jennie Larson; 82, Edna Sweet; 83, Mabel Brinkman; 85, Helen Schmid; 86, Frances Blakeslee; 87, Bertha Norem; 88, Helga Knutson; 89, Olga Anderson; 90, Clara Olson; 92, Margaret Taylor; 93, Edna M. Anderson; 94, Ino Cowing; 97, Mabel Palmer; 98, Myrtle Benn, principal, Mrs. Bessie Swetland; 99, Edith Hanson; 100, Elvera Engstrom, principal; 102, George Hanson, principal, Cecil Rinehart; 103, Ralph Borman, principal.

## CHAPTER XII.

### CHURCHES OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.

No definite history of the earliest religious services held in the beautiful lake region now comprised within the boundaries of Douglas county is available, but it is known, as a matter of tradition, that unorganized services were held from time to time in the groves or in the humble homes of the earliest settlers by itinerant preachers long before there was any definite church organization in the county, Congregationalist services having been held in the Gregory cabin as early as 1859. Though not the first church to file its articles of incorporation, it is pretty clearly established that the Congregational church at Alexandria was the first formal church organization in the county; having been organized in December, 1867, though the claim is made that the church erected by the Methodists at Alexandria was the first church building erected in that city. That was in the fall of 1868 and the church stood just west of the present church building, near where the parsonage now stands, adjoining the church, which stands on the northwest corner of Sixth avenue and F street, just one square west of the business center of the city. With characteristic liberality the Methodists permitted the use of their church building to other denominations which soon sought to effect organizations in Alexandria and the old church thus was the point of beginning for several others of the churches of Alexandria. None of the charter members of the Methodist church is still living and no full records of the early days of Methodism thereabout are now available, such information as the present congregation has regarding the early days having come from the recollections of the late John Bondurant, a pioneer of the church, a record of whose narratives were carefully penned by the Rev. J. M. Brown, during the time of the latter's pastorate at Alexandria, 1895-1900.

### CHURCHES INCORPORATED IN COUNTY.

Though the Methodist church at Alexandria may have been the first to effect a formal organization it was not the first to file its articles of incorporation, that distinction being accorded the First Methodist Episcopal church of Osakis, the record of whose incorporation opens the record of incorpora-





NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.



SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.



tions in Douglas county, the first page of Book A of the record of incorporations for that county carrying the following:

"We, Charles Griswold, presiding elder; F. H. Tubbs, preacher in charge; L. H. Webster, E. F. Chase and Marquis Bowhall, stewards, and Simon Coons, class leader of the congregation accustomed to attend divine worship at Osakis in the county of Douglas and state of Minnesota celebrated under the ministration and jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal church, said officers constituting the quarterly conference of said church at and for the said town of Osakis, do hereby certify that we, the said officers in said quarterly conference, assembled at the school house in West Union in the county of Todd, in said state, on the 24th day of February, A. D. 1869, did and hereby do, in conformity to the constitution, rules and usages of the Methodist Episcopal church and by virtue of the authority in us vested by said constitution and rules, and in pursuance of Section eighty-eight (88) of Chapter thirty-four (34) of the General Statutes of Minnesota, appoint and constitute Simon Coons, Lemuel H. Webster, William B. Glover, Esdore F. Chase, Harlow F. Curtis, Donald Stevenson and Michael H. Coons trustees of the said church and congregation at the said town of Osakis by the corporate name of The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Osakis, by which name the said trustees and their successors shall, as a corporation, forever hereafter be called and known. In testimony whereof we hereunto subscribe our names and affix our seals the 24th day of February, A. D. 1869. Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of James Chambers, Elias G. Pike, King E. Bohall, Charles Griswold, presiding elder; F. H. Tubbs, preacher in charge; L. H. Webster, steward; C. F. Chase, steward; M. Bohall, steward; Simon Coons, class leader, of the Methodist Episcopal church at Osakis, Minnesota." This article of incorporation was attested by James Chambers, notary public, and was filed for record in the office of the register of deeds of Douglas county on October 18, 1869, at 9 o'clock a. m.

About this time began that notable influx of immigration of the Scandinavian peoples to this section of Minnesota and the next congregation to file articles of incorporation in the office of the register of deeds of Douglas county was the Swedish Evangelical Falun Congregation of the town of Osakis, which was organized at a meeting held at the house of John Johnson, James Magny, president, and Leonard Forsgren, secretary, the congregation at that meeting electing Adam Anderson, Peter Lundgren and Peter Hanson, trustees. This second article of incorporation was filed for record on April 19, 1872.

Seventy-three distinct congregations have filed articles of incorporation in the office of the register of deeds of Douglas county. Of course not all of these congregations are now existent, not a few of them having disbanded for one reason or another and some others having merged with other congregations, giving up their own separate identity, but the larger part of them are still continuing and flourishing, the religious needs of the people of the county being provided for by no fewer than fifty-four church organizations conveniently located in the towns and rural neighborhoods throughout the county, and nearly all are supplied with comfortable and tasteful houses of worship. These societies comprise the following: Congregational, one; Episcopal, one; Adventist, one; Plymouth Brethren, one; Methodist Episcopal, two; Free Methodist, two; Presbyterian, four; Swedish Baptist, two; Swedish Mission, three, and thirty-two Lutheran churches, as follow: Danish, one; Finnish, one; Norwegian Free church, one; United and Synod Norwegian, ten; Swedish, thirteen, and German, six. The Catholic churches number five and in most of these services are held in both English and German. A prominent and valuable feature of most of these societies is a well organized and well attended Sunday school, with a County Sunday School Association uniting them for mutual benefit and support.

#### NAMES OF THE VARIOUS CONGREGATIONS.

Following will be given a brief summary of the organization of the various church congregations which make up the list of seventy-three above referred to. This list is made up from the record of incorporations in the register of deed's office and is set out in the order in which the articles of incorporation were filed, not in the order in which the various congregations were organized; for it is noted that many of the congregations did not incorporate until long after they had been well established as definite religious bodies, having substantial houses of worship and holding regular services. The first two congregations to file articles of incorporation have been noted above. The next was that of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Parkers Prairie, which was organized at a meeting held at the house of Benjamin Roadruck, in the township of Leaf Valley, November 13, 1872, Benjamin Roadruck, Albert Tull and Cyrus Smith being elected trustees of the congregation.

On July 1, 1872, "the male persons of full age belonging to the religious society heretofore known as the Norwegian Evangelical church of Evansville and vicinity" met at the house of P. Ohlson in the town of Evansville and elected Thomas Bordson, John Davidson and P. Ohlson as trustees.



On June 3, 1872, the congregation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Moe, Solem, Grant and Alexandria met at the parsonage of the church of Moe and elected John Arneson, Charles Peterson, Ole Endreson, Roar Benson, Ole E. Lien, Ole Thompson and Lorentz Johnson, trustees, the articles of incorporation being signed by Ole Amundson and Andrew J. Urness.

On May 20, 1872, the "First Congregational Church and Society of Alexandria" was incorporated at a meeting held in the church theretofore occupied by said society in Alexandria by the election of William E. Hicks, George F. Sims and Robert C. McNeil as trustees.

On March 25, 1872, at a meeting held at the school house at Osakis, professors of the Baptist faith organized a congregation of that communion and elected L. Fail, Rollin Sanderson, John Daesusha, Charles Gilbert and A. Doesing, trustees, the Rev. William M. Wells and Abram Doering attesting the minutes of the meeting.

On June 17, 1872, the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church at Pelican Lake adopted a constitution and elected Jan G. Llalt, Aslak Gunderson and Ole P. Bowerset; trustees, the articles of incorporation being attested by T. Nettleson, chairman, and Knut Melby, secretary.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Ida was incorporated on November 5, 1874, by the election of Martin Nelson, Amund Bjorga and August Olson as trustees, the articles of incorporation being signed by Gilbert Brackken and Gudbrand Anderson.

At a meeting held at the home of Andrew Olson at Alexandria on October 6, 1875, the congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Alexandria incorporated by electing Ole H. Nelson, David Anderson and Andrew Olson as trustees, the articles of incorporation being signed by Chr. Sangstad and David Anderson.

On September 21, 1875, at a meeting held at the home of L. K. Aaker, the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Alexandria was incorporated by the election of C. M. Hanson, L. K. Aaker and John Sundblad as trustees, the articles of incorporation being signed by L. Johnson and Thoms Oadson.

On February 7, 1876, at a meeting in the town of Lake Mary those in that vicinity holding to the profession of the United Brethren in Christ, incorporated under the corporate name of the United Brethren in Christ by electing John Robinson, Robert McClellan, George Ingersol, Eyar Langdon and H. Laufman, trustees.

At a meeting held at the home of William M. Wills at Alexandria on

April 23, 1876, the First Regular Baptist church of Alexandria was incorporated by the election of John McFarland, John O. Lindquist and William McAboy as trustees.

At a meeting held at the school house in district No. 15 in the township of Osakis on March 27, 1877, "Our Lord's Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Town of Osakis Under Authority of the Wisconsin Synod" was incorporated by the election of M. J. Kyed, P. T. Peterson and L. Solum as trustees, the articles of incorporation being attested by Jacob Anderson and A. I. Stadstad.

The Christian Lake church, which had existed since the year 1871, held a meeting in the school house in district No. 58, Lund township, on May 10, 1877, and incorporated by the election of Christian Nilsson, Ole Wahlin and Daniel Anderson as trustees, the congregation adopting a constitution in conformity with that used and recommended by the Swedish Augustana Synod, Andover, Illinois.

At a meeting held at the house of S. A. Sandberg on May 17, 1869, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Ida was incorporated by the election of A. Sandstedt, C. G. Johnson and Charles Johnson as trustees. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. S. F. Westerdahl, chairman, and P. G. Anderson was secretary.

On June 12, 1877, at a meeting held at the house of Peter E. Julin in the township of Moe, the congregation of the Finns church of Holmes City lake was incorporated by the election of Peter E. Julin, John Watson Lehto and Herman Jacobson as trustees.

On June 10, 1878, at a meeting held at the house of Frank Engstran, the Svenska Lutherska Augustana Synod Forsamlingen in Spruce Hill was incorporated by the election of Ole Johnson, Frank Egstran and Erik Nelson as trustees, the articles of incorporation being attested by Axel Peterson and N. P. Hegblad.

At a meeting held at the house of Lewis Hanson in the town of Osakis on February 19, 1879, the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran church of Osakis, which was organized on October 2, 1873, was incorporated by the election of Hans Jenson, Knud Smith and Peder Boeson as trustees, the articles of incorporation being attested by Ole Thompson and Elling Halgrimson.

On July 28, 1879, at a meeting held in the village of Osakis, Our Lord's Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran church of Osakis was incorporated by the election of J. P. Simonson, Jens Lyseng and Ole Broughton as trus-

tees, the articles of incorporation being attested by J. P. Simonson, Martin Rasmuson and Ole Broughton.

At a meeting at the home of G. Klatt on August 25, 1879, the persons attached to the Alexandria Mission of the Evangelical Association of North America incorporated the Salem church of the Evangelical Association. The meeting was called to order by the Rev. E. F. Movius and Fr. Kurell, Sr., Aug. Kruger and G. Klatt were elected trustees.

At a meeting held in the Union church at Osakis on March 25, 1879, Rev. F. N. Walcott, chairman, and Thomas Bolles, clerk, the Union Religious Society was incorporated by the election of Harvey Mills, Chester S. Boss and William H. Sevens as trustees.

On April 23, 1878, at a meeting held in the school house on section 11, Solem township, the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in Solem was incorporated by the election of Paul Nilson, R. Bentson and Paul Larson as trustees, the articles of incorporation being attested by W. S. Stadstad and Christian Olsen.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Evansville was incorporated at a meeting held on February 3, 1883, by the election of Anders Johnson, John Bylander, C. B. Johnson and C. J. Johnson as trustees.

The congregation of the First Swedish Baptist church of Alexandria met at the American Baptist church in Alexandria on January 1, 1883, and with the Rev. Martin Dahlquist as chairman and N. A. Peterson as clerk incorporated by electing John Levenson, John Falk, John Jern, N. A. Peterson and Martin Dahlquist as trustees.

The Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Evansville was incorporated as the Swedish Lutheran Zionsborg Congregation on May 6, 1885, by the election of Ole Alberts, Per Erickson and Erick T. Malmgren as trustees.

At a meeting held on October 20, 1886, the Swedish Evangelical Church Svea of Alexandria was incorporated by the election of M. Lungren, N. J. Johnson, A. P. Erickson, Andrew Peterson and C. H. Larson as trustees. John E. Hedberg was chairman of the meeting and J. E. Peterson, clerk.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Association of Oscar Lake was incorporated at a meeting held on June 30, 1885, Lars Fahlin, John Matson and H. L. Lewis being elected trustees, the articles of incorporation being attested by C. G. Johnson and C. A. Peterson.

The first board of trustees of the First Baptist Society of Alexandria was elected on May 18, 1885, A. R. Campbell, John McFarlane and N. L. Page being thus elected, the articles of incorporation being attested by C. B. Rockwell, chairman, and John A. McKay, clerk.

At a meeting held on January 15, 1887, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church Lekvalten of Holmes City was incorporated, the chairman of the meeting being John E. Hedberg; clerk, S. O. Hegeenius, and the trustees elected, John Smith, John Bergstrom, Olaf O. Sodergren and John Backelin.

The constitution of the Ebenezer church of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of Leaf Valley, incorporated, was filed for record, January 24, 1887, the articles of incorporation being signed by Christian Froeming, Carl Grosenick, William Schmidt and August Hertig.

A certificate of election of trustees of the First Baptist church of Alexandria, signed by Rev. Thomas S. Eigelberner, chairman, and L. S. Kaiser, clerk, and filed for record on May 20, 1887, certified to the election of L. S. Kaiser, Almon Morse, John McFarlane and Robert McFarlane as trustees.

The St. Petre Norsk Evangelical Lutheran Menighed in the village of Brandon was incorporated on January 23, 1888, the incorporators being Johan O. Berg, Board Solberg, Ole Enderson, E. Engebrightson, Niels Nielson and Engebret Torkelson, with the following officers: President, Johan O. Berg; secretary, Ole Enderson; treasurer, Board Solberg; trustees, Ole Enderson, Board Solberg, Johan O. Berg, Niels Nielson, Engebret Torkelson and E. Engebrightson.

At a meeting held in the court house hall on May 5, 1888, at which E. Hallgren was chairman and Ole Olson, clerk, the Swedish Baptist church of Alexandria was incorporated by the election of Nils Peterson, John Severtson and John H. Broms as trustees.

The Eastern Moe Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in section 1 in the township of Moe, at a meeting held in that church on November 8, 1886, presided over by L. Carlson, chairman; George R. Botner, clerk; was incorporated by the election of Syvert J. Vibstad, Theodore Thompson and Carl J. Peterson as trustees.

At a meeting held on April 3, 1889, at the residence of P. J. Vickstrand on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 30 of La Grand township, Nils Anderson, chairman, and Emil Johnson, clerk, the Svenska Kristna Forsamlingen of La Grand township was incorporated by the election of P. J. Vickstrand, Nils Anderson and Emil Johnson as trustees.

The Free Methodist church of Alexandria was incorporated on April 27, 1889, at a meeting presided over by William H. Black; M. F. Childs, clerk; William H. Black, J. W. Glines and V. D. Nichols being elected trustees.

At a meeting held at the church of that congregation on May 16, 1889, L. Johnson, chairman, and Nils Ekblad, clerk, the Swedish Evangelical

Lutheran Fryksande church of Urness was incorporated by the election of Nils Ekblad, John R. Randstedt and Nils J. Lindstrom as trustees.

The Svenska Kristna Missions Forsamlingen in the town of Ida was incorporated on February 8, 1890, at a meeting held at the residence of J. E. Norgren on the northeast quarter of section 29 of that township, A. G. Bergstrom, chairman, and Erick Johnson, clerk, and A. G. Bergstrom, Emil Peterson and John Johnson being elected trustees.

The First Congregational church of Osakis was incorporated on May 20, 1890, the articles of incorporation being signed by C. N. Armstrong, Frances A. Sargent and Lizzie G. Armstrong.

At a meeting held in the school house in Evansville on August 6, 1890, the congregation of the Presbyterian church there, Rev. James Godward, chairman, and Charles L. Thomson, clerk, was incorporated by electing William Beach, Christ Nelson and John Kron as trustees.

Den Svenska Kristna Forsamlingen of Spruce Hill at a meeting held at the residence of Mary Peterson in the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 29 on November 21, 1890, Frans Anderson, chairman, and Andrew Larson, clerk, was incorporated by the election of Andrew Larson, Alfred Lingren and Joseph Johnson, trustees.

The First Free Methodist church of Alexandria was incorporated at a meeting held at the parsonage of that church on March 28, 1891, Richard Boothroyd, chairman, and John W. Glines, clerk, Jacob Roth, Richard Boothroyd, Elizabeth Covell and Elmira Glines being elected trustees.

At a meeting held on April 2, 1891, C. Aeberle, chairman, and Carl Brockopp, clerk, the Evangelical Lutheran Zions Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession was incorporated, the articles of incorporation being signed by C. Aeberle, C. Brockopp, W. Lemke, M. Haberer, J. Stoppel, Carl Schulke, Carl Beltz and Andrew Roth.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church Society of Osakis, at a meeting held at the church of that society at Osakis on November 11, 1891, W. B. Hill, chairman, and Euphemia Imre, clerk, was incorporated by the election of W. B. Hill, Randall Perkins, Samuel Johnson and G. L. Fry as trustees.

At a meeting held on April 4, 1892, Frank Johnson, chairman, and Mattis Clark, clerk, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Spruce Hill was incorporated by the election of Frank Johnson, Peter Hanson and A. Osterberg as trustees.

The Emanuels Church of the Evangelical Association of North America at Alexandria was incorporated at a meeting held on June 17, 1895, A. H.

Utzinger, president, and Mrs. Rosa Zimmerman, secretary, August Engel, Frank Griebenow and Gustav Klatt being elected trustees.

The German Evangelical St. Michael's church on section 8 in the township of Carlos, was incorporated at a meeting held at that church on July 8, 1896, Herman F. Miller, chairman, and August Leucke, secretary, Frederick Kitzman, August Leucke and August Blank being elected trustees.

The Evangelical Lutheran Emmanuel Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession at Carlos was incorporated at a meeting held on February 16, 1897, A. Bartz, chairman, and J. Schwertfeger, secretary.

The Swedish Evangelical Mission church of Christina Lake was incorporated at a meeting held at the residence of Olaf Larson in Lund township on July 6, 1897, N. D. Anderson, chairman, and M. Thornberg, secretary, George Larson, Frederick Olson and N. D. Anderson being elected trustees.

The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Emaus Congregation of Osakis was incorporated on July 30, 1898, J. P. Simonson, James P. Johnson, N. P. Jacobson, Lars Christenson, Andrew Johnson, E. H. Erickson, C. W. Larson, R. J. Simonson, C. P. Hanson, T. W. Schleppegril, Soren Hanson, Lars Jacobson, Karl Berry, R. P. Clauson, Peter Larson and P. J. Stenmore signing the articles of incorporation; J. P. Simonson, president; James P. Johnson, secretary; Erick Erickson, treasurer, and C. P. Hanson, Soren Hanson and N. P. Jacobson, trustees.

At a meeting held in the school house in district 30 of Carlos township, June 19, 1899, the Union Church Society of Carlos was incorporated, William A. Wheeler acting as chairman of the meeting, H. F. Miller as clerk and J. O. Stedje, H. F. Miller, August Blank, Parnell Atkinson, William A. Wheeler and Mathias Junt being elected trustees.

The Union Church Society of Hudson was incorporated at a meeting held in the school house of district No. 6, Hudson township, June 26, 1899, G. J. Strang, chairman, and Fred C. Meade, secretary, F. M. Dille, M. D. Fredenberg, Herbert Boyd, S. S. Pratt and J. J. Brown being elected as trustees.

The Catholic church of the Immaculate Conception at Osakis, in the diocese of St. Cloud, was incorporated on August 1, 1899, the articles of incorporation being signed by James Trobec, bishop; Edward J. Nagl, vicar general; P. Hdephonse Molitor, O. S. B., pastor in charge; and William Shinnars and Sylvester Housen, lay members of the congregation.

At a meeting held at the dwelling house of Andrew Knudson on section 21, township 127, range 39, H. Jenson, minister; Andrew Knudson, chairman, and Torgal Nordby, clerk, the Bethesda Society, a religious society,

was incorporated by the election of Emer O. Steen, Ole Steen and Torgal Nordby as trustees.

The Catholic church of Our Lady of Seven Dolors at Millerville was incorporated on November 27, 1899, the articles of incorporation being signed by James Trobec, bishop of the diocese of St. Cloud; Edward Nagl, vicar general; Alois Raster, pastor in charge, and Michael Kelly and J. C. Drexler, lay members of the congregation.

St. Mary's Catholic church of Alexandria was incorporated on February 27, 1900, the articles of incorporation being signed by James Trobec, bishop of the diocese of St. Cloud; Edward J. Nagl, vicar general; Otto Weisser, pastor in charge, and Adam J. Renner and Mathias N. Kroll, lay members of the congregation.

At a meeting held in the dwelling house of John M. Johnson in the east half of the northwest quarter of section 33, township 128, range 39, the same being the township of Moe, Abraham Hogana, chairman, and John M. Johnson, clerk, the Suomalainen Ewankelis-Lutherilainen Kansallisseurakunta of the town of Moe was incorporated by the election of Jacob Olson, John Gustav Hiltunen and Ed. A. Johnson as trustees.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Kensington was incorporated at a meeting held on February 11, 1901, Rudolph Vallquist, chairman, and Charles Lilyquist, secretary, J. P. Hedberg, Charles Lilyquist and J. A. Wedum being elected trustees.

The Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession at Carlos was incorporated at a meeting held on March 21, 1902, Ferdinand Fiss, chairman, and Albert Schulz, secretary, the articles of incorporation being signed by Ferdinand Fiss, H. Bast, John Felton, Gustav Tonn, Ferdinand Zunker, Carl Scheunemann, Herman Beulke, Albert H. Schulz and William Zunker.

At a meeting held at the residence of Lars Johnson on March 17, 1903, Olaf A. Lafgren, chairman, and E. P. Wickstrom, clerk, the Scandinavian Christian Free Church of Evansville was incorporated by the election of Sven Person, A. P. Johnson and Lars Johnson as trustees.

The Evangelical Lutheran Dreienigkeits Congregation of Millerville township was incorporated at a meeting held on September 21, 1903, Ernst Meissner, chairman, and Albert Pries, clerk, Adolph Pries, Wilhelm Klein and Karl Buse being elected trustees.

At a meeting held in the hall at 518 Main street in Alexandria on December 19, 1905, C. A. Strandberg, chairman, and George A. Anderson, clerk, the Scandinavian Free Church of God of Alexandria was incorporated

by the election of Gottfried Kruger, C. A. Sternberg and Albert Kruger as trustees.

The Catholic church of St. Nicholas of Belle River was incorporated on February 2, 1910, the articles of incorporation being signed by James Trobec, bishop of the diocese of St. Cloud; Edward Nagl, vicar general; Ignatius Tomazin, pastor in charge, and Charles B. Pasch and A. Joseph Wolters, lay members of the congregation.

On March 19, 1906, Fred Swenson, moderator, and W. M. Dunicliff, clerk, the First Presbyterian church of Garfield was incorporated by the election of F. L. Robbins, John A. Nelson and W. W. Dunicliff as trustees.

At a meeting held on May 10, 1879, at the house of Swen Waginius, Rev. O. Olson, chairman, and Sven Auslund, clerk, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Wennesborg in Douglas and Grant counties, was incorporated by electing Martin Peterson, Erick Wiklund and Sv. Auslund as trustees.

At a meeting held at the house of Gust M. Johnson on February 24, 1906, Per Hanson, chairman, and Gust M. Johnson, clerk, the Swedish Baptist church of Holmes City was incorporated by the election of Per Hanson, Gust M. Johnson, Maret Hanson, Ellen Ekstrand and Annie Johnson as trustees.

The Catholic church of St. Anna of Brandon was incorporated on February 10, 1909, the articles of incorporation being signed by James Trobec, bishop of the diocese of St. Cloud; Edward J. Nagl, vicar general; Paul Kuich, pastor in charge, and August Lehr and Jacob Table, two lay members.

At a meeting held in the school house at Carlos on April 5, 1909, Scott Bundy, moderator, and C. O. Franzen, clerk, the Carlos Presbyterian church was incorporated by the election of M. E. Smith, James B. Howe, C. O. Franzen and Scott Bundy as trustees.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Society of Garfield was incorporated at a meeting held in the village hall on February 24, 1910, August Stark, Sr., chairman, and Carl Kloehn, secretary, Fred Berthel, Henry Wadtke and Fred Wittnebel being elected trustees.

At a meeting held on January 19, 1910, M. B. Juul, president; Carl O. Augdahl, secretary, and Julius Larson, treasurer, the Brandon Evangelical Lutheran church was incorporated by the election of Anton Strom, O. F. Olson and M. Sektan as trustees.

The First Swedish Baptist church of Spruce Hill was incorporated at a



meeting held in the home of O. A. Peterson on May 4, 1914, Fred Palmborg, chairman, and Nathaniel P. Larson, secretary, O. A. Peterson, Nathaniel P. Larson and G. A. Erickson being elected trustees.

On August 18, 1914, at a meeting held at the home of A. Eastman in Evansville, G. R. Anderson, chairman, and S. A. Swenson, secretary, the First Swedish Baptist church of Evansville was incorporated by the election of Per Johnson, Mrs. N. P. Johnson and O. Skold as trustees.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

As noted in the introduction to this chapter the house of worship of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Alexandria was the first church building erected in that city and from all accounts the first to be erected in Douglas county. The Minnesota Conference met at Red Wing in 1867 and at its business session voted to establish a church at Alexandria, and Rev. William Bowdish was appointed pastor. The next year the first church building was erected in Alexandria. It was just west of the present building, near where the new parsonage now stands. The second pastor appointed to that field was the Rev. C. F. Kingsland, under whom a revival occurred that greatly increased the membership of the church. He remained but a year and was followed by the Rev. H. G. Hilton, who remained two years and during whose pastorate the first parsonage was built. It still remains at the rear of the church in the possession of the society. In 1874 the Rev. C. B. Brecount was appointed to the Alexandria charge, that having been his first Minnesota pastorate and under his ministrations there was a large ingathering to the church. Two years later, in 1876, the Rev. G. S. Dorsey became pastor, the period of his service long being remembered as the beginning of a period of trial and hardship. It was in that year that the grasshopper scourge swept the fields and starvation stared the people in the face. The pastor's health failed and he asked to be released. The financial pressure became so great that on the retirement of Reverend Dorsey the church doors were shut and for fifteen months no regular preaching services were held. Even the Sunday school was finally closed.

Under the presiding eldership of Reverend Starkey, Rev. S. M. Bronson, of Iowa, was secured and placed in charge. He reorganized the society and placed a new roof on the building. Dark days followed in close succession until the entire membership were almost disheartened and some favored closing the church again. But there were, as usual, a few faithful ones, who, like the Scotch bugle boy, never had learned to play "retreat," and who per-

sistently pressed for victory. The Rev. C. T. Barkulo was sent as pastor in October, 1881. He was a faithful preacher of the Gospel and an earnest, hard worker, and soon the society was on upgrade again. He was followed by the Rev. S. Snyder who had a stirring revival, thus strengthening the church very materially. He was followed by the Rev. J. B. Ogle, a talented man who was much beloved by his congregation. It was about this time that the church was greatly strengthened by the accession of some prominent men, possessed of generous hearts and zealous endeavor for Zion. Such men as J. C. Barnes, William Moses, Robert McCrory, H. A. LeRoy and others, who of their increasing wealth and worth gave freely to the prosperity of the church. In the fall of 1887, Rev. Samuel White was appointed pastor and his ministry was made memorable by a very successful revival and a new building was decided upon. By the fall of 1888 he had the frame of the new building up, when, contrary to the wishes of the people, he was removed to another charge.

This proved unfortunate to the society's advance, as it was not until the coming of the Rev. R. C. Grose in the fall of 1889, that the old debt was paid off and the building properly enclosed. That building was dedicated on January 26, 1890. In the fall of 1891, Rev. H. Treglawney became pastor and was successful in eliminating all indebtedness. Next was the Rev. C. W. Lawson who was a careful and untiring shepherd of the flock. He was followed by one of the most constructive and effective pastors the church has had, namely, the Rev. J. M. Brown, now of Grinnell, Iowa. Mr. Brown gave to the church the longest pastorate of any preacher up to that time—nearly five years. They were years of material improvements and spiritual growth. The new parsonage was constructed under his supervision, being until recently the best ministerial home in the Fergus Falls District.

Under the head of "Notes and Comments," there appears this interesting paragraph: "The old church building when no longer needed was sold to W. K. Barnes who started it one winter across Lake Agnes on its way to his farm on Lake Darling (now occupied by N. J. Nelson and family) where it is now used as a barn (where it can truthfully be said, it is "cold as a barn"). When well on its way over the lake it broke through the ice as favoring immersion exclusively, or protesting against the indignity put upon it. There it remained for some time, and was afterwards taken to its destination."

The following is a record of the pastors who have served the Methodist church at Alexandria as taken from the official records: William M. Bowditch, 1867 to 1868; C. F. Kingsland, 1868 to 1871; J. L. Fasig, 1871 to

1872; H. G. Hilton, 1872 to 1874; C. B. Brecount, 1874 to 1876; George N. Dorsey, 1876; S. M. Bronson, 1878 to October, 1880; F. I. Fisher, 1880; D. S. Smith, July 1881 to October, 1881; T. C. Barkuloo, October, 1881, to 1882; S. Snyder, 1882 to March, 1883; J. B. Ogle, April, 1883, to September, 1885; S. D. Kemerer, October, 1885, to 1887; Samuel White, 1887 to 1888; H. C. Klingel, 1888 to 1889; R. C. Grose, 1889 to 1891; C. H. Terglawney, 1891 to 1892; C. W. Lawson, 1892 to 1895; J. M. Brown, 1895 to May, 1900; C. W. Collinge, May, 1900, to June, 1901; E. H. Nicholson, June, 1901, to October, 1904; J. G. Crosier, October, 1904, to 1905; R. W. Wilcox, 1905 to 1907; George E. Tindall, 1907 to the present time.

During the present pastorate many difficulties have been met and problems solved. The material increase of the church has been most encouraging. The old "basement debt" of six hundred dollars at six per cent. interest has been paid in full, and over one thousand dollars improvements have been made upon the buildings, so that the buildings are all under good repair. The interior aspect of the church parlor has been greatly enhanced. Two beautiful memorial windows have been installed in the church to the memories of Robert McCrory and Mr. and Mrs. William Moses, beloved pioneers of the church and faithful servants of God, through whose generosity and untiring zeal the church was sustained in some of its years of severe trials. During the year 1915 the budget ran up to over two thousand five hundred dollars, the largest of any year in the history of the church, except when the church was dedicated.

The spiritual growth of the church has also paralleled its material increase. Revivals have been held every year and have been the means of increasing the membership from eighty-four at the commencement of the present pastorate to one hundred and seventy-three at the present, with twenty in the pastor's probationer's class. The superintendent of the Sunday school is O. L. Solstad; president of Epworth League, Dr. D. E. Whittenberg; president of Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. T. R. Aiton; president of Woman's Missionary Society, Mrs. L. Madison; stewards, O. W. Landeen, George Susens, W. H. Horton, A. F. Storm, C. J. Larson, H. H. Griebenow, J. A. Poalson, Mrs. O. W. Landeen, Mrs. S. D. Johnson, Mrs. D. L. Johnson, Mrs. George Bracken, Mrs. H. N. Doyle; trustees, G. Jesse Strang, M. R. McArdle, Thomas Cooper, Herman H. Squires, Gus. E. Anderson, Fred G. Boomgaarden, George W. Ramsdell, Franklin George, Jacob Luckert.

The Rev. George E. Tindall, present pastor of the church, is also called to speak at Brandon, Hoffman and Garfield. For three years he published at Alexandria the *Fergus Falls District Methodist*, a quarterly publi-

cation in the interests of the church of that district, and during the twenty-six years of his ministerial activity in Minnesota, having begun his pastoral work on May 20, 1890, his first charge having been the church at Ada, has in other ways been one of the most active ministers of the Methodist church in this state. Mr. Tindall is a native of Canada and left his old home near Bradford, Ontario, in 1890, to take up his ministerial calling in this state and has ever since served in Minnesota, his several charges having been at Ada, Melrose, Grove Lake, Staples, Long Prairie, Frazee, Akley, Warren and Alexandria.

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA.

Sometime in the year 1860, two years after the advent of the first white settlers in what is now Douglas county, the Rev. C. S. Harrison, a Congregational missionary, and representative of the American Home Missionary Society of that denomination, then stationed at Sauk Center, held what is claimed by some to be the first religious service within the bounds of the present city of Alexandria and probably of Douglas county. This service was held in a bedroom of a log house owned by P. L. Gregory. Mr. Harrison probably continued to come to Alexandria for occasional services for about six months.

In the winter of 1866 and 1867 Mrs. Theresa T. Hicks and Mrs. Ann B. Whitcomb, being anxious that the young should have some Christian training, gathered a little flock together within the old stockade and formed a Sunday school. In the summer of 1867 the American Home Missionary Society again became interested through the Minnesota superintendent, Rev. Richard Hall, and sent Rev. B. F. Haviland to work in this district. On the 14th day of December, 1867, a meeting was held in the court house hall to consider the propriety of organizing a Congregational church in Alexandria. The church was duly organized with the following members, who brought letters from their respective churches. Rev. B. F. Haviland, J. R. Lowell, S. B. Childs, Eliza Lowell, L. R. Childs, Ann B. Whitcomb, Antoinette Darling, L. J. Hobert, H. T. Haviland and Theresa T. Hicks—three males and seven females. The officers elected were Rev. B. F. Haviland, clerk; J. R. Lowell, deacon, and S. B. Childs, treasurer. On April 1, 1869, Mr. Haviland resigned his charge. The little company were still meeting in the court house hall for services. George F. Whitcomb was elected clerk.

In the fall of 1868 W. E. Hicks donated a lot for a church and the people of the village all contributed towards the erection of a new church

building on the site of the present Methodist Episcopal church and parsonage. The Methodists had recently formed an organization and the new building was known as the Methodist church. Upon its completion the Congregationalists used it alternately with the Methodists. The first mention found in the records of meeting in the new church was on June 26, 1869. In July, 1869, Rev. Reuben Evarts came to Alexandria to care for the young church and continued in his work until July, 1871. Little is on record concerning the work during the two years except that the pastor was to receive seven hundred dollars salary, a part of which was to be paid by the Home Missionary Society. There is no record of any pastor being at work from July, 1871, to May, 1873, but the church was not idle, for in October, 1872, after having tendered a call to Rev. Mr. Williams—who did not accept—the church voted to raise five hundred dollars and proceed at once to build a parsonage, the building committee being James Purdon, George C. Whitcomb and L. G. Sims. The parsonage was built on lots donated by W. E. Hicks on the site of the present Congregational church which comprises three entire lots.

On May 1, 1873, Rev. William W. Norton became pastor of the church which was evidently not yet very strong, as the salary was to be seven hundred and free parsonage, the church paying but two hundred dollars of the amount. It was during this pastorate that the church seemed to take on new life and great progress was made. On May 20, 1873, a church "society" was organized and a corporation formed to be known as "The First Congregational Church and Society of Alexandria," and William E. Hicks, George C. Sims and Robert C. McNeil were elected trustees. During the Rev. William W. Norton's pastorate of four years the membership increased from nine to thirty-three; the parsonage was enlarged and improved; a new church seating two hundred was built and furnished at a cost of about two thousand six hundred dollars, all but five hundred dollars of which was raised by the church and society. At the conclusion of his pastorate in April, 1877, the following appears on the record: "Although the grasshoppers have impoverished the country, yet the condition of the church both spiritually and financially is excellent and the future prospects very encouraging."

Rev. P. S. Smith was acting pastor for one year from May 1, 1877, and on January 4, 1878, was held the first regular annual meeting, the following officers who had served since May, 1874, being elected: Clerk, W. E. Chidester; treasurer, Mrs. George C. Whitcomb; deacon, W. E. Chidester. Rev. Quincy L. Dowd was pastor from September 1, 1878, to September 1, 1880. June 24, 1879, a constitution for the "society" and a compact of agreement between the "church" and "society" was adopted, and thus

the regular organization of "The First Congregational Church and Society of Alexandria" was perfected after an existence of more than six years. At the annual meeting of the church in January, 1879, William S. Moles was elected clerk, Andrew Purdon, treasurer, and L. G. Sims, deacon. At the first annual meeting of the "society" held on May 24, 1880, George C. Whitcomb was elected trustee for a term of three years, thus showing that finally, after many years of struggle, the machinery of that part of the church organization was working smoothly. On the 19th day of July in the same year an amendment to the constitution was adopted increasing the number of members of the board of trustees to five and Messrs. D. H. Mason and George H. S. Campbell were elected the additional members.

On November 1, 1880, Rev. W. W. Norton was recalled to the pastorate and continued for one year. The church had evidently been strengthened, for when Rev. William Gill was called to the pastorate in December, 1881, the church promised to pay four hundred and fifty dollars of the seven hundred dollars salary. This pastor continued until April, 1883, when Rev. J. S. Jewell was called, taking charge on June 1. This seemed to be a time of awakening, as the church assumed self-support and also increased the salary to one thousand dollars. This result was largely due to the wise planning of the previous pastor, Rev. William Gill. On account of sickness in his family this pastorate continued but two years. The church was supplied during the summer of 1885 by Rev. J. A. Stemen, who declined a call to become permanent pastor. Rev. S. M. Wilcox was then called to the work and began his pastorate on December 1, 1885, and continued five years. Whether or not this was the time of the organization of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor is not shown by the records, but in December, 1888, the society and the Sunday school, which had been continued since its first organization in 1866, both gave annual reports for the first time. At this same meeting the Ladies' Society gave its first annual report, although the report showed it was not the first year of its organization as it showed cash on hand at the beginning of the year of sixty-five dollars. On January 1, 1891, Rev. George W. Jackman came to the church as pastor, but remained only one year.

It is said "There is a man for every crisis" and the man was evidently found when the church called to the pastorate Rev. George E. Soper, in June, 1892. Although there had been a steady advance under the leadership of nearly every pastor, it was during Mr. Soper's pastorate that the present church building was erected, the membership was largely increased, and the church came into prominence among the churches of the state. After hav-

ing finished the present beautiful and commodious church edifice, the state association was invited to meet in Alexandria. This invitation was accepted and in 1895 the pastors and delegates of the churches of the state met in their fortieth annual meeting. From that time the Congregational church of Alexandria has held a high place among the churches of the state.

The first action of which there is any record with reference to the erection of the present house of worship was taken by the society at its annual meeting in January, 1889, when Mrs. J. H. Lebson, Mrs. F. B. Van Hoesen and W. S. Moles were appointed a committee to devise ways and means for raising funds for the purpose, and at the annual meeting held in January, 1890, Messrs. H. K. White, C. H. Raiter, George G. S. Campbell were added to this committee. At a special meeting held November 18, 1892, it was resolved "That this church and society proceed to the erection of a new church building to cost twelve thousand dollars, provided that amount of money be first raised, and the following building committee was appointed: F. B. Van Hoesen, treasurer; George L. Treat, secretary; A. S. Mason, master mechanic. At a later meeting the members of the board of trustees, consisting of Messrs. Samuel D. Moles, C. H. Raiter, G. B. Ward, J. H. Letson and George G. S. Campbell were added to this committee. The building was completed and dedicated with a week of services beginning on December 17, 1893. Its total cost, including furniture and heating plant, was twenty thousand five hundred and thirty-five dollars and forty-two cents, which was all paid before dedication.

An important feature of Mr. Soper's pastorate was the inauguration of rural missionary work at four out stations in the towns of Hudson, Lake Mary, Carlos, and Miltona, supported in part by members of the church and society. This work, started in 1896, was successfully carried on for six years by Rev. George F. Norton, Rev. F. P. Ferguson and Rev. Alexander Thorn, resulting in the organization of churches at Carlos and Hudson, and the erection of two church buildings, and its final abandonment was due largely to changed conditions on the fields. The church building in the town of Carlos was located about two miles west of the present Carlos village and was shared with the German Lutherans and Norwegian Lutherans. After being used for several years it was destroyed by fire and a new church was built by the Lutherans at Carlos village. After the location of the village of Forada on the new Soo Line railroad the Hudson church building was sold to the Presbyterians and moved about a mile and a half to its present location in said village where the church work started as above stated is

being successfully carried on by the Presbyterians. A revival service, led by Rev. Mr. Hartsough, was conducted during this pastorate and was fruitful in adding a number of members to the church rolls. The work continued to grow during the five and one-half years of Mr. Soper's pastorate, which ended on December 31, 1887.

Rev. William H. Medlar succeeded to the pastorate in May, 1898, and continued till December 1, 1903, five and one-half years. During this pastorate the records show two distinct features of work, the first being that of rural missionary work, and the second the successful revival services conducted by Mr. Hunt from which thirty united with the church by confession of faith. The total membership was increased from one hundred and fifty-eight to two hundred and thirty-eight. The splendid work done among the young people under Mr. Medlar's leadership needs also to be mentioned.

Rev. William J. Paske accepted the call and became pastor of the church on May 1, 1904. Some institutional features of work were added to the church equipment in the summer of 1905. A Men's Club was organized which finished off a portion of the basement of the church and installed therein bowling alleys at a cost of five hundred and eighty dollars, which furnished wholesome recreation for all who cared to avail themselves of the opportunity, boys and girls alike, as well as members of the club. During the year 1904 a beautiful new parsonage was erected at an expense of over five thousand five hundred dollars on lots directly west from the church building. In 1907 a magnificent organ was installed in the church at an expense of three thousand five hundred dollars. Mr. Paske's pastorate ended on September 1, 1907.

The next pastor to take up the work was Rev. Alfred A. Secord, beginning on November 15, 1907, and ending on September 1, 1913, being more than five years and nine months and the longest in the history of the church. Mr. Secord's pastorate was not marked by any great increase in the material equipment of the church, as in some former pastorates, but there was a strong steady and well balanced growth along all lines, with a marked increase of influence in the whole community. In 1907 the church received a legacy from the estate of Francis B. Van Hoesen of one thousand dollars for the purpose of making repairs to the church building when needed. Union revival services held in 1908 under the leadership of Rev. Milford H. Lyon, brought into the church about thirty new members. The benevolences of the church were largely increased and became the largest in its history. In 1911 the General Congregational Association of the state again held its annual meeting with the church.



On December 1, 1913, Rev. Frederick Osten-Sacken commenced his pastorate which continued to July 1, 1916, the two and one-half years being characterized by a large increase in membership, seventy-six members being received and there being a net gain of fifty-seven. A Men's Sunday Club of over fifty members was organized which has charge of the bowling alleys and holds a weekly meeting at the Sunday school hour in a room which it provided in the basement of the church, for the discussion of religious and social topics.

This history would not be complete if it failed to mention the missionary and charitable work of the church. A child of the American Home Missionary Society, and assisted by it for the first sixteen years of its life, as well as by the Church Building Society in the erection of its first parsonage and church building, the church has always recognized its obligations to these societies especially, and at the same time has always contributed to other missionary and educational objects as well as to local charities. In carrying on the rural missionary enterprise before mentioned, and assisting in the erection of the two church buildings in the towns of Hudson and Carlos, an opportunity was afforded to repay to some extent its debt to the home mission and church building societies. These contributions amounted to about four hundred dollars per year for about six years for carrying on that work, and to nearly one thousand six hundred dollars for the church buildings. In 1898 the total benevolences are recorded as eight hundred and twelve dollars, and in 1899, one thousand nine hundred eighty-six dollars, including the church building subscriptions. For the last ten years the total annual benevolences have averaged over nine hundred dollars.

It is interesting to note the growth of the church in membership by decades. In 1877, at the end of the first decade, there were 33 members; in December, 1887, there were 81; in December, 1897, 158; in December, 1907, 158; and at the present time, September, 1916, there are 247. The officers who have served the church are: Deacons, J. R. Lowell, S. B. Childs, William E. Chidester, L. G. Sims, George T. Robards, Fayette C. Meade, George L. Treat, Andrew Purdon, Samuel D. Moles, George E. Middleton, Charles W. Ridley, Millard Fifield, Arthur S. Mason, J. A. Cranston, Frank Kent, J. Willis Knox, Hugh E. Leach and Fred C. Meade. Those who are conspicuous for their long service are: William E. Chidester, from May 1, 1874, to September 19, 1898, over twenty-four years and four months; George L. Treat from August 2, 1883, to the present time, thirty-three years; Andrew Purdon, from December 28, 1893, to the present, nearly thirty-three years; and Fayette C. Meade, from August 2, 1883, to Janu-

ary 2, 1806, and from January 10, 1907, to the present time, over twenty-two years. The present deacons are: George L. Treat, Andrew Purdon, J. Willis Knox, Hugh E. Leach, Fred C. Meade, and Fayette C. Meade, honorary deacon.

Deaconesses, beginning on December 31, 1896: Mrs. Mary J. Campbell, Mrs. Annie E. Roberts, Mrs. Mary E. Chapman, Mrs. Mary J. Stevens, Mrs. Lucy Whitcomb, Mrs. Anne Raiter, Mrs. Albert Hubbell, Mrs. F. I. Cook, Mrs. A. G. Sexton, Mrs. Hattie Barnes, Mrs. Maud Larson, Mrs. H. S. Campbell, Mrs. Lillian Boyd, Mrs. Angeline Hounsel and Mrs. J. A. Kinney.

Clerks: Rev. B. F. Haviland, George T. Whitcomb, William E. Childester, William S. Moles, Mrs. N. E. Dowd, Andrew Purdon, Mrs. A. E. Loring, Joel N. Childs, George L. Treat, Henry A. Barnes, Nathan M. Barnes, George E. Middleton, Dr. C. L. Good, Arthur S. Mason. The present clerk is George L. Treat. Among those who have served as treasurer are: Mrs. Ann B. Whitcomb, George C. Whitcomb, Andrew Purdon, Alexander Forbes, Eder E. Houghwont, Fayette C. Meade, J. H. Wettleson, William Walker, William E. Nesbitt and James A. Kinney.

The trustees who have served the "society" are: William E. Hicks, George C. Sims, Robert C. McNeil, George C. Whitcomb, William S. Moles, David H. Mason, George G. S. Campbell, George W. Robards, Gershom B. Ward, Samuel D. Moles, Christ H. Raiter, James H. Letson, Andrew Purdon, Horatio Jenkins, Francis B. Van Hoesen, Constant Larson, Tallef Jacobson, Hugh E. Leach and William J. Sheldon. George H. S. Campbell has served continuously as a member of the board of trustees since July 19, 1880, and as secretary of the board since January 5, 1883, and C. H. Raiter has served as a member since 1883. The present trustees are: Hugh E. Leach, president; George G. S. Campbell, secretary; C. H. Raiter, J. H. Letson and William J. Sheldon.

There are a number of auxiliary societies connected with the church which have contributed largely to its growth and work and which should be briefly mentioned. The first of these is the Sunday school, which was organized, as has been said, even before the church, and has been successfully carried on ever since, largely furnished, through its training, recruits for the church membership. From a very small class it has grown to a membership of about two hundred at the present time, though there have been some ups and downs in its history. Those who have acted as superintendent of the school since 1880 are: L. G. Sims, George L. Treat, E. E. Houghwont, Samuel D. Moles, Joseph H. Wettleson, Prof. J. E. Phillips,

Prof. J. A. Cranston, Mrs. Nellie Page, Mrs. O. J. Robards, J. W. Knox, Constant Larson, Ezra E. McCrea.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor has been in existence since 1887, and while it, too, has had its ups and downs it has done a valuable work among the young people in fitting them for more advanced church work. The combined active membership of the senior and junior societies in January, 1916, was one hundred and three.

The Woman's Missionary Society, organized in February, 1885, has done much to advance the interest of Missions in the church. Its first report to the church at the annual meeting in December, 1886, showed total contributions to home and foreign missions of sixty-two dollars and these annual contributions have gradually increased until the present time. For the last few years, including the value of missionary boxes of clothing, the annual offering amounts to from three hundred dollars to four hundred dollars. The society has a present membership of fifty-two.

One of the strongest forces in the material work of the church has been the Ladies' Society. While a work society existed at an early period probably no formal organization was attempted until 1885 or 1886. From that time the society has been very active. It now has a membership of fifty-three. The records show that in 1893-4 the society expended in furnishings for the new church building \$2,335; that in 1900 it paid for the lots on which the parsonage now stands \$1,150; that in 1903 it expended "mostly for carpet" for the church \$634; and that in 1904 it took the lead in building the parsonage and paid \$2,171 of the expense. In 1905 it contributed \$500 toward the expense of the new organ. These are some of the larger things that it has accomplished, but it has also contributed largely towards the running expenses and the local charitable work of the church as there has been need.

Only one of the original members survives, Mrs. Thresa T. Hicks, who is still a member of the church, though for many years unable by reason of deafness and blindness to take part in the church work. Others who have been members from an early period are George F. Whitcomb, 1868, Deacon Andrew Rudon and Mrs. Lucy E. Whitcomb, 1875, and Mrs. Christine Walker, 1877. Among those now deceased who were members for the longest period may be mentioned, David H. Mason, missionary of the American Sunday School Union for more than twenty-five years, from 1874 to 1906, and Deacon William E. Chidester from 1873 to 1898.

While there are many members who have taken a prominent part in the work of the church from an early period none are more worthy to be mentioned for their Christian character and zeal and for their long

and arduous service than Mrs. Ann B. Whitcomb, one of the original band; Mrs. Lucy Finch, Deacon William E. Chidester and Deacon Andrew Purdon. In conclusion it remains to be said that the leadership in providing the splendid equipment in church building parsonage, pipe organ, etc., was found in the large donations of Christ H. Raiter and F. B. Van Hoesen and in the splendid labors of the board of trustees, without which such equipment would not have been possible.

#### THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

One of the first churches of the Norwegian Lutheran communion in Douglas county is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Evansville, which was formally organized and rules and regulations adopted on October 9, 1896. Previously ministers from other settlements came periodically to preach to the persons of that faith in the Evansville neighborhood and it was not until 1871 that the permanent pastor was chosen. Rev. Carlson was the first minister to fill the position and he remained four years. From the fall of 1875 to 1885, the Reverend Stadstad served the congregation as pastor, and from that date the Rev. T. A. Sattre has filled the position, for years having been recognized as one of the oldest ministers of that communion in continuous service in one parish in western Minnesota. The services of the congregation until 1880 were held in the old log school house on the hill and in that year the present commodious house of worship was erected. In 1900 the congregation provided a fine parsonage for the pastor.

The two churches of the Norwegian Lutheran communion in Moe township have for many years been large factors for good in that community. These churches are maintained under one charge, the minister in charge filling both pulpits alternately. The Moe Norwegian Lutheran church on section 7 of Moe township was erected in 1878, the first pastor being the Rev. Lauritz Carlson, and the East Moe church was erected in 1882. The two congregations aggregate more than one hundred families and the parsonage is maintained in conjunction with the first named church.

The Norwegian Lutheran church of Alexandria was organized at a meeting held in the school house in that city on April 17, 1872, the following persons participating: Lars K. Aaker, John Sundblad, Ove M. Week, Lorintz Johnson, S. N. Miller, G. Dahl, O. R. Wulfsberg and Katherine H. Aaker, others joining a short time afterward, as follows: Mrs. Kristine Vandyke, Oluf Solum and family, Thomas Oakson, Christian M. Han-



NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, EVANSVILLE.



son, Stean Torgerson and Theodore Bordson; in 1875 Christoffer Larson and Sophia Larson and in 1876, Olef King. The first church building was erected in 1876 and the following pastors have served: Rev. Lauritz Carlsen, 1872-75; Rev. O. H. Auberger, 1877-79; Rev. A. I. Stadstad, 1876, 1880-85; Rev. T. A. Sattre, 1886-1900; Rev. B. A. Benson, 1901-15; Rev. Grant Milo Rundhaug, 1916. The present membership of the congregation is about one hundred and twenty and a very comfortable parsonage is maintained adjoining the church. The pastor in charge also has charge of the congregation of the Scandinavian-American Lutheran church at Carlos and of the church of Our Savior at Nelson.

#### NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH AT EVANSVILLE.

The Norwegian Lutheran church at Evansville was organized and rules and regulations for the same were adopted on October 9, 1869. Previously, ministers from other settlements came periodically to preach to the people of that faith and it was not until in 1871 that a permanent pastor was chosen. Reverend Carlson was the first minister to fill the position and he remained four years. From the fall of 1875 to 1885 Reverend Stadstad served the congregation as pastor, and from that date Rev. T. A. Sattre, the present pastor, has filled the position with ability and marked success.

Until in 1880 the services were held in the "old log school house on the hill," but in that year the present commodious building was erected. The fine parsonage near the church was built in 1900. The first trustees of the church were Ole Granddokken, John Davidson and John Saterlie. The present congregation consists of about four hundred and the church and parsonage are free from debt.

#### THE SWEDISH LUTHERAN AUGUSTANA CHURCH.

The first ministers of the Swedish Lutheran Augustana church to visit Douglas county were Eric Norelius and Peter Carlson and that was during the summer of 1865. They travelled on foot and by ox-team through the dense woods and uninhabited prairies. The next year Rev. J. Magny came to the county and organized the Oscar Lake church in Holmes City township. He visited a number of places in the county and prepared them for future religious work.

In September, 1879, in the Svea church at Alexandria, the Alexandria District was established. The district was very large, extending to the

Pacific Coast on the west and to the extreme north of Canada on the north, but in this vast territory there were then only nineteen small congregations. The following ministers were present at that meeting: J. P. Mattson, L. C. Lind, P. J. Lundblad, S. J. Kronberg and L. Johnson. Of these all have passed to their reward except Reverend Kronberg, who lives on his farm near Melby, Minnesota.

There are eleven churches of this denomination in the county, namely: Svea, at Alexandria; Ida, in Ida township, Falun, in Osakis township; Spruce Hill, in Spruce Hill township; Oscar Lake, in Holmes City township; Holmes City, at Holmes City; Wennersborg in Solem township; Immanuel, at Evansville; Christine Lake, in Lund township; Fryksende, in Urness township, and Zionsborg, in Evansville township.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THESE CHURCHES.

Svea church at Alexandria was organized and incorporated in 1877. For a time the congregation used the church building, located where the present church stands, together with the Norwegian congregation, but presently the Norwegians built a church of their own and each then had its separate house of worship. The present fine Svea church building was erected in 1909. There is a commodious parsonage next to the church and this is owned in common by Svea and Ida congregations. The ministers of this church have been the following: L. C. Lind, John Hedberg, A. Melin, A. Mattson, the last named being the present very efficient pastor.

Ida church was organized in 1869 and incorporated in 1877. Its present edifice was erected in 1897. The church owns a parsonage at Alexandria in common with the Svea church. The congregation has been served by the above named pastors of the Svea church, and A. Mattson is the present pastor.

Falun church was organized on May 31, 1871, at a meeting at which Peter E. Hanson was chairman and E. L. Forsgren, secretary. Lars Bergstrom, E. L. Forsgren and John Marites Johnson were elected deacons. Adam Anderson, Peter Lundgren and P. E. Hanson were elected trustees. Later on in the same year the church was incorporated and Adam Anderson, Peter Lundgren and P. E. Hanson continued to be trustees. The membership then was sixty-five. The first church building was built of logs and was quite a large building. It was located on the southwest quarter of section 8 in Osakis township. The present building was erected in 1886 and there is a commodious parsonage near the church. The following pastors



have served Falun church: P. J. Lundblad, J. P. Hedberg, A. Melin, J. S. Ryding, and P. G. Ordning, the latter of whom is the present very efficient pastor.

Spruce Hill church was organized in 1876; incorporated in 1878 and its present church building was constructed in 1902. For some years the church was served by the pastor who served the church at Parkers Prairie, and later by the pastor of the Falun church.

#### THE CHRISTINA LAKE PASTORATE.

The church work among the Swedish people of the western part of Douglas county has been carried on by the Christina Lake pastorate since 1871. Rev. J. Magny organized the Swedish Lutheran Christina Lake congregation in that year and it was incorporated in 1877.

In the year 1874, Rev. S. J. Kronberg was called by the mission board of the Minnesota conference to take charge of the church work among the Swedish people of Douglas, Otter Tail and Grant counties. The pioneers were very religious. They felt that they could not live and prosper without having the church of their fathers in their midst. Under the able leadership of Reverend Kronberg, the beautiful Christina Lake church building was erected which yet serves as the place of worship. This was by no means a small undertaking when the financial circumstances of the people at that time are considered.

This congregation has been a prominent factor in the upbuilding of this community, and many men and women have been better fitted for the duties of life through the influence of this church. Northwestern College, which is now located at Fergus Falls, had its beginning here under the name of Lund Academy, and the school room of the church served as the home of the college during the first year. Nearly all of the charter members of this congregation have been laid to rest in the peaceful cemetery adjoining the church, but the good work begun by them will continue through generations to come.

When the Great Northern railway, then the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba road, was built through Douglas county in 1879, the village of Evansville came into existence. The Swedish people in the village and surrounding country at that time belonged to the Christina Lake congregation, but in 1883 the Swedes and Norwegians erected a small church in the western part of the village. In 1884 the Swedish Lutheran Immanuel congregation of Evansville was organized and the Swedes became the sole

owners of the above mentioned church building. This building was replaced by a modern church in 1906. Upon the resignation of Reverend Kronberg, who faithfully served this pastorate for thirty years, the residence of the pastor was changed from Christina Lake to Evansville. In 1913 the pastor erected a beautiful modern house next to the church at a cost of five thousand dollars, which makes this property a valuable addition to the village.

The Swedish Lutheran Fryksende congregation, in the township of Urness, south of Evansville, was organized in 1877 and a church building was then erected.

In 1884 the Swedish Lutheran Zionsborg congregation was organized and a church was built in the southwestern corner of the township of Evansville.

The above mentioned four congregations constitute the Christina Lake pastorate which has been served by the following ministers: Rev. S. J. Kronberg, from 1874 to 1904; Rev. Eric Floreen, from 1905 to 1908; 1908-1910, no residence pastor; from 1910 to 1912 by Rev. C. E. Holmer, and from 1912 to the present day Rev. S. W. Swenson has been the pastor. In closing this brief review of the history of the Christina Lake pastorate, Mr. Swenson appended the following: "It would have been a pleasant duty for the writer to mention many faithful men and women who have been connected with the work in this pastorate, but, as space does not permit, we close with the assurance that God knows them all and He will give the due reward."

#### SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

One of the very earliest church organizations in Douglas county was that of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Oscar Lake, which was organized in 1886, largely through the individual efforts of O. Fahlin, one of the first settlers of that community. For some time services were held in the homes of the settlers of that neighborhood, but after awhile a small church building was erected. The second and present house of worship was erected in 1884 at a cost of above three thousand dollars and was dedicated in 1886 by the Rev. J. Fremling, president of the conference. The pastors who have had charge there are as follows: Rev. J. Magny, Rev. Aaron Wahlin, Rev. L. Johnson, Rev. J. A. Johnson, Rev. Rudolph Vallquist and the present pastor, the Rev. E. M. Ericksson, who is also pastor of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Holmes City, where he makes his home, and of the church of the same communion at Norunga,

over the line in Pope county. The church at Holmes City was organized in 1875, services being held in convenient places of meeting until a house of worship was erected in 1889, the building being consecrated on December 3, 1890, by the Rev. P. Sjöblom, the cost of the church having been in the neighborhood of three thousand dollars. A parsonage is maintained for the pastor at Holmes City, the cost of the same having been shared by the congregation at Oscar Lake and at Norunga. Among the ministers who preceded Mr. Eriksson at Holmes City were the Rev. O. Lindh, Rev. J. P. Hedberg, Rev. J. J. Johnson and Rev. Rudolph Vallquist. The three churches in this charge are well organized for effective service, the various departments of the work of the church being well represented by active workers.

#### SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA.

At the same time that Alexandria and Douglas county were celebrating their home coming week in the summer of 1916, the Swedish Baptist church was celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary. A large number of the members, former members and friends from far and near were present. The programs extended over several days and were well attended. Great interest in the meetings prevailed.

The congregation was organized on July 2, 1881, at the home of John Broms with A. A. Linne, of the American Baptist Missionary Society, present. N. A. Peterson was chosen president and A. A. Linne, secretary. Thirteen persons joined as members on this day. They are J. Broms, Fred Severson, Johannes M. Broms, Ulrika S. Broms, Ida Broms, Ole E. Floding, Karin Floding, N. J. Anderson, Christine Anderson, Nils A. Peterson and Anna Peterson. The first deacons were Fritz Severson and Nils A. Peterson.

In December Martin Dahlquist was engaged as pastor which position he held for three years. The progress and growth of the church was marked from the start, so in 1885 there were forty members. At that time the American Baptist church on Seventh avenue was hired as the public meeting place. Following Mr. Dahlquist came Reverend Hallgren in 1877 and the progress of the congregation became still more marked, so in 1891 there was a membership of one hundred and twenty-five. It was during this time that the congregation secured the present site and built their own church. In 1891 Reverend Hallgren went to Sweden and this left the congregation without a fixed pastor. But Mr. Ole Sutherlund served in the capacity as such until the following year when Rev. A. G. Holm took charge. The

church was completed in 1894 and in 1895 and the membership had reached one hundred and eighty.

At that time a great change took place. A branch church was organized from a part of the membership at Reynolds, Todd county. Also a large number of the members migrated to Canada and a Swedish Baptist church at Midale was organized almost exclusively from members that had left Alexandria. This for a time greatly reduced the local organization but it continued to prosper because of the self-sacrifices and energy of those who remained.

In 1901 the Holmes City members organized the Holmes City congregation and have later built for themselves a very beautiful church in the village of Holmes City.

In 1912 the local church was remodelled and enlarged at a considerable expense. It is now one of the largest churches of the city and centrally located, so is often used for large temperance gatherings and meetings of similar nature by outsiders.

The activities of this congregation are extensive and felt in many parts of the county through its Sunday schools and various Ladies' Aid organizations. One of the features of this church organization is the persistent and energetic temperance work. Its membership can always be counted upon as loyal supporters in any movement of this kind, no matter under what auspices such movement may be conducted.

Rev. A. O. Lundeen, the present pastor, has brought new life and energy into the organization and the growth and influence of the congregations are steadily gaining ground.

#### GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

In the fall of 1874 the Rev. A. Hertwig, resident at South Effington, made a number of explorations into the townships of Miltona, Carlos, Belle River and Spruce Hill. A number of German Lutherans were found scattered through these townships and that same fall the Emmanuel's German Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized. Services were held at the homes of the various members until a small church could be built near the present farm of William Zunker. The members being far scattered, progress was slow and some years later a number of the original members severed their connection and joined in building a Union church near the present cemetery at Carlos. The rest built the present church of the Emmanuel's congregation just at the outskirts of the village of Carlos. That building

was put up in 1898, there being fourteen members of the church at the time, and is still used as a house of worship by the congregation. After the Rev. A. Hertwig moved from South Effington to Gaylord the Rev. A. Bartz, of Alexandria, had charge of the congregation until the summer of 1910, when the Rev. J. H. Jank was called and was installed as the first resident pastor. He had charge of the congregation until in May, 1914, and in June of that same year the present pastor, the Rev. Paul F. Siegel, took charge. Connected with the Emmanuel congregation at Carlos there is a small congregation at Park Hill, over in Todd county, also under the charge of Mr. Siegel. Naturally, in a mixed settlement, such as that around Carlos, the progress of a one-language church, and that foreign, must be slow. The congregation at present numbers thirty voting members, about eighty-five communicant members and about one hundred and seventy souls. There are no auxiliaries to the church, but the congregation upholds a parochial school, though in the winter of 1915-16 there were only seven in attendance at the same. The pastor also serves as teacher in the school. It is reported that a new church is badly needed, the present edifice not holding more than half the congregation and without doubt the next few years will see a new church edifice erected alongside the parsonage in town.

The Evangelical Lutheran Zion's congregation at Alexandria had its origin about thirty-five years ago in a small way, when a few German Lutheran families who had settled in and near Alexandria formed a congregation, which has grown into the present flourishing parish. The Rev. Hertwig, then stationed at Effington, over the line of Ottertail county, who was one of the missionaries of that faith in the Northwest, served the little congregation at convenient seasons and after the arrival of a few more German Lutheran families the congregation was formally organized, December 27, 1886, with seven charter members, Andrew Roth, Matth. Haberer, Fred Fiebranz, Carl Beltz, Fred Kitzke, Carl Schuelke and Julius Stoppel. At first the small congregation held its services in private houses; then it rented the Lutheran Norwegian church for its meetings. But in the year 1889 the little flock built a church building of its own, a small building, but the little congregation was delighted now to have its own spiritual home. As the Reverend Hertwig by this time had eleven places to serve, the congregation at Alexandria, with four other small congregations, the ones at Villard, Carlos, English Grove and Oak Hill, in the next year called its own pastor, the Rev. A. Bartz, who is still serving. In the year 1899, the congregation meantime having outgrown the building erected in 1888, a new and larger church edifice, the present church building, was erected, and great

was the joy of the members when the Lutheran Zion's Congregation was permitted to enter this new house of worship. As the work for the pastor thenceforward increased, the parish was divided in 1902, Villard and two other places calling their own pastor. A few years later another division took place, Carlos and Oak Hill organizing as a parish and calling their own pastor. By that time a new congregation had been founded at Garfield, which asked to form a parish with the congregation at Alexandria and this mutually agreeable union still exists. In 1911 Zion's congregation celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary, or silver jubilee, of its organization and in the next year another important step was taken by the congregation in calling a special teacher for its parochial school, the latter theretofore having been conducted by the pastor. Prof. W. Melchert, the teacher then called, is still serving in that capacity. In this school, besides religion, all the branches of the common school are taught in two languages, English and German. Besides this school training, there is a two-year course of special instruction of the upper classes in religion by the pastor, preparatory to confirmation. To attain this end the better, the congregation erected in 1914 a handsome two-room modern school building. The congregation at present has more than eighty voting members, three hundred communicants and five hundred baptized members, and the Word of God is preached in its midst in two languages, German and English.

#### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN DOUGLAS COUNTY.

There are several active parishes of the Catholic church in Douglas county, including St. Mary's at Alexandria, Immaculate Conception at Osakis, St. Ann's at Brandon, the Seven Dolors at Millerville, and the church in Belle River, the latter presided over by the Rev. Emil Steinach; while there are several parishes in adjoining counties, a part of whose membership is gained from Douglas county.

The first religious services for the Catholics of Alexandria, the county seat, were held in a small apartment at the residence of Charles Sondag and among the first priests who administered to the spiritual needs of the people in those pioneer days was the Rev. Edward Guenther. In compliance with the request of a few Catholics in that community Bishop Seidenbusch granted permission for the erection of the little church, which stood until the present handsome church of St. Mary's was erected at Alexandria about fifteen years ago. It was on July 2, 1882, that the little frame building was dedicated, under the patronage of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin, by

the Rev. Father Othmar, who attended the parish from St. John's University at Collegeville. The Benedictine Fathers directed the congregation until 1895, when Rev. Father Tomazin was ordered to provide for it in connection with his pastorate in Belle River. In February, 1899, the Benedictines were again intrusted with the charge, and following a mission conducted in June of that year by the Rev. Father Augustine, of Moorhead, the trustees secured the appointment of a priest to administer services regularly every Sunday instead of once or twice a month, as was done previously, and the charge was conferred upon Rev. Otto Weisser, who officiated from October of that year until October, 1910, it being during his pastorate that the parish was incorporated under the laws of the state, as set out in a previous paragraph. Father Weisser was succeeded by the Rev. L. J. Haupt, who became the first resident priest in Alexandria and he has been succeeded in turn by the Rev. Henry Leuthner, Rev. James Walcher, Rev. Leo Gans, Rev. Peter Gans, Rev. Paul Kuich, Rev. Van Dinter and the Rev. Francis Welp, the present pastor. St. Mary's parish maintains a commodious parish residence and the various organizations of the church display their activities by their works. These include the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, the Ladies' Sewing Circle, the Young Ladies Sodality and St. Mary Court No. 1067, Catholic Order of Foresters, the latter of which was organized in February, 1900, with a membership of twenty-one.

Though the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Osakis did not come into being until the summer of 1899, the people of the Catholic faith in that vicinity had not been deprived of the comfort of divine service, in the earlier days the few scattered families attended service, under considerable sacrifice, at the church on the Benedictine farm about two miles northwest of West Union. But as Osakis grew and prospered, more Catholic families settled in the vicinity and the project of having a church of their own came to fulfillment. One of the circumstances which contributed to the establishment of a Catholic parish at Osakis was the fact that the Benedictine Fathers had resolved to dispose of their farming property near Union, which was soon followed by the decision to move the St. Alexis church into the town of West Union, thereby making the distance still farther for the Catholics in and around Osakis. In the beginning of April, 1899, the Rev. Ildephonse Molitor, pastor of the church of St. Alexis at West Union, called a meeting of Catholics of Osakis and vicinity for the purpose of organizing a congregation. At that meeting twenty-eight were present and the details of raising funds and providing for the erection of a church were entrusted to a committee. Eight lots were bought for four

hundred dollars in C. P. Hanson's addition to Osakis and work on the edifice was begun without delay. One-half of the church furniture and five hundred dollars in cash was given the Osakis congregation when it separated from St. Alexius parish. At the beginning the congregation consisted of forty-five families and it was incorporated, August 11, 1899, under the name of The Church of the Immaculate Conception, as set out in a previous paragraph. The original plan was to build a brick-veneered church, but scarcity of funds precluded the idea of veneering it and hence it remained unfinished until the latter part of October, 1905. The church was dedicated on December 17, 1900, by the Rt. Rev. James Trobec, D. D., bishop of the diocese of St. Cloud. The foundation and the frame work of the church cost about three hundred dollars and the brick veneering was added at a cost of eight hundred and fifty dollars. From its inception until October, 1900, the congregation was attended to partly by Fathers from the Benedictine Abbey at Collegetville and partly from St. Alexius church. In October, 1900, it was made a permanent mission of St. Alexius church of West Union and on September 14, 1905, it became a parish having a resident priest. The following Benedictine Fathers have been pastors of the church of the Immaculate Conception or attended the same from the abbey: Rev. Ildephonse Molitor, Rev. Charles Cannon, Rev. Oswald Baran, Rev. Louis Trauffer, Rev. Maurus Ferdinand, Rev. Ralph Knapp and Rev. Philip Bahner. On April 4, 1906, Rev. Philip Bahner called a meeting of the lay trustees to consider the feasibility of building a parish house. At that meeting it was decided to proceed at once with the erection of a parish house and to make a loan of one thousand dollars to cover the stipulated cost. In the spring and summer of 1906 the present parsonage was built, Father Bahner doing much of the carpenter work himself. Services were conducted every Sunday, as there was no mission connected with the parish. Father Bahner remained pastor until October, 1907, when the Benedictine Fathers were relieved of Osakis. The Rt. Rev. James Trobec then appointed Rev. Frederick Hinnekamp, pastor, who took charge of the parish on October 12, 1907. Father Hinnekamp was pastor until August 4, 1911, when he was transferred to the church of Our Lady of Angels at Sauk Center. During his pastorate substantial improvements were made in both the church and the house. The interior of the church was laid with steel sheeting and beautifully decorated. Two hot-air furnaces were installed in the basement of the church, these and the improvements in the house and on the premises being paid for in cash, the money for the same being raised by church festivals, donations and subscriptions. Services were conducted every Sunday





CATHOLIC CHURCH ALEXANDRIA.



and Holy Day, except on the first Sunday of each month, when Father Hinnenkamp attended St. Ann's congregation at Brandon, which order continues to the present time. After Father Hinnenkamp had been transferred to Sauk Center, Rev. John Fuss was pastor of the church of the Immaculate Conception for three months. Then the spiritual wants of the people were ministered to for some time by the Rev. William Scheiner, pastor of St. Alexius church at West Union. After that the Benedictine Fathers of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, conducted services at Osakis two Sundays a month until February 23, 1913, when the bishop appointed the Rev. Joseph Wessendorf, pastor. On account of ill health Father Wessendorf was compelled to leave the following June. Again the Benedictine Fathers were called upon for their kind assistance, until the bishop could send Rev. John Van der Boer, who had charge of the parish for nearly six months. Father Wessendorf resumed his pastorate on March 26, 1914, and has continued the same to this day. Within the past few years the parish has increased considerably and at present numbers about seventy families, or three hundred and fifty members. Because of this increase in membership and on account of the general prosperity the parish was able to reduce its liabilities by two thousand nine hundred dollars in the past four years, leaving at present an incumbrance of only six hundred dollars on all its property. On December 24, 1902, the church corporation purchased two acres of land from Charles Anderson for a cemetery, for a consideration of two hundred dollars. The remains in the old cemetery near the Evergreen, or Rhinehart, cemetery, were then taken up and removed to the new site. The Christian Mothers Society of the Church of the Immaculate Conception was established on October 19, 1902, by the Rev. Maurus Ferdinand. This society, together with the Sewing Circle, or Ladies Aid Society, has, by means of festivals, suppers and energetic work, supplied the church with the necessary linens and vestments, has provided for the repair of cassocks and altar linen and the scrubbing of the church and has, moreover, provided the church with some beautiful statues, a marble votive stand, flowers and other furnishings for the sanctuary and has borne the expense of fencing in the cemetery, the society being a living monument to what union and effort can accomplish.

The Church of the Seven Dolors at Millerville, of which the Rev. Ignatius Wippich has been the pastor since in April, 1910, is one of the twenty-five parishes of the diocese of St. Cloud which is in the possession of a parochial school, which was erected at a cost of something more than

seventeen thousand dollars in 1913, after a very vigorous and effective campaign in that behalf directed by the pastor, Father Wippich, who wrote in Latin and placed in the cornerstone of the new school a document, of which the following is a free translation:

"To the greater glory of God and veneration of Mary, the sorrowful mother of our Redeemer, the patroness of our parish, and for the salvation of souls from generation to generation, souls redeemed by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the welfare of our country; the cornerstone for the proposed new parochial school at Millerville, in the county of Douglas and state of Minnesota, was laid and blessed by the Rt. Rev. Bernard Richter, domestic prelate and pastor of the St. Boniface church of Melrose, on the feast of the glorious Apostles, Peter and Paul, on a Sunday, on the 29th of June, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and thirteen, when Pius X, by Divine Providence, Pope, was gloriously reigning over the Catholic church, when James Trobec, by Divine Mercy and grace of the Holy Apostolic See, was bishop of the diocese of St. Cloud, when Ignatius Wippich, a priest born in the diocese of Emland, East Prussia, was pastor of the St. Mary's church, under the title of the Seven Dolors, at Millerville, and Chas. L. Julig was treasurer, and John Bitzan, secretary of the congregation, and also when to the board of consultation belonged John Kelly, Frank Korkowski, Frank Ledermann, Martin Pinkowski, Edward Schirber and Peter Wagner; when Eugene Korkowski was president of the St. Joseph (Men's) Society; Ferdinand Dohmeyer, chief ranger of the Catholic Order of Foresters; Conrad Abel of the St. Aloysius (Young Men's) Society; Widow Anna Maria Kotschevar, president of the Christian Mothers' Society, and Barbara Kotschevar, president of the Young Ladies' Sodality, under the patronage of St. Rosa of Lima; when Woodrow Wilson was President of the United States of America; Adolph Eberhart, governor of the state of Minnesota, and Jacob Thoennes, mayor of the village of Millerville, this festival took place on a beautiful day and a great multitude participating. The builder of the school is John Abel, a youth of Millerville. The architect, Edward J. Donahue, of St. Paul. Of the visiting priests were Revs. John Sand of Effington, Paul Kuich of Alexandria, Emil Stemach of Belle River, and the newly ordained Victor Stiegler. And to Thee, O Sorrowful Mother, to whose honor this statue, which decorates the parochial school, is today blessed, again also this parish is dedicated, that through thy intercession, the Almighty God may reward all benefactors of this school with eternal goods, and that our pledge may be brought before the Throne of the

Almighty—namely, benediction, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, honor and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.”

The St. Mary's parochial school is situated in a healthful and pleasant locality, north of the church on a hill and is surrounded by a grove. It has a front elevation of fifty-nine feet and a side elevation of forty-one feet. The building is constructed of white brick on a concrete basement. In the basement are the boiler room, coal bunks, kitchen and dining room for the Ven. Sisters, play room and lavatories. The first story contains two spacious class-rooms with all sanitary and modern equipments. The second story is used exclusively as a residence for the Sisters of St. Benedict.

The Church of Our Lady of Seven Dolors at Millerville is familiar to all residents of Douglas county and its towering spire can be seen for miles, overtopping everything in the vicinity. The first church in Millerville was built in 1868, prior to which mass had been said at the homes of some of the early settlers, among whom were the Larsungs, the Weavers and John A. Miller, for the latter of whom Millerville was named. The old church, built of logs, was pulled down to give place to the present church building, which was erected in 1892. The first priest officiating at Miller was Father Pierce, in 1867, who was succeeded by Father Tomazin, who built the priest's house, which building, as well as the first church, has long since disappeared. Father Tomazin remained until 1873 and was succeeded by Father Holzer, Father Schneider, Father Hilbert, Father Cramer, Father Gunther, Father Ewen, Father Jerome, Father Brogerding, Father Weist, Father Kicken, Father Alois Rastor and the present pastor, Father Wippich. On account of his maserly eloquence and his excellent character, Father Otto Weist was held in very high regard throughout that community and in October, 1901, a beautiful and costly monument was erected over his final resting place.

The mission of St. Nicholas at Belle River, to which also belongs the Catholics of Carlos, four miles distant, was founded in 1870 by the Rev. Father Tomazin, a Slovenian missionary amongst the northern Indians of the Sioux and Chippewa tribes, a countryman of the renowned Indian missionary, Father Pierz. Pioneer divine service was at first held in the home of Frank Quinn, the father of the late James Quinn, at one time county commissioner and nearly always, since the organization of the parish, treasurer and trustee of the St. Nicholas church; Frank Quinn, his father, and John Clausen, pioneers, donating each ten acres of land to Bishop Thomas L. Grace, for the foundation of a church at Belle River. The first church was built of logs, on the present cemetery in 1871, and was dedicated by the late Archbishop Thomas S. Grace, of St. Paul. On the same occasion some

children of the parish were confirmed. In September of the same year the renowned Jesuit missionary, P. Havier Weninger, held the first mission (revival). Rev. Ignatius Tomazin attended the parish until August, 1873, when he was succeeded by Rev. John Schenk, the Bohemian pastor of Long Prairie, whose life was so suddenly and sadly terminated in 1883, when he accidentally shot himself to death. The management of the St. Nicholas congregation was now conducted by the Benedictine Fathers, of Collegeville, Rev. Pater Placidus, the Greek scholar, who later on for a few years became rector of a Greek college in Rome, Italy, and who is now a celebrated professor at St. John's University, Minnesota; Rev. Peter Alfred, presently pastor of the Catholic church at Moorhead, Minnesota; Rev. Martinus, at present at Weire's Grover, Stearn county, Minnesota, and then for seven years, Rev. Pater Tlephons, who attended the parish from the Benedictine convent at West Union, now secularized and sold. In 1891 Rev. Ignatius Lager took charge of the congregation until the year 1893. In 1883 already, under the leadership of Pater Placidus, the second frame church had been built by the contractors, Christ Raiter and Spooner, of Alexandria, and one year later the little parsonage, by Messrs. William Maher, John Collins and Anton Schneiderhan, Sr. In 1890 Rev. Ignatius Lager had an addition built to the parsonage, destined for a parochial school, which however, was used for a winter chapel. During his term of office Rev. Peter Post, a saintly Jesuit Father, conducted a successful mission in his parish. In 1893 Father Lager was followed in office, again by the Rev. Father Tomazin, who in 1915 celebrated his golden jubilee of the priesthood in unison with his Lordship, the Rt. Rev. Thomas O'Gorman, bishop of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with whom he had been ordained priest on the 5th of November, 1865, in the cathedral of St. Paul, Minnesota. The Reverend Jubilarian (who during his second term, incorporated the parish with Joseph Wolters, Sr., as secretary, and Charles Pasch, as treasurer, Bishop James Trobec, at that time ordinary of the St. Cloud diocese, as president and Rt. Rev. Mgr. Edward Nagl, vicar general, as vice-president, and himself as chairman of the incorporation of the church of St. Nicholas), remained as pastor in Belle River until 1907, when he was transferred to Padua, Minnesota, being succeeded by Rev. Herman Klein. He again provided a successful mission through the Dominican priest, Rev. Pater Thuente, of Minneapolis, and made many improvements in the church and priest's house. With the permission of the Rt. Rev. Bishop James Trobec, Rev. H. Klein and Rev. Emil Joseph Steimach, of St. Mary's church, Rice, Benton county, Minnesota, exchanged their parishes on the 18th of October, 1908. Under the present

pastor, Emil Joseph Steimach, the different parish societies were organized: St. Nicholas Sodality for single and married men; St. Ann's for Christian mothers; St. Agnes' for young ladies, and Childhood of Jesus' for the children. The purpose of these sodalities is the material as well as spiritual advancement of the parish in general and the spiritual growth and sanctification of the individuals in particular. In 1909 a hot air furnace system was installed in the church, the gallery enlarged and other improvements made on premises, in church and parsonage. Messrs. James Quinn and Peter Beheng were trustees under the present administration up to 1913, when the latter resigned as secretary, being succeeded in the office by Henry Wolters. In June, 1905, a well-attended mission was given by the Rev. Peter Bour. On the 8th of August, 1915, in the afternoon, around three o'clock, a fire broke out in the sacristy of the church and in less than an hour the building was transformed into a heap of ashes. The cause of the conflagration could not be ascertained, but most likely started in the charcoal box on the sacristy table. The following Sunday service was conducted on the new porch of the parsonage, people having their provisional seats in the surrounding grove. A mass meeting for the following Sunday was announced (for the 22d of August). At the latter, the following building committee was elected: E. H. Steimach, pastor, chairman ex-officio; August Kohlhaas, (acting) vice-chairman; Peter Beheng, treasurer; Henry Wolters, secretary; Albert Ritten, John Dunn, Anton Schneiderhan, Jr., and Thomas Quinn. After organization of committee, a plan for the new church was selected, Messrs. Alban and Lockhart, of St. Paul, chosen as architects; funds collected, with three thousand seven hundred dollars insurance, amounted to about twenty-two thousand dollars. On the 19th of October, the contract for the new church was let to the lowest bidder, William Schueller, contractor and builder, of Fergus Falls, who gave bonds and commenced work on the new church on the 27th of April, 1916. The laying of the cornerstone took place on the 30th of May, Decoration Day. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Joseph Busch, performed the ceremony, also blessed the two new bells of two thousand pounds and one thousand four hundred ninety pounds respectively, and preached the English sermon, whilst Rt. Rev. Mgr. B. Richter, of Melrose, preached in German. The following reverend priests were present besides the pastor: Rev. John Sand, Effington; Rev. Ignatius Wippich, Millerville; Rev. Francis Beitscher, Long Prairie; Rev. Math. Billmayr, Brownsville; Rev. Charles Gruenwald, St. Cloud; Rev. Joseph Wessendorf, Osakis; Rev. Eugene Scheirer, Holdingsford. The beautiful new church of Gothic style, seating some eight hun-

dred people, was dedicated on the 15th of October, 1916. Previous to its dedication the premises around the church were beautiful and the interior of the sanctuary was furnished appropriately with nice altars, statuary and furniture of quality and beauty. The parishioners, about one hundred and six families, irrespective of German, Bohemian, Hollandish, Belgian, Irish and English extraction, are good, loyal fervent Americans and showed their unity, their civic pride and religious fervor by contributing most generously of money and labor, until their pious aspirations materialized in this beautiful temple of God, crowning their efforts and sacrifices and attesting their love of God and zeal of salvation.

#### EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT ALEXANDRIA.

Emmanuel Episcopal church at Alexandria was organized early in the seventies, among the leading families in the organization of the same being the Cowings, the Van Dykes, the Dickens, the Abercrombies, the Brophys and the Spragues, and on August 31, 1875, under the ministry of the Rev. George Stewart, the first rector, the present attractive old Gothic edifice which has ever since served the Episcopal congregation as a house of worship, was dedicated, the document attesting the fact being signed by Bishop Benjamin Whipple, first bishop of Minnesota, to whose memory a memorial window has been placed in the church. Among the other memorial windows in the church is one to the memory of Rt. Rev. Mahol Morris Gilbert, bishop coadjutor; to Mary A. Cowing, one to Effie Viola Moore, one "presented by tourists," one presented by the St. Andrew's Brotherhood and one to Lucile Brown. The beautiful altar is a memorial to Louis J. Brown, the altar rail to Mary Henrietta Alleyne Mingfield, the altar chairs to Smith Bloomfield, the missal stand to Ellen Venoss, the cross and altar vases to Martha S. D. Plank, the litany desk to Richard and Cecelia Heard, the prayer book to Mary Ann and John James Peacock. There is also a window presented by the St. Monica Guild and one presented by "friends." There have been fifteen rectors of Emmanuel's Episcopal church since its organization, the Rev. George Stewart having been followed, in turn, by the Rev. I. T. Osborn, Rev. Thomas K. Allen, Rev. F. B. Nash, Rev. Mark Jukes, Rev. F. M. Bacon, Rev. Charles Rollit, Rev. James McCausland, Rev. F. E. Alleyne, Rev. George W. Barnes, Rev. Glen White, Rev. H. J. Kaiser, Rev. Samuel L. Mitchell and the Rev. E. C. Schmeiser, the latter of whom has been in charge since March, 1916.



## THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (SCIENTIST).

The Church of Christ (Scientist) at Alexandria is a recent organization, the members of which began to hold regular Sunday services at the home of Mrs. Alta-Mae Jacobson on July 12, 1914. At that time there were only about seven or eight persons interested in the meetings, but the home soon became too small to accommodate the growing congregation and on November 22, 1914, the group moved into the present quarters of the Christian Science church, a small hall over the Carlson grocery store on the city's main street. The group grew steadily and on March 21, 1916, organized an authorized Christian Science Society at Alexandria, complying with the rules of the First Church of Christ (Scientist) at Boston. There are seventeen charter members, four of whom are members of the Mother Church. The officers consist of a first reader, a second reader and a board of trustees. The first reader is Mrs. Alta-Mae Jacobson; second reader, Mrs. Caroline von Baumbach; trustees: President, Mrs. Margaret Unumb; treasurer, Miss Amelia Jasperson; clerk, Alta-Mae Jacobson; Mrs. Mary Robards and William Olson. The group has a committee for the distribution of Christian Science literature, which sends the *Monitor*, a daily newspaper of clean journalism; the *Sentinel*, a weekly magazine, and the *Journal*, a monthly magazine.

## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST.

The Seventh-Day Adventist church of Alexandria was organized on November 8, 1885, with twelve charter members and E. A. Curtis as elder. For awhile a rented building was used for a place of worship until a building could be bought. The church building now occupied was dedicated for service on January 27, 1900, the dedicatory service being conducted by Pastor C. W. Flaise. Following Mr. Curtis the pastors of the church have been: G. L. Budd, E. M. Chapman, W. W. Ruble, and E. L. Sheldon, the present pastor.

Of the many young people who have grown up and been fostered by this church, four have become ministers of the Gospel and are holding positions of trust in different places. A school room has been added to the church building and for nine months of the year a teacher is employed and instruction is given the children in the usual grade studies and on Bible subjects, especial effort being made to build up Christian character. There is in the church a strong Missionary Volunteer Society of young people, which meets regularly.

There are several church companies at different places in the county which hold regular services, but have not as yet secured church buildings.

#### THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Some years ago there was a Presbyterian church mission established at Alexandria under the direction of the mission board of that church, but it could not get a foothold and was presently abandoned. The only active congregations of the Presbyterians in Douglas county are those at Forada, presided over by the Reverend Owen, who is building up a flourishing and compact organization there, and the church at Evansville, which now has a stated pastor, and a church at Osakis.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### NEWSPAPERS.

It was not long after the establishment of a social order hereabout that the newspaper appeared and from the very beginning Douglas county has been favored by the presence of admirable mediums of publicity, the newspapers of the county ranking very high among the country journals of the state.

The first newspaper established in Douglas county was the *Alexandria Post*, which, under its present hyphenated name of the *Post-News*, is still being published, having had an unbroken existence since September 23, 1868, on which date it was launched on the then untried "sea of journalism" in this section of Minnesota by William E. Hicks, owner of the Alexandria townsite, who was a tried New York City newspaper man, and who associated with him in the initial stages of the venture George W. Benedict, a practical printer, of St. Cloud, who before the year was out retired and the paper was continued alone by Hicks until late in the fall of 1870, when Joseph Gilpin, a veteran of the Civil War and an experienced printer, took over the publication, Hicks in the meantime having been elected to the Legislature and his townsite and other business interests requiring all of his time. Mr. Gilpin had grown up "at the case" on a newspaper in Buffalo, New York, and when the Civil War broke out had enlisted for service in a New York regiment. His health became broken and he found work at the printer's "case" in the city did not agree with him after the completion of his military service, therefore, in July, 1867, he came to Minnesota and for the benefit he thought might be derived in a physical way, homesteaded a farm on the shores of beautiful Lake Darling, just north of Alexandria, and thought he would become a farmer, but the old lure of the print-shop was too strong and a couple of years after the *Post* had been started, he traded his farm to Hicks for the newspaper property and resumed the calling with which he was much better acquainted than with the methods of breaking a frontier farm.

Mr. Gilpin continued the publication of the *Post* until 1874, in which year he sold the paper to A. B. Donaldson, of Minneapolis, a professor in

the State University; and returned to his former home in Buffalo, but presently returned to Alexandria and on August 1, 1877, started the *Douglas County News*, the publication of which he continued until 1894, when Charles Mitchell, of St. Cloud, came over and bought both the *Post* and the *News* and consolidated the two papers under the present name of the *Post-News*. Charles Mitchell, a brother of William Mitchell, of the *St. Cloud Journal*, continued the publication of the *Post-News* until November 7, 1902, when he sold the paper to Ezra E. McCrea, of St. Paul, an experienced newspaper man, who has ever since been editor and publisher of the paper. Mr. McCrea, who formerly was deputy city clerk of St. Paul, had a ten-year experience in newspaper work before taking up the work at Alexandria, having been a reporter on both the *Pioneer Press* and the *Dispatch* at the state capital and had for some time been a reporter for the Associated Press in New York City.

#### OLD PAPER REVIVES MEMORIES OF ANOTHER DAY.

An examination of the files of the old *Alexandria Post*, preserved at the office of the *Post-News* would revive many memories of other days in the minds of old residents who might look over the same. The *Post* was an admirably printed sheet from the very start, its initial issue showing the work of a master hand. It was pointed out by the editor that the mechanical outfit, which had been shipped over from Chicago, was in place and ready for operation within two weeks after the order was placed. When the *Post* was established Grant and Colfax were the nominees of the Republican party for president and vice-president, respectively, and their names were carried at the mast-head of the paper in its very first issue. The electors on the Republican national ticket, whose names were published, were W. T. Ranbush, of Freeborn county; Oscar Malmros, of Ramsey county; C. T. Brown, of Nicollet county, and T. C. Jones, of Anoka county. The congressional ticket was, for first district, M. S. Wilkinson; second district, Ignatius Donnelly; legislative ticket, for Stearns county, S. B. Pinney; outside of Stearns county, William E. Hicks. Large attention was paid by the *Post* to local political conditions, a warm local fight, with particular reference to the congressional nomination then being on. In the second issue of the *Post* there was printed the correspondence between Gen. L. T. Hubbard and Ignatius Donnelly regarding a plan of arbitration of the differences between the two, arising out of the congressional nomination, the *Post* concluding its comment on the proposition by declaring that "should the board

of arbitration settle the matter of differences between the candidates harmoniously, which we trust they will, the choice of the board, we have no doubt, would be recognized and accepted by the entire party, and this is as it should be." The Republican county ticket for that year, as carried by the *Post* in its initial issue, was as follow: For auditor, William M. Pye; register of deeds, F. B. Van Hoesen; sheriff, G. W. Harper; corner, Daniel Shotwell; judge of probate, H. S. Boyd; surveyor, Henry Blackwell; treasurer, T. W. Spragne; court commissioner, N. B. Patterson; county commissioner, second district, Levi E. Thompson.

Proper attention was paid to local social doings in those days and in the second issue of the *Post* there was printed a considerable item under the head of "The Alexandria Ball," the public being informed that "the ball given by Mr. McLeod, of the Woodhull House, on Monday night last, was a complete success. About thirty couples were present. Dancing began at nine o'clock and was continued until midnight, when supper was announced and all sat down to a splendid repast, served in Mrs. McLeod's inimitable style. Thorough justice being done to the substantial and delicacies of the supper, dancing was resumed and continued until daybreak. All the participants went home pleased and satisfied. Russell's music, McLeod's supper and Darling's management are all that are necessary to make a night pass pleasantly. These reunions of town and country are agreeable and aid greatly in promoting a friendly feeling among those present. We hope these social gatherings may be more frequent." That same issue of the paper devoted three columns to a report of the fourteenth annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Anthony, including a list of appointments for the several districts of the state, it being noted that C. F. Kingsland was appointed to the Alexandria church and O. Hoover to the Osakis church in the St. Cloud district. Under the head of "Our New Church," it was stated that "In our last issue we alluded to a movement towards erecting a Methodist church in Alexandria. As a further evidence of the energy and public spirit of the citizens in this matter, we take great pleasure in stating that the building is already in course of construction, carpenters commencing work on Monday morning last. The citizens can now confidently calculate upon having a suitable house of worship ready for occupancy within sixty days." In the same column it was noted that "We were delighted with the good display of the vocal powers of the ladies of Alexandria at the morning church service last Sunday. There is abundant material in our congregation for good singing and we hope to see an organ placed in the church to accompany our lady singers." This item is supposed to have had reference to the con-

gregation of the Congregational church, which at that time was holding services in the old court house hall and to which Mr. Hicks later donated the fine corner lot on which the present Congregational church stands. Under the head of "Personal" it was noted in the second issue of the *Post* that "Mr. G. W. Benedict, one of the proprietors of the *Alexandria Post*, went below on Sunday last, after assisting in the publication of the first number of our paper, which in point of mechanical appearance, we are not afraid to compare with any newspaper that has been started on the frontier of late years." The grain market quotations then were as follow: "Wheat is lower, selling at \$1.05 for No. 1. All the markets below are lower. Oats are quoted at 50 to 55 cents. Wheat at Center, \$1 to \$1.50."

The business interests of Alexandria seemed well represented even at that early date and the *Post* carried the following advertisers in its columns: F. B. Van Hoesen, attorney at law; Scandinavian House, L. Johnson, proprietor; H. L. Gordon and L. W. Collins, Gordon & Collins, attorneys at law and real estate agents; Gates & Blood, general freighters, running "regularly once a week between St. Cloud and Alexandria, rates from \$1.50 to \$2 per 100 pounds;" Van Hoesen & Mitchell, F. B. Van Hoesen and James S. Mitchell, real estate agency; John S. Mower, attorney at law and insurance; M. H. Tolan, bootmaker and repairer; George C. Whitcomb, county auditor and register of deeds, "any business required to be done by non-resident land holders executed promptly and no exorbitant charges;" Dr. Q. E. Andrews, physician and surgeon; Thomas Cowing, general merchandise; Woodhull House, John McLeod, proprietor; Hammond, Rima & Co., shingle manufacturers; W. E. Hicks, lumber yard; C. Shultz, gunsmith and dealer in sportsmen's and hunter's goods; G. C. Marshall, saloon; E. G. Holmes, general merchandise and farm implements, Holmes City; John Sundblad, boarding house and saloon; C. Sondag, merchant tailor; J. F. Bell & Company, St. Cloud, dry goods; Alexandria Flouring Mills, "the highest price paid for wheat;" Joseph Gilpin, builder and plasterer; D. Fredenberg, carriage and wagon factory; Smith & Herbert, boots, shoes and leather; St. Germaine, St. Cloud; D. B. Hull, house, sign and carriage painting, glazier and paper-hanger; Andrew Lundberg, carpenter and joiner; Robert Walker, blacksmithing and horse-shoeing; S. J. Holmberg, wagonmaker; J. H. Hollabaugh, hardware; T. F. Cowing, Alexandria Store, dry goods and general merchandise; J. B. Cowing, groceries and meat market; Pomme de Terre Station Hotel, D. Burns, proprietor; Mueller Brothers, dry goods and general merchandise.

## THE ALEXANDRIA CITIZEN.

In the summer of 1893, W. S. Gilpin, son of the veteran editor, Joseph Gilpin, and Newton Trenham started a newspaper at Alexandria which they called the *Citizen* and which they began publishing largely in behalf of the Grange movement. Presently Gilpin sold his interest in the paper to Trenham and moved to Hamilton, North Dakota, where he started a paper which he conducted for three or four years, at the end of which time he went to Osseo, Wisconsin, and started there the *Ossco News*, which he is still publishing. Trenham later sold the *Citizen* to J. A. Kinney, who is still conducting the same.

## THE PARK REGION ECHO.

Twenty-six years ago a man by the name of Clark arrived at Brandon and proceeded to establish a newspaper for that thriving village. He was an ex-county attorney of Itasca county and considerable was expected of his venture by the people of that community. The paper he started he named *Blue Bells*. But he proved to be an eccentric sort and the publication was rather erratic. Frequently, weekly editions would be omitted. He continued about a year and sold out to Hans Peterson and Fred Andrews, two of Brandon's promising and energetic young men. They edited the paper for some time, when it proved the income was not sufficient to keep the venture going.

But the people of Brandon had acquired a taste of having a local newspaper and were not willing to let matters drop so readily. At Evansville, A. C. Lawrence was located and they made an arrangement with him to take over the property. They assisted him to the extent of fetching his household goods and family to Brandon and he began reviving the *Brandon Echo*. He gave the village a live and interesting newspaper, but he also encountered the same difficulty—small income—too small to maintain a family of three large people. It was claimed that the three together would tip the scales at more than 700 pounds and that they ate regularly three pounds of the best roast beef each dinner. The *Echo* was then sold to George S. Myron, who moved the plant into his house, the one now occupied by Anton H. Strom. Up to that time the plant had been located in the Decker building, yet standing south of the Larson hardware store. Mr. Lawrence went to Alexandria and there started a new paper which lasted only a short while, though.

Mr. Borgen was a good printer and put new life into the *Echo*. It

appeared to prosper and gain prestige. He was appointed postmaster and this gave him additional income and prestige, and he materially improved the publication. Large fonts of type were added and the old army press was disposed of and the Minnesota stop-cylinder press, on which the *Alexandria Post News* had been published for several years was installed. The paper was changed from a four-page seven-column to an eight-page five-column. The business men of the village patronized him liberally and did what they could to assist in giving the community a live little local paper. But reverses set in and in time the ownership passed into the hands of the Brandon State Bank. Again the business men took a hold to retain the paper and keep it alive. Carl A. Wold, the present editor, agreed to edit it for the bank until some other arrangement could be made. But this appeared to be a difficult matter and a proposition was made to Wold, which he accepted and became the owner of the plant.

Up to this time the temperance question had not received much attention in the local papers. In fact the saloons had been the most prominent feature in the business and political life of a community. But a change was developing. Their work was growing distasteful and protests began to come frequently. The system was gradually changing from the local saloonkeeper who lived in the place and invested his income in the village, educated his children there and took a live interest in the development of the towns, as is customary of business men, to men who acted as mere agents for some brewery outside of the village and whose only interest in the place was the amount of profits turned in. This system produced a class of saloon keepers that sometimes did not act wisely or very scrupulously. They generated a general protest from the better class of residents and the temperance movement was on.

Mr. Wold upon assuming the management of the *Echo* at once discontinued the liquor advertising. This was resented by the saloon keepers and at once a fight was on. Wold tried to avoid this and for a long time ignored the attacks and advocated prohibition and no-license. From this condition developed an organization in the county that has done much to create sentiment for no saloons and a dry county.

After three years work in Brandon, temperance advocates of the county started a movement to reorganize the paper and move the plant to Alexandria, where the *Echo* would be in a position to assume the work for the whole county. From a small circulation it has developed a large circulation and has the liberal support of the people.

The plant of the *Park Region Echo* is now equipped with a good



cylinder press, jobber, linotype and other necessary machinery for newspaper and job work.

#### THE ALEXANDRIA REPUBLICAN.

A newspaper formerly published at Alexandria was the *Republican*, which was established more than twenty years ago by U. B. Shaver, who continued its publication a few years, at the end of which time he sold it to A. C. Lawrence, who continued the publication of the same until growing financial difficulties caused him to seek a change of base and he moved the plant to Fergus Falls.

#### THE OSAKIS REVIEW.

The *Osakis Review* was established in 1890 by A. L. Heikes and was a four-page seven-column paper. It was printed on one of the first Washington hand-presses ever brought to Minnesota. The *Review* became the property of Clement H. Bronson, the present publisher, in December, 1892. Mr. Bronson at that time enjoying the distinction of being the youngest editor in the state. From a four-page paper with a circulation of two hundred and forty copies weekly, the *Review* has grown to an eight- to sixteen-page seven-column newspaper, having a circulation of over one thousand five hundred copies weekly. The *Review* is now printed in a modern newspaper plant occupying a floor space forty by one hundred feet. The office is equipped with a linotype machine, power presses and attached newspaper folder, each piece of machinery being driven by an individual electric motor. The *Review* has always been consistently Republican in politics.

#### THE BRANDON FORUM.

The *Brandon Forum* was founded at Brandon by A. B. Johnson on October 15, 1910, about two years after the *Echo* had been moved from that village to Alexandria. Five years later, October 15, 1915, the *Forum* was purchased by W. J. B. Moses, who has since been editor and publisher of the same.

#### THE EVANSVILLE ENTERPRISE.

The *Enterprise*, published at Evansville, was established in 1889 by H. G. Urie, who later sold to P. A. Neff, who in turn sold the paper to W. N. Bronson, brother of the editor of the *Osakis Review*, who is still publishing it.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE BENCH AND BAR.

The first attorneys to locate in Douglas county for the practice of their profession were John Randolph and John S. Mower, who came to Alexandria in 1867, when this city was only a straggling village. Reuben Reynolds also came that same year. Mr. Reynolds was county attorney from 1871 to 1873. Mr. Mower was the first county superintendent of schools, serving from 1869 to 1873, and was also editor of a newspaper. F. B. Van Hoesen, one of the very early settlers at Alexandria, was a lawyer and served as county attorney from 1869 to 1871, but spent most of his years here as a banker.

In 1871, Knute Nelson, a young lawyer from Wisconsin, who had been admitted to the bar in Dane county in 1869 and practiced there two years, came to Alexandria and formed a partnership with Reuben Reynolds for the practice of law. Mr. Nelson was county attorney from 1873 to 1875; was elected to the state Senate in 1875; was elected to Congress in 1883 and served there until 1892; was elected governor of Minnesota in 1892 and served two terms; in January, 1895, he was elected United States senator and has since represented this state in the Senate.

Nelson Fulmer studied law in the office of Mr. Nelson and was admitted to the bar at Alexandria. Mr. Fulmer practiced law here for several years; was county attorney from 1875 to 1879, and later moved to St. Cloud, where he was collector of the McCormick Harvester Company and finally had charge of collections for that company in a large part of the state.

William F. Ball came to Alexandria from Canada in 1875 and opened an office for the practice of law. After residing here about ten years Mr. Ball moved to Fargo, North Dakota, where he died recently.

George H. Reynolds, a son of Reuben Reynolds, came to Alexandria in 1877. He was county attorney from 1879 to 1883. He afterward moved to St. Cloud and engaged in the practice of law there until his death in 1914.

Col. Horatio Jenkins, a native of Massachusetts, who had gone south after the Civil War, came to Alexandria from Florida in 1880 and engaged

in the practice here until his death. He was county attorney from 1883 to 1889.

George L. Treat, a native of Wisconsin, and a graduate of Ann Arbor law school, began the practice of his profession at Alexandria in 1883, and has been here ever since, engaged in the law, loan and insurance business.

C. J. Gunderson was educated at Minnesota State University and the Ann Arbor law school and began practice in Alexandria in 1886, and has ever since been one of the resident attorneys. Mr. Gunderson was county attorney from 1889 to 1903, and served eight years in the state Senate.

Constant Larson is a native of Douglas county and after graduating from the law school of the State University began the practice of his profession at Alexandria in 1894. Mr. Larson was county attorney from 1903 to 1913, and is the present city attorney.

Hugh E. Leach came to Alexandria in 1906 and formed a partnership with C. J. Gunderson for the practice of law. Mr. Leach was elected county attorney in 1913 and is now serving in that office.

Ralph S. Thornton was educated at Drake University, Iowa, where he was graduated from the law department in 1913. He came to Alexandria in October, 1914, and has since been engaged here at his profession.

F. E. Ullman located in Alexandria in 1906 and after practicing law here for a short time moved to another field.

Nick Langhausen had a fine law office at Alexandria in 1912, but his library was burned in 1914 and he quit the practice.

A. A. Andrews practiced law for about six months at Alexandria in 1914.

#### OTHER ATTORNEYS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.

O. A. Felt, who was a graduate of the University of Minnesota, located at Evansville in 1896. He engaged in the practice of law there until his death in 1908.

A. G. Osterberg practiced law at Brandon until his removal to Mille Lacs county, several years ago, where he is now register of deeds for that county.

Frank H. Borchert located at Osakis in 1896 and opened a law office there. Mr. Borchert is also interested in the banking business and is the present postmaster of Osakis.

E. R. Ruggles was formerly engaged in the practice of law in Douglas county, but is now manager of a summer hotel, called "Idlewild," at Osakis.

## DOUGLAS COUNTY JUDICIARY.

Ever since its organization Douglas county has been a part of the seventh judicial district, which is comprised of the counties of Clay, Becker, Otter Tail, Wadena, Douglas, Todd, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Benton and Stearns.

The judges who have presided in this district are as follow: James M. McKelvey of St. Cloud, Stearns county, who assumed office on August 1, 1866; L. M. Collins, of St. Cloud, April 19, 1883; L. L. Baxter, of Fergus Falls, Otter Tail county, March 18, 1885; D. B. Searle, of St. Cloud, November 14, 1887; Myron D. Taylor, of St. Cloud, December 1, 1906; Carroll A. Nye, of Moorhead, Clay county, January 1, 1911; William L. Parsons, of Fergus Falls, April 18, 1913, and John A. Roeser, of St. Cloud, April 1, 1913.

The three last named are the present judges of this district, having concurrent jurisdiction, and assignments are made by the senior member, Judge Nye.

## CHAPTER XV.

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

During the early years of the settlement of this region there were no regular practicing physicians hereabout, the settlers relying on the experience of such of their number as might have a knowledge of "simples" to help them out of their ailments in ordinary cases and sending over to Sauk Center for a physician in case of emergencies, but as the charge for attendance by a physician from that distance was almost prohibitive, the emergency was generally extreme when such a call was made. Occasionally traveling doctors would come out this way and make the rounds of the settlements, but as far as the recollection of the survivors of that period goes Doctor Andrews was the first physician definitely to locate at Alexandria, where he remained in practice for several years. Doctor Andrews was not only a good physician, but an excellent surgeon, who had had considerable experience as a practitioner in the iron region near Duluth before locating at Alexandria. He later moved to Moorehead, where he spent the rest of his life.

It was during the time of Doctor Andrews's residence at Alexandria that Doctor Borden, a young graduate physician from Boston, came out here and located at Alexandria, where he remained some years, later returning to Boston, whence news presently came of his death there. Then came Dr. Godfrey Vivian, an Englishman, who also came down from the iron range, a surgeon of wide experience, who remained at Alexandria for years, at the end of which time he went to California, where he spent the remainder of his life. Not long after the coming of Doctor Vivian, Doctor Lewis appeared on the scene and the two formed a partnership and started a drug store, of which Doctor Lewis became the active manager, the latter spending the balance of his life at Alexandria.

In 1881 Dr. S. W. McEwan, who had started in practice at Evansville, moved to Alexandria and presently formed a partnership with Doctor Vivian, which continued until the latter's appointment as postmaster, when Doctor McEwan and Dr. H. J. Boyd, the latter of whom meanwhile had located at Alexandria, formed a partnership. Doctor Boyd was a son of one of the pioneer families of Hudson township and had grown to manhood in this

community. He received his medical education in Cincinnati and afterward for a time was engaged in practice in New York, but about 1883 he returned to Douglas county and engaged in practice at Alexandria, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring about 1909. His son, Dr. Leon A. Boyd, is now in practice at Alexandria. Doctor McEwan became very successful in his practice, at the same time taking an active part in public affairs, and remained actively in practice until his death about ten years ago.

#### ALEXANDRIA PHYSICIANS.

In the meantime, as in all communities, other physicians had been locating at Alexandria, some of these, however, remaining but a short time until attracted to some other location and thus created no very distinct impression upon the community. Among those who did locate with a definite purpose to remain may be mentioned Dr. James H. Drake, a young physician, who engaged in practice at Alexandria for a year or two and then went to Mondak, Montana. Dr. Frithiof L. Kling also was located for some time at Alexandria, but presently moved to the neighboring county seat, Elbow Lake, where he is now engaged in practice. Dr. W. E. Ellis, of Prentice, Wisconsin, also located at Alexandria, but after awhile returned to the place from which he had come, and Dr. Charles A. Lester, another physician of some years standing in Alexandria, located at Winona, this state. Dr. Eugene A. Hensel, who succeeded to the practice of Doctor McEwan upon the death of the latter, grew up in Douglas county, his parents having been pioneers here. He was graduated from Bush Medical College, at Chicago, and began practice at Alexandria in the nineties, remaining there until in January, 1910, when he moved to San Diego, California, where he is now engaged in practice. Besides Dr. Leon A. Boyd, mentioned above, the other practitioners at Alexandria at present are Dr. M. B. Ruud, Dr. L. W. Satterlee, Dr. A. D. Haskell and Dr. L. M. Keene.

#### OSAKIS PHYSICIANS.

The oldest practicing physician at present in Douglas county is Dr. C. M. Long, of Osakis, who was a classmate of Doctor McEwan at Rush Medical College, and who is now the only member left of the regular medical fraternity in this region of forty years ago, all the early physicians at Fergus Falls, Alexandria, Osakis, Sank Center and St. Cloud save himself having passed to their reward years ago. When Doctor Long settled in Douglas county in

1878 Alexandria was but a small hamlet and Osakis was but a feeding place for the ox-trains, to use the Doctor's own words in expressing the situation. He arrived at Osakis on the old stage from Melrose, and the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba railroad was laid through Osakis to Alexandria in the fall of that same year, the first mixed train being run through Osakis and on to Alexandria on November 16. When Doctor Long settled in practice at Osakis, Doctor Vivian and Doctor Lewis were in practice in Alexandria and had been there for some time, continuing in partnership until the death of Dr. Lewis at Chaska about 1882. Doctor Long was the first resident physician at Osakis and has remained there continuously ever since settling in the village, the list of physicians who later located there comprising Doctors Rathburn, Anderson, Scoboris, Cleveland, Titus, A. J. Gilkinson and Hengstler, the two latter of whom are now practicing there in partnership.

For twenty years, or until the railway physicians in the smaller towns were discontinued, Doctor Long was the local physician for the Great Northern railroad. From his description of the disadvantages under which the physician labored in the period covering the earlier years of his practice, it is apparent that too much cannot be said in praise of the pioneer physicians or of the efforts they put forth amid all possible disadvantageous conditions. During most parts of the year the roads were almost impassible on account of mud holes, stumps, rocks, ruts and the heavy snow banks of the cold winters of those early days. The question of price or of pay for services was not considered, but all calls were answered with a devotion to the profession and an interest in the patient that was as noble as it was unselfish, for many times the physician received not even a civil "thank you" for his services.

In those days it not infrequently happened that the deep snow drifts were the belated physician's protecting bed against freezing and the old army rifle kept the hungry "sassy" wolves at bay. Surgical operations often were performed during the night hours in the remote districts without counsel or assistance. All emergencies had to be met fearlessly, without any advantage save the exercise of double wits, courage and "dare." Difficult surgical operations had to be performed under conditions that would make a modern physician's hair stand on end, there then being no opportunity for the antiseptic surgery of today, and it is remarkable what good results usually followed those daring operations. Though in too many cases the families who were compelled to call in the services of the physician were poor and had no intention of paying for the service, there sat the true physician, all night, watching and devising, devoted to the interests of his patient, though knowing that he was not to be remunerated when all was over.

The medical profession is represented at Millerville by Dr. John C. Drexler, and at Kensington by Dr. Otto L. Hanson and at Carlos by Dr. P. A. Love. Doctor Gray formerly was engaged in practice at Garfield, which village is now without a physician.

#### EVANSVILLE PHYSICIANS.

So far as can be ascertained the following list contains the names and years of service of all the physicians who have resided at Evansville: Doctor Hahnemann came in 1881 and moved away in 1886; Doctor McKenzie came in 1886 and stayed until 1887; Dr. Charles Nootnagel resided here in 1887-89; Doctor Spaulding, 1890-91; Dr. R. I. Hubert, 1891-94; Dr. Charles Van Cappellen, 1894-96; Dr. C. R. Ward, 1895-1903; Dr. C. W. Meckstroth, 1896-1901; Doctor Bachman, 1901-1902; Dr. G. B. Mathison, 1902-1910; Doctor Regner, 1906-07; Dr. G. R. Melzer came in 1910; Dr. W. Huffman, 1912-13; Doctor Ekrem, 1914-15; Doctor Ruud and Dr. P. G. Cowing came to Evansville in 1916 and are now engaged in the practice there.

#### BRANDON PHYSICIANS.

The physicians who have practiced at Brandon have been as follow: Doctor Brown came about 1883 and resided here several years; Doctor Foss, 1885-86; Dr. Charles Van Cappellen, 1889-1904; Dr. Gisle Bjornstad, 1893-96; Dr. John Lyng, 1899-1901; Dr. C. W. Meckstroth came in 1901 and still resides here. Dr. C. Nootnagel, Sr., a homeopath, practiced five miles west of Brandon from 1876 until his death a few years ago.

#### DOCTORS OF DENTAL SURGERY.

From the traveling "tinker," as the settlers about the old stockade used to call the itinerant dentists who were wont to call at the settlement there or at the other early settlements in Douglas county in pioneer days, to the skilled and trained dental surgeons of today is a far cry, indeed. In the old days tooth-pulling was the chief remedy for dental ailments, though some of the traveling dentists were equipped with a sort of a kit of tools with which they would attempt the filling of teeth, but the sufferer usually discovered that the filling would be dropping out within a short time. In consequence of the bad practice of these itinerants the pioneers usually relied upon the family physician for dental services, the same being confined to tooth-pulling,



except in the cases of those who cared to make a trip to the cities for dental attention.

It was not until about 1880 that Alexandria had a resident dentist, Dr. James Bell, who came over from Minneapolis and located at the county seat, the first resident dentist in Douglas county. Doctor Bell presently formed a partnership with Doctor Hand, who came in later, and that partnership was continued for some time. Doctor Hand later moving to Long Prairie and Doctor Bell back to Minneapolis. Doctor Jordon was the next dentist to locate at Alexandria and he later went to Fergus Falls, where he died, and the next was Doctor Avery, who later went to Idaho. Dr. Harry Pritchett and Doctor Good located at Alexandria about that time, the former of whom later moved to Perham and the latter sold his practice to Dr. J. J. Volker, who is still engaged in practice at Alexandria. Dr. E. E. Buell succeeded to the practice of Doctor Jordon and is still in practice. In 1904 Dr. C. L. Cole established an office at Alexandria and is still there, and in 1906 Dr. C. C. Strang, present mayor of Alexandria, opened an office for the practice of his profession and is still thus engaged there. The latest dentist to locate at the county seat is Dr. L. W. Prescott, who opened an office there in the summer of 1916.

The chiropractic profession is represented by Dr. D. E. Wittenburg, and the osteopaths by Dr. J. A. McCabe.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### BANKS AND BANKING

The early banks of Douglas county were private institutions, often carried on along with some other business. When the county was undeveloped it was only natural that interest rates were high. It was no uncommon thing for a money lender to ask as high as twenty-five or thirty per cent interest during the early days of settlement. As land values increased, interest rates were lowered, and developed farms afforded good security for loans. Later the rates were regulated by law and today the farmers and business men of Douglas county are able to secure all the money they need for legitimate enterprises at rates as reasonable as any county in the state.

There are now four national and thirteen state banks in Douglas county. In 1915 these banks had capital and surplus of \$529,500, and total deposits of \$3,459,159.68. It is estimated that two-thirds of these deposits belong to farmers. These figures represent a per capita deposit of \$195. In the following paragraphs brief mention is made of the officers and the financial condition of all the banks in Douglas county.

#### FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ALEXANDRIA.

The First National Bank of Alexandria is the oldest financial institution in the county. In 1868 a private bank was established, called the Bank of Alexandria, of which F. B. Van Hoesen was president; C. H. Raiter, vice-president, and G. B. Ward, cashier. In 1883 this business was converted into a national bank, called the First National Bank of Alexandria. The present officers are: C. J. Gunderson, president; C. H. Raiter, vice-president; A. H. Gregersen, vice-president; P. O. Unumb, cashier; C. F. Raiter, assistant cashier. Directors: C. J. Gunderson, C. H. Raiter, Fred von Baumbach, P. O. Unumb, A. H. Gregersen, F. C. Raiter and Theodore Bordsen.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital Stock, \$60,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$39,551.86; deposits, \$766,533.15; loans and discounts, \$681,563.18; cash assets, \$158,257.71.

## FARMERS NATIONAL BANK OF ALEXANDRIA.

The Farmers National Bank of Alexandria was chartered on June 12, 1901. The first officers were as follow: Tollef Jacobson, president; J. H. Letson, vice-president; Andrew Jacobson, cashier; H. A. Schaefer, assistant cashier. The bank has the same officers in 1916 with the addition of H. A. LeRoy as vice-president.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$100,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$31,424.33; deposits, \$805,516.14; loans and discounts, \$722,314.15; cash assets, \$118,184.05. The building in which the Farmers National is housed was erected in 1914 and is one of the handsomest bank buildings in the state. It is of Maine granite and with a marble interior, erected at a cost of about \$65,000.

## DOUGLAS COUNTY STATE BANK.

The Douglas County State Bank was established on June 10, 1886, at Alexandria. The first officers were: Joseph U. Barnes, president; William Moses, vice-president; H. A. Barnes, cashier. The first board of directors consisted of Joseph U. Barnes, William Moses, G. A. Kortsch, Henry A. Barnes, E. J. Phelps, W. L. Barnes and E. A. Merrill. The present officers are: G. A. Kortsch, president; W. K. Barnes, cashier; O. W. Landeen, assistant cashier.

At the close of business on June 30, 1916, the bank had: Capital, \$50,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$11,724.34; deposits, \$202,271.58; loans and discounts, \$213,961.65; cash assets, \$37,556.34.

## OSAKIS STATE BANK.

The Osakis State Bank was organized in May, 1900. The first officers were: H. A. Shedd, president; W. P. Long, vice-president; Carl E. Oberg, cashier. First board of directors: H. A. Shedd, W. P. Long and W. B. Lyons. The original capital stock was \$10,000. The present officers of the bank are: F. H. Borchert, president; W. P. Long, vice-president; Clyde W. Long, cashier; C. E. Belding, assistant cashier. Directors: F. H. Borchert, W. P. Long and W. B. Lyons.

At the close of business on June 30, 1916, the condition of the bank was as follows: Capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus and undivided profits,

\$11,653.40; deposits, \$309,396.70; loans and discounts, \$334,486.11; cash assets, \$27,838.34.

#### FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OSAKIS.

The First National Bank of Osakis was organized on June 9, 1903, with a capital stock of \$25,000.00. The first officers were: Tollef Jacobson, president; Andrew Jacobson, vice-president; Nels M. Evenson, cashier. The present officers are: Nels M. Evenson, president; James A. Caughren, vice-president; G. R. Lee, cashier; D. B. McCleery, assistant cashier.

At the close of business on May 1, 1916, the bank showed the following financial condition: Capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$13,340.34; deposits, \$285,766.89; loans and discounts, \$239,646.75; cash assets, \$79,300.84.

#### FARMERS STATE BANK OF EVANSVILLE.

The Farmers State Bank of Evansville was established in 1882. The present officers are as follow: G. H. Raiter, president; O. C. Amundson, vice-president; Joseph Mathison, cashier; V. F. Johnson, assistant cashier. A recent statement of the bank showed the following condition: Capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$7,500.00; deposits, \$131,000.00; loans and discounts, \$118,000.00; cash assets, \$26,000.00.

#### EVANSVILLE STATE BANK.

The Evansville State Bank was established on October 1, 1902, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. The first officers were: Tollef Jacobson, president; Andrew Jacobson, vice-president; Oscar Lindstrom, cashier; O. J. Wallen, assistant cashier. In 1904 O. J. Wallen was elected cashier. In May, 1912, the capital stock was increased to \$25,000.00, and a surplus of \$5,000.00 was set aside. The present officers are: John Anderson, president; A. J. Ostrom, vice-president; O. J. Wallen, cashier; J. T. Larson, assistant cashier.

At the close of business on June 30, 1916, the condition of the bank was: Capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$11,013.60; deposits, \$216,714.14; loans and discounts, \$217,443.47; cash assets, \$27,168.92.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BRANDON.

The Brandon State Bank was organized in 1902, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. O. F. Olson was the president and Theodore F. Olson was the cashier. On June 16, 1916, this institution was converted into the First National Bank of Brandon, with a capital stock of \$25,000.00. Tollei Jacobsen is president and Ferd Swenson is cashier.

Statement of the First National Bank of Brandon at the close of business on August 6, 1916: Capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus, \$10,000.00; deposits, \$211,932.72; loans, \$179,414.91; cash assets, \$45,368.95.

## FARMERS STATE BANK OF BRANDON.

The Farmers State Bank of Brandon was organized on November 11, 1910. Its first officers were: P. O. Unumb, president; B. T. Teigen, vice-president; George Drexler, cashier; A. B. Burkee, assistant cashier. Mr. Drexler died on April 13, 1914, and was succeeded by A. B. Burkee as cashier. The present assistant cashier is Edwin Berg.

At the close of business on June 30, 1916, the statement of the bank was as follows: Capital stock, \$15,000.00; surplus, \$4,000.00; deposits, \$255,112.54; loans and discounts, \$250,716.55; cash assets, \$18,330.67.

## FIRST STATE BANK OF CARLOS.

The First State Bank of Carlos was organized on September 5, 1904, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. The first officers were: S. A. Netland, president; A. O. Netland, vice-president; James B. Hove, cashier. The present officers are: James B. Hove, president; A. M. Kohlhaas, vice-president; Edward B. Dahlsten, cashier.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follow: Capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$3,264.34; deposits, \$158,338.44; loans and discounts, \$145,795.76; cash assets, \$19,850.29.

## GARFIELD STATE BANK.

The Garfield State Bank was organized on March 27, 1905, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. The first officers were: Harry Dranger, president; Ferd. Swenson, cashier. The present officers are: Ferd. Swenson,

president; John A. Linnard, vice-president; Theodore Walstad, cashier; George Roche, assistant cashier.

At the close of business on June 30, 1916, the condition of the bank was as follows: Capital stock, \$15,000.00; surplus, \$3,000.00; deposits, \$193,427.53; loans and discounts, \$185,442.04; cash assets, \$19,461.59.

#### NELSON STATE BANK.

The Nelson State Bank was incorporated on April 23, 1907, with a capital stock of \$12,000.00. The first officers were: James Manuel, president; H. J. Ernster, cashier. Directors: C. H. Larson, T. A. Erickson and George Stromlund. The present officers are: C. H. Larson, president; F. Otto Swenson, vice-president; George Stromlund, cashier; Ida A. Erickson and Hanna M. Stromlund, assistant cashiers. T. A. Erickson and Nels Sather are on the board of directors.

At the close of business on June 30, 1916, the condition of the bank was as follows: Capital stock, \$12,000.00; surplus, \$3,448.63; deposits, \$124,867.82; loans and discounts, \$120,367.25; cash assets, \$13,305.79.

#### FIRST STATE BANK OF KENSINGTON.

The First State Bank of Kensington was established in 1909. The present officers are: C. H. Raiter, president; H. Thorson, vice-president; O. W. Harrison, cashier; C. D. Sampson, assistant cashier. The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follow: Capital stock, \$15,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$6,100.83; deposits, \$209,222.86; loans and discounts, \$200,195.40; cash assets, \$23,795.09.

#### FARMERS STATE BANK OF FORADA.

The Farmers State Bank of Forada was organized in 1913, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. The first officers were: Fred C. Meade, president; John Lorenz, vice-president; Henry Daniels, cashier. The present officers are: Theodore Aune, president; John Lorenz, vice-president; N. P. Norling, cashier.

At the close of business on June 30, 1916, the statement of the bank showed the following condition: Capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$2,269.94; deposits, \$48,078.80; loans and discounts, \$49,333.78; cash assets, \$4,130.05.

## MELBY STATE BANK.

The Melby State Bank was established in 1914. The present officers are: E. A. Jewett, president; H. M. Palmquist, vice-president; J. L. Everts, cashier. A statement of the bank for June 30, 1916, shows the following condition: Capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$2,-228.39; deposits, \$44,489.89; loans and discounts, \$48,466.00; cash assets, \$3,678.27.

## GERMAN AMERICAN STATE BANK OF MILLERVILLE.

The German American State Bank of Millerville was chartered on May 11, 1914, and opened for business on August 1, 1914. The present officers are: Tollef Jacobson, president; Frank Buscher, cashier. Directors: Tollef Jacobson, Ferd. Swenson, F. G. Dobbmeyer, P. B. Lorsung and Frank Buscher.

At the close of business on June 30, 1916, the condition of the bank was as follows: Capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$2,-124.30; deposits, \$61,616.88; loans and discounts, \$54,538.16; cash assets, \$15,034.27.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### MILITARY ANNALS.

On the lawn of the Douglas county court house there stands a beautiful gray granite monument, surmounted by a life-size bronze figure of a soldier standing at guard. On the face of the granite shaft there is carved a reproduction of the familiar emblem of the Grand Army of the Republic and on the left side of the shaft there is carved the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF  
THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS OF THE CIVIL WAR,  
1861 TO 1865

IT WAS ERECTED BY THE PERSONAL INFLUENCE OF  
REV. T. W. CRITCHETTE, D. D.,  
COMMANDER OF J. L. REYNOLDS POST NO. 51, DEPT. OF MINN.,  
G. A. R., THE W. R. C. AND THE CITIZENS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.  
DEDICATED MAY 30, 1916.

Douglas county not having had a formal, separate civic entity during the period of the Civil War, it having been, previous to the spring of 1866, attached to Stearns county for civil purposes, the military annals of the region now comprised within the boundaries of Douglas county hardly can be regarded as those of the latter county, but rather of Stearns county, to which it then was attached. When the Civil War broke out there were not many settlers in the territory now comprised within Douglas county and of these all but a very few scattered and left during the time of the Indian uprising in the next year, the story of which, together with a history of the establishment of the old stockade at Alexandria, following the outbreak, is told in an earlier chapter. Of the few settlers in this region, however, a goodly percentage responded to the call to arms and joined the forces of the state of Minnesota in aiding to put down the rebellion of the Southern states, this percentage having been sufficiently high to obviate the necessity for the exercise of the draft throughout this region. At the close of the war and upon the re-establishment of a sense of security against the Indians in this section, settlement became quite rapid and among these settlers were



many of the veterans of the Civil War, who came out here seeking new homes in this promising region. These veterans in the due course of time formed local posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, one at Osakis and one at Alexandria, and the rosters of these posts may therefore very properly be regarded as continuing the military annals of the county in so far as the Civil War is concerned.

#### JOHN L. REYNOLDS POST NO. 51.

The charter of John L. Reynolds Post No. 51, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Minnesota, was granted at Stillwater on October 29, 1883, John P. Rea then being department commander and Samuel Blooneir, assistant adjutant-general, following being the charter members of the post: Horatio Jenkins, Thomas F. Cowing, Lewis J. Brown, James S. Chapman, John B. Cowing, Henry K. White, Buel Chidester, William E. Chidester, Andrew J. Ames, Charles Schultz, Lewis S. Hill, William H. Hutchinson, Joseph Gilpin, Charles Perkins and Ole J. Urness. The post held its first meeting in Cowing's Opera Hall at Alexandria on October 29, 1883, and W. H. Harrington, chief mustering officer of the Department of Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic, installed the post and officers of the same, the officers being as follow: Commander, Horatio Jenkins; senior vice-commander, Thomas F. Cowing; junior vice-commander, William H. Sanders; surgeon, Lewis J. Brown; chaplain, James S. Chapman; quartermaster, J. B. Cowing; adjutant, William E. Chidester; officer of the day, Henry White; officer of the guard, Buel Chidester; sergeant-major, Andrew Ames.

John L. Reynolds Post grew in strength of numbers and in local influence with the passing of years until its roster came to number one hundred and seventy-nine, the members, in addition to those mentioned above being as follow: Hiram Shippey, Hiram P. James, James A. Shotwell, William A. Downs, Oliver B. Cooley, A. H. Taylor, George A. Whitcomb, Francis Giles, Charles E. Jenkins, F. C. Meade, William P. Burgan, G. J. Strang, Samuel J. Johnson, James Shaver, George E. Keyes, Knute Nelson, Leonard West, Henry H. Brown, David Johnson, Peter Lundgren, W. H. Halstad, W. C. Roland, John Lindquist, John Barnard, Hamilton Taylor, F. G. Stevens, N. N. Hardy, Fred von Baumbach, A. A. Brown, James C. Miller, Royal Colby, Dennis Crandall, W. R. Franklin, James A. Miller, C. W. Coffield, Moses Fredenberg, Isaiah Johnson, Calvin Abbott, Albert Hubbell, Rial Catlin, Thomas Kinney, Mathias Swap, Joseph Cramer, William H

Countryman, R. B. Oliver, George W. Frost, Paul Paulson, Carl W. Woodward, Nels Abrahamson, H. L. Lewis, James F. Dicken, William L. McKenzie, William P. Rogers, Daniel Allee, Martin J. Norde, Johnson Baker, Christopher Halvorsen, George W. Gardner, Thomas Bratton, John N. Shelru, George W. Partridge, Olaf Dahlheim, James Madison, John Sundblad, Andrew J. Urness, George G. Mitchell, William Hounsell, James J. McQuillan, Luther South, James R. Patten, Olaf Fablin, Philander Brooks, Gilbert Olson, John Olson, Jr., Moses Ingersoll, H. G. Fladeland, Cyrus B. Chase, James W. Roath, Henry Johnson, Fred Prodger, Samuel Jones, John Peterson, Andrew Burkee, John N. Hanson, John A. Anderson, Nicholas Mager, Peter Smith, John DeBilzen, August Wilm, J. L. Kasson, J. C. Terry, Gustav Olason, William Ziska, John A. Johnson, Charles Laurel, William Kappahn, Joshua M. Doudna, Alonzo Kellogg, Laurentz Johnson, Justus O. Kellogg, Nicholas Renkes, John Hobart, John E. Allen, William A. Bailey, John C. Carley, Francis W. Frederick, John Moses, James Fitzgerald, Frank Webber, Frank H. Colby, George H. Ostrum, William McCrory, William B. Dow, Olie Olson, Olie Brandson, Charles Buscher, Charles H. Wright, Ed. Peterson, Josiah Kimball, James H. Abbott, Nicholas Sandstrom, Nelson Peck, Almon Warner, Stephen W. Miller, Theo. A. Emerson, August Gutzman, George A. Freudenberg, Valentine Nichols, Egbert Fullerton, Gilbert Hayford, Samuel Laws, Alvin Milligan, John R. Moran, James Bright, Jesse Barrick, Amos Bacon, William A. McDonald, Henry Haner, Solomon Denning, David R. B. Hall, Edward Alger, Joseph Alger, Benjamin W. Noe, Charles W. Sutton, P. L. Letherman, R. Larson, Vincent Cooley, Chris McCabe, Frank J. Stevens, Thomas Cooper, Henry Yerigen, Charles F. McKillips, William Cort, James Goddard, James Watters, Rev. T. W. Critchette, D. D., Melvin Cushman, George Mathison, Gottlieb Griebio, Lewis S. Patten and Melvin Churchman, besides whom the names of John Anderson, Thomas Carpenter and William Wagoner are mentioned on the roll as veterans not members of the post.

With the passage of time and in consequence of death and removals, the present membership of the post has dwindled down to thirty-two. Meetings are held in a room on the second floor of the court house, provided through the courtesy of the county commissioners, and the present (1916) officers of the post are as follows: Commander, Rev. T. W. Critchette, D. D.; senior vice-commander, Thomas Cooper; junior vice-commander, Frank F. Stevens; officer of the day, Luther South; officer of the guard, Henry Yearkin; adjutant, Melvin Cushman; quartermaster, James Watters, and chaplain, T. W. Critchette.

## JOHN KENNEDY POST NO. 41.

John Kennedy Post No. 41, Department of Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic, was instituted at Osakis on May 27, 1885, with M. D. Judkins, W. H. Crows, F. A. Caswell, William Johnson, S. R. Smith, M. Johnson, W. H. Stevens, V. A. Edgerly, John Bailor, L. E. Stallcop, H. H. Sanderson, J. B. Johnson, B. W. Viles, H. O. Whipple, John Casterline, J. H. Passon, John Hoosline, E. J. Wickwire, Stephen John, J. B. Sherman, J. H. Rock, W. B. Lyons, A. O. Chapin, E. G. Pike, C. N. Tubbs, C. W. B. Taylor and Paul Harmon as charter members and the following officers: Commander, Joseph Bird; senior vice-commander, Levi Stallcop; junior vice-commander, Mark D. Judkins, and adjutant, W. H. Crows. Kennedy post remained active for many years, but in course of time its ranks became so thinned by death and removals that it finally disbanded. At one time the post was a strong organization, owned their own building and held their meetings with due regularity. But as the years advanced death entered the ranks, many moved away, interest subsided and it was found impossible to maintain the post. Following is a complete roster of the post, sixty-seven in all: M. D. Judkins, William H. Crowe, F. A. Caswell, S. R. Smith, Morgan Johnson, William H. Stevens, V. A. Edgley, John Bailor, Levy Stalcap, H. H. Sanderson, J. B. Johnson, C. N. Tiebs, E. G. Pike, O. O. Chapin, O. W. Tiger, B. W. Viles, Paul Harmon, H. O. Whiffle, John Casterton, John Hoostine, P. H. Pason, E. Wickwire, John Stephen, John B. Scherman, John H. Rock, W. B. Lyons, William Johnson, James H. Fisher, W. W. Wood, M. W. Adley, Joseph Bird, James Stanley, William Millard, William Curtis, M. G. Tixley, John R. Lysing, David Chapman, Webster Howard, Sam Gonser, J. H. Mann, O. H. P. Faus, George Haskins, John Debord, Rubin L. Buck, Calvin Ripley, B. D. Judkins, A. O. Berry, R. B. Saterlee, J. B. Perkins, D. A. Edwards, Alexander Brink, Charles Peterson, William Knowles, Jacob Bowman, John Kiblele, L. P. Beeding, Dennis Huntley, William Schroeder, A. J. Mellow, John Shaw, Ruben Skeesucker, V. Warren, W. W. Gorden, R. Tilton, Dennis Harden, M. Tilton, R. H. Behnap, C. S. Grover.

## THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

On the 25th of May, 1898, just one month after the declaration of war between the United States and Spain, President McKinley issued his second

call for troops. The patriotic fervor was at its height throughout the county. At the city of Alexandria there was organized a company of volunteers, one hundred and forty strong, which was promised a place in the Fifteenth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, but like a good many other like organizations, it was doomed to be disappointed, for there were sixty such companies and only twelve could be used at this time, and the Alexandria volunteers were asked to wait for the Sixteenth. In the first few days of July a number of the boys went to the cities and enlisted in other companies rather than wait for the promised Sixteenth Regiment.

Those enlisting in Company B, under Capt. John W. Fineout, were as follows: Asa P. Brooks, Frank R. Beisholdt, Erik Florman, Martin Jensen, William F. Miller, John O'Farrell, Henry T. Ronning, Benjamin F. Gaskill, Bendix N. Bekker, William Gauthier, Louis O. Lund, David Myers, Oscar I. Peterson and Carl C. VanDyke, all of Alexandria.

Those enlisting in Company G, under Capt. L. S. Nelson were as follows: William A. Downs, George A. Fish, Edward P. Lampman, Ovey V. Shippey, Henry C. Eichman, Carl J. King and Frank L. Lampman, all of Alexandria, and Nick Sward, of Nelson Station.

They were first stationed at the state fair grounds, at Camp Ramsey, named in honor of the first governor of Minnesota, and there on July 18, 1898, the regiment was mustered in as a body. On August 23 the entire regiment, except Company G was moved to Ft. Snelling, on account of the epidemic of typhoid fever which had taken a strong hold on the boys at Camp Ramsey. Company G was left to police the grounds and followed the main body the next day. Although several of the boys from Douglas county fell a prey to the dreaded disease, they were all fortunate in recovering. Not so with all in the regiment, however, for a great number died. On the 15th of September the boys left for Camp Meade, Pennsylvania. On November 15 the boys again moved, this time to Augusta, Georgia, where they remained until they were mustered out on March 27, 1899. In addition to those volunteers from Douglas county mentioned above, there were about half a dozen who enlisted in various other regiments.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

The spirit of fraternity in the way of formal organizations of the various secret societies began early to be manifested in Douglas county after the rough edges of pioneer living had been somewhat worn off, and, although this community is not so strongly marked by the presence of secret societies as are some communities in the state, there have been from the beginning some well-organized and influential fraternal associations in the county. Some of these have maintained their organization in compact form; others have flourished for a time and then gone down through a decline in interest on the part of their respective members. The majority of the lodges in the county at present are those organized for insurance purposes rather than for any other reason and the social side of these latter associations has never been very strongly played up, the members keeping up their "dues" in behalf of the insurance feature, but giving little attention to the fraternity idea that is made much of by some such associations in other communities. The majority of these have no corporate existence and some do not even maintain lodge headquarters. An effort has been made to obtain a complete list of the various fraternal and benevolent societies in the county, but the list which follows does not purport to be complete, not a few of the societies thus approached for information failing to supply the necessary data to make up a report on the same.

The first "lodge" to file articles of incorporation in Douglas county was Alexandria Lodge No. 54, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which on May 1, 1876, was incorporated with the following charter members: B. Nicholas, W. L. McCallum, Evison Atkinson, August Kortsch and Samuel Beidelman, the articles of incorporation being signed by W. L. McCallum, noble grand; Evison Atkinson, vice-grand, and Fred von Baumbach, secretary.

The second was Ida Grange No. 395, incorporated on June 4, 1877, with the following charter members: E. H. Alden, Scharlatte Alden, Alexander Hasbrook, James F. Dicken, Jerome Dicken, Joseph Pennar, Abner Darling,

Reuben Ecker, Rebecca A. Ecker, Elizabeth Bedman, Henry Alden and Henry H. Brown.

On March 14, 1895, Brandon Lodge No. 224, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted with F. W. Ruppelius, Herman Nootnagel, Gustavus Gunther, Rudolph Wagner, Joshua M. Doudna and the following officers: Noble grand, F. W. Ruppelius; vice-grand, Herman Nootnagel, and secretary, L. E. Williams.

Douglas Encampment No. 47, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, according to its articles of incorporation filed in the office of the register of deeds, was instituted on September 25, 1897, with George G. S. Campbell, James Walker, James H. Van Dyke, A. G. Sexton, A. W. Curtis, Rudolph Wegener, J. A. McKay, Fred von Baumbach, H. K. White, George F. Whitcomb, J. E. Lundgren, Hugo Lundbohm, Wego Werner, F. E. Franklin, Michael Hickey, Gilbert Sargent, N. P. Jacobson, Charles Culross, J. P. Simonson, H. J. Boyd, A. M. Kohlhaas, H. T. Halvorson, William McKay, R. J. McNeil, P. Atkinson, John Templeton, Thomas Hall, S. W. McEwan and A. E. Shippey, charter members.

At a meeting held on December 7, 1898, Alexandria Lodge No. 185, Ancient Order of United Workmen, was incorporated with the following charter members: Arthur S. Mason, Leon E. Waite, Simon R. Drum, Cyrus T. Allen, C. W. Ridley, D. J. Jones, Fred C. Meade, George R. Auxer, O. J. Reynolds, H. G. Atwood, L. C. Atwood, O. A. Bailor, G. B. Carlton, C. L. Gilbert, C. H. Kline, C. N. Mitchell and A. D. Sargent, with the following officers: Master workman, William E. Kellogg; foreman, J. W. Robards; overseer, Nels Erickson; recorder, L. C. Atwood; financier, J. E. Peterson; receiver, Charles S. Brown; guide, A. E. Shippey; inside watch, Hugo Heere; outside watch, J. L. Burgan.

Alexandria Lodge No. 133, Knights of Pythias, at Alexandria, was incorporated on December 13, 1898, said lodge having been instituted on June 13, 1894, the charter members being F. B. Van Hoesen, Charles S. Mitchell, L. E. Waite, George E. Soper, N. W. Hicks, G. A. Kortsch, W. K. Barnes, Milo Stricker, Alex. Jacobson, Walter E. Peck, H. K. White, George S. Spaulding, G. T. Morrisse, H. T. Halvorson, George F. Whitcomb, Claus J. Gunderson, J. H. Letson, N. L. Page, W. F. Jordan, C. H. Raiter, S. D. Moles, H. W. Allen, R. J. McNeil, George L. Treat, G. B. Ward, W. T. Cowing, E. P. Wright, C. A. Benson, P. O. Unumb, H. Jenkins, Sr., W. F. Sundblad, S. W. McEwan, N. P. Ward, D. J. Jones, H. J. Boyd and Joseph F. Hiebel, the officers at the time of incorporation having been as follow: Chancellor commander, Tollef Jacobson; vice-chancellor, Miles Stricker;

prelate, W. H. Thompson; master of work, W. T. Hendren; keeper of record and seal, Joseph F. Hiebel; master of exchequer, P. O. Unumb; master at arms, Andrew Jacobson; trustees, Charles S. Mitchell, H. K. White and W. K. Barnes. This lodge is no longer active, having surrendered its charter some years ago.

Urness Camp No. 5521, Modern Woodmen of America, in the town of Urness, at a meeting held in the camp rooms on July 25, 1899, was incorporated, the officers of the camp at that time being as follow: Venerable counsel, Oscar Erickson; worthy advisor, John A. Urness; banker, E. G. Erickson; clerk, Oscar Lindstrom; escort, John G. Doobin; watchman, John J. Bugge; sentry, Ole A. Johnson; managers, Henry N. Hanson, P. J. Bugge and Nels J. Urness. The charter members of this camp were Peder J. Bugge, John J. Bugge, John G. Doobin, Erick G. Erickson, Oscar Erickson, Henry N. Hanson, Ole A. Johnson, Oscar Lindstrom, Charles S. Peterson, Albert Quam, Andrew Quam, John A. Urness, Ole K. Urness, Nils J. Urness and Thomas Thompson.

The Scandinavian Mutual Aid Association Siloah, of Holmes City, was incorporated on December 18, 1899, an association for relief in sickness, accident or death, the articles of incorporation being signed by the following officers: President, H. L. Lewis, vice-president, Per J. Holm, secretary, R. Vallquist; treasurer, Jens Backelin; directors at large, P. J. Christopher-son and John Holmstedt.

Perlbandet Lodge No. 49, Independent Order of Good Templars, was incorporated on November 30, 1910, with the following officers: President, Peter Hoglin; vice-president, Jennie Johnson; secretary, Ole Wallner; treasurer, Andrew Hjelm; trustees, Albert Hanson, Paulus Paulson and P. J. Hjelm.

Besides the Grand Army Post and the Woman's Relief Corps, which are treated of in the chapter relating to military annals, there are at Alexandria, the county seat, lodges and societies as follow: Constellation Lodge No. 81, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Lyra Chapter No. 166, Order of the Eastern Star; Alexandria Lodge No. 54, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Douglas Encampment No. 47, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Canton Caledonia, Patriarchs Militant; Lady of the Lake Lodge No. 173, Daughters of Rebekah; Alexandria Homestead No. 580, Brotherhood of American Yeomen; Alexandria Lodge No. 185, Ancient Order of United Workmen; St. Mary's Court No. 1067, Catholic Order of Foresters; Alexandria Lodge No. 904, Modern Brotherhood of America; Park Region Camp No. 2416, Modern Woodmen of America; Maple Camp No. 2064, Royal

Neighbors; Alexandria Tent No. 65, Knights of the Maccabees, and a lodge of the Ladies of the Maccabees; Alexandria Lodge No. 357, American Nobles; Alexandria Council No. 1715, Knights and Ladies of Security; Alexandria Observatory No. 89, North Star Lodge, an active branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Douglas County Humane Society and the Douglas County Agricultural Society.

#### WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The Alexandria branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized at a meeting held at the Methodist church in February, 1908, presided over by Miss Green, with the following charter members: Mrs. George E. Tindall, Mrs. Fred Williams, Mrs. Francis Davis, Mrs. Ida Tart, Mrs. Orin Kellogg and Mrs. Otto Landeen, the first officers being as follow: President, Mrs. Martha Williams; vice-president, Mrs. Francis Davis; secretary, Mrs. Orin Kellogg; treasurer, Mrs. Otto Landeen. The union now has a membership of sixty-six and is officered as follow: President, Mrs. Eva Wold; vice-president, Mrs. Leonora Squires; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Anna Poalson; recording secretary, Mrs. Alice Haskins; treasurer, Mrs. Martha Lobeck. At Evansville, Brandon, Garfield, Kensington, Ida and Nelson there are also active branches of this form of social work, the corresponding secretary of the union at Evansville being Mrs. W. M. Thompson; Garfield, Mrs. Anna Loren; Kensington, Mrs. Agnes Osterberg; Brandon Young Peoples Band, Reuben Hermanson; Ida Young Peoples Band, Miss Belle Angus, and Nelson Young Peoples Band, Emmaline Younger.

#### DOUGLAS WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The Douglas Chapter, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at Alexandria, was organized on November 4, 1914. The first officers were as follow: Mrs. Etta Mulligan, president; Mrs. Ethel Kinney, vice-president; Mrs. Katherine Brandt, recording secretary; Mrs. Eunice Franklin, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Anna Helming, treasurer.

The active charter members were: Mrs. Etta Mulligan, Mrs. Katherine Brandt, Mrs. Eunice Franklin, Mrs. Ethel Kinney, Mrs. Anna Helming, Mrs. Mable Reynolds, Mrs. Ida Hanson, Miss Eva Whiting, Mrs. Jessie Walters, Mrs. Mary Larsen, Mrs. Elizabeth Sherwood, Mrs. Maud Larson, Mrs. Cornelia Osten-Sacken, Mrs. Lillian Boyd, Mrs. Louise Wedum, Mrs.



Angeline Hounsell, Mrs. Delia Nelson, Mrs. Ida Lor, Mrs. Florence Hicks, Mrs. Bertha Osborn, Mrs. Mary Geer and Mrs. Freudenberg.

The honorary charter members were: S. C. Nelson, R. C. Franklin, E. J. Brandt, Elmer Watters, John T. Flanagan and Fergus A. Flanagan. The present officers are: Miss Eva Whiting, president; Mrs. Louise Wedum, vice-president; Miss Mae Cowan, recording secretary; Mrs. Henrietta Morris, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Anna Helming, treasurer. The chapter now has fifty-four active members and nineteen honorary members.

#### ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

A dispensation was granted to organize Constellation Lodge No. 81, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Alexandria on February 25, 1869. The lodge was duly organized on March 8, 1869, with the following officers: N. B. Patterson, worshipful master; L. W. Kilbourne, senior master; F. B. Van Hoesen, junior warden; John D. Aldrich, junior deacon; W. T. English, senior deacon; L. W. Rima, tyler; George F. Cowing, treasurer; L. G. Sims, secretary. The charter of the lodge was received on January 27, 1870. The lodge now has a membership of one hundred and fifteen, with the following officers: W. J. Sheldon, worshipful master; J. H. Stevens, senior warden; H. E. Leach, junior warden; C. C. Strang, senior deacon; A. M. Foker, junior deacon; C. H. Raiter, senior steward; F. Garvey, junior steward; C. Fiskness, tyler; C. F. Raiter, treasurer; J. A. Kinney, secretary.

#### OSAKIS LODGE NO. 180.

Osakis Lodge No. 180, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized at Osakis on May 5, 1888, by Deputy Grand Master Bridgman, of Star in the West Lodge No. 60, at Sauk Center, Minnesota. The charter members were: W. H. Crowe, J. H. Rock, H. Chalfant, G. R. Babbitt, W. P. Long, W. B. Lyons, C. Nelson and I. P. Schei. The first officers were: W. H. Crowe, worshipful master; J. H. Rock, senior warden; H. Chalfant, junior warden; W. B. Lyons, secretary; W. P. Long, treasurer. This lodge holds its meetings in the Masonic hall in the Caughren block. The officers for 1916 are: C. G. Millard, worshipful master; G. L. Bryant, senior warden; L. M. Thorburn, secretary; J. M. Curtis, treasurer.

Evansville Lodge No. 214, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Evansville, was organized on May 25, 1894, with the following charter members: Charles W. Webb, Christ Nelson, P. J. Wrangelborg, Olaf Dahl-

heim and F. N. Miner, the first elective officers being as follow: Worshipful master, Charles W. Webb; senior warden, Christ Nelson; junior warden, P. J. Wrangelborg; treasurer, Olaf Dahlheim; secretary, F. N. Miner. The lodge has a present membership of thirty-six and the present (1916) officers are as follow: Worshipful master, Allen H. Nelson; senior warden, E. L. Anderson; junior warden, A. C. Hanson; treasurer, C. W. Webb; secretary, H. E. Alstead.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Alexandria Lodge No. 54, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on April 18, 1876, at Alexandria, with the following charter members: B. Nichols, W. L. McCalum, Evison Atkinson, August Kortsch and Samuel Beidleman. The first officers were as follow: Noble grand, W. L. McCalum; vice-grand, E. Atkinson; recording secretary, Fred von Baumbach; treasurer, August Kortsch. The present membership of the lodge numbers one hundred and thirty-eight and the present officers are: Noble grand, L. P. Schroeder; vice-grand, A. C. Jensen; recording secretary, John C. Antonson; financial secretary, F. E. Franklin; treasurer, C. H. Jensen.

Douglas Encampment No. 47, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on September 25, 1897, in Odd Fellows hall at Alexandria with the following charter members: George G. S. Campbell, James Walker, James H. Van Dyke, A. G. Sexton, A. W. Curtis, Rudolph Wegener, J. A. McKay, F. von Baumbach, H. K. White, George F. Whitcomb, J. E. Lundgren, Hugo Lumbohm, Wego Werner, F. E. Franklin, Michael Hickey, Gilbert Sargeant, N. P. Jacobson, Charles Culross, J. P. Simonson, H. J. Boyd, A. M. Kahlhaas, H. T. Halverson, W. W. McKay, R. J. McNeal, Parnell Atkinson, John Templeton, Thomas Hall, S. W. McEwan and A. E. Shippey. The first officers were George G. S. Campbell, James Walker, James H. Van Dyke, A. G. Sexton, R. Wegener and J. A. McKay. The present membership of the Encampment is thirty-one and the present officers are Fred Radecop, N. N. Akesen, A. E. Alger, G. A. Anderson, F. E. Franklin, F. T. Geer and Richard Chase.

Canton Caledonia No. 18, Patriarchs Militant, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on February 10, 1910, in Odd Fellows hall at Alexandria, with the following charter members: J. E. Lundgren, F. E. Franklin, J. S. McKay, A. H. McKay, L. C. Atwood, J. A. McKay, S. B. McKay, George M. Viering, A. E. Shippey, R. A. McKay, G. A. Anderson, J. A. Munkberg, John S. Lien, Casper Hanson, F. T. Geer, Elmer E. Peter-

son, F. C. Oppel and A. G. Sexton. The first officers were as follow: Captain, J. E. Lundgren; lieutenant, F. E. Franklin; ensign, J. S. McKay; clerk, A. H. McKay; treasurer, L. C. Atwood. The present membership is sixteen and the present officers are: Captain, F. T. Geer; lieutenant, J. A. McKay; ensign, L. S. Kent; clerk, F. E. Franklin; treasurer, G. A. Anderson.

Lady of the Lake Rebekah Lodge No. 173, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on April 8, 1898, in Odd Fellows hall at Alexandria, with the following charter members: J. E. Lundgren, Mary J. Campbell, William McKay, F. C. Raiter, Nina Pratt, John Templeton, Julia Baumbach, F. C. Oppel, G. G. S. Campbell, Lillian R. Boyd, J. A. McKay, Ella M. Sweet, Maud McKay, Charles J. Lindstrom, B. T. Emerson, Claudia Stevens, R. J. McNeal, Henriette Wilson, Millie O. Sexton, Ollie Rodgers, Caroline Lindstrom, George F. Whitcomb, Winnie Van Loon, May Hall, A. G. Sexton, Sarah Walker, Cora M. Brooks, R. Wegener, Mary E. Geer, Marie Walker, Thomas Hall, F. von Baumbach, L. S. Kaiser, F. E. Robinson, C. Tart, A. W. Curtis, A. E. Shippey, F. T. Geer, Charlotte Campbell, J. H. Van Dyke, Ellen M. Kaiser, Louise C. Kortsch, S. S. Pratt, Anna Templeton, Emma L. Shippey, F. E. Dent and Alice E. McNeal. The first officers were as follows: Noble grand, Ella M. Sweet; vice-grand, Louise C. Kortsch; recording secretary, Charlotte Campbell; financial secretary, Winona Sexton; treasurer, Maud McKay. The present membership is seventy-six and the present officers are: Noble grand, Ida Alger; vice-grand, Clara Schroeder; recording secretary, Josephine Satterlee; financial secretary, F. E. Franklin; treasurer, Mattie Allen.

#### BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMEN.

Alexandria Homestead No. 589, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, was organized on March 28, 1902, at a meeting in E. E. Buell's office in the city of Alexandria, the meeting being called to order by C. W. Collinge, deputy. On April 2, 1902, the first officers of the Homestead were elected, as follow: Past foreman, E. A. Hensel; foreman, E. E. Buell; master of ceremonies, Frank Raiter; master of accounts, Nelse Erickson; correspondent, Newton Trenham; chaplain, James L. Aiton; overseer, Frank Miller; watchman, S. R. Sweet; sentinel, Charles S. Mitchell; guard, William E. Nesbitt; lodge deputy, Robert Brough. The first regular place of meeting was in the Knights of Pythias hall, also known as the N. P. Ward hall, and at that time it was decided to meet on the first Friday of each month. This date was afterward changed to the first and third Mondays of each month,

and those are still the meeting nights of the order. The original charter became lost in the early existence of the order and a new one was issued by the home office. The charter, as it is now, has the following names enrolled: James L. Aiton, Nels Erickson, Eugene Hensel, William E. Nesbitt, Orin Kellog, Ripley C. Bondurant, Annie E. Roberts, Ragna Olson, Claud E. Colby, Edmund H. Gilmore, Daniel Stromlund, John E. Peterson, Lewis Stewart Kent, William J. Young, Theodore L. Bordsen, Frank E. Raiter, Robert Brough, Noah P. Ward, Peter O. Bolin, Quincy M. Gilmore, Grace M. Aiton, John Eiden, Charles Daniels, Byron A. Stricker, Ida Young, Adelbert E. Shippey, John Swenson, Elmer T. Drum, H. T. Holverson, Joseph J. Mode, Samuel James, Lynian C. Atwood, Stephen R. Sweet, E. C. Wagoner, Frank C. Olson, Franklin B. McKenzie, Nellie L. Nesbitt, Charles A. Benson, Arthur S. Mason, John Johnson, Hermon Thompson, Jessie A. Stricker, Enock F. Nelson, George Washington Ramsdell, Bertha McGray, Clarence W. Lee, Matilda Nelson, John A. McCabe, Anton Kust, David Nelson, Louis C. Lamser, Jennie Aiton, Magnus Munson, Virgil E. Hawley, M. J. Sweet, James G. Crozier, B. W. Mitchell, Clell Blanchard, James A. Kinney, Rienhard Merki, Elmer E. Peterson, Thomas R. Aiton, Alice O. Farrar, William Erickson, Peter R. Sorenson, Carl K. McGray, Amelia A. Daniels, Gustus C. Preston, Charles E. Farrar, Ethel Kinney, Clara Merki, Elmer Roberts, Laura Bondurant and Fred Raiter. The present officers of the Homestead are: Foreman, William A. Downs; master of ceremonies, E. E. Evans; master of accounts, Nels Erickson; correspondent, Nellie L. Nesbitt; chaplain, Jessie O. Waters; overseer, William E. Nesbitt; Lady Rowena, Lillian B. Downs; Lady Rebecca, Laura Bondurant; watchman, William J. Young; sentinel, Wilmott L. Lawson. The Homestead now meets in Raiter's Hall and has a present membership of one hundred and sixty.

#### MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA.

Lodge No. 904, Modern Brotherhood of America, was organized at Alexandria on July 12, 1901, with the following charter members: Frank S. Fredenburg, Herman S. Anderson, Theo. F. Damask, Clarence H. Yerigan, Charles E. Aiton, Edwin P. Wright, Nathan A. Blanchard, Constant Larson, Carlos Whitcomb, George Gustafson, James L. Aiton, Emil A. Polzine, Robert W. McFarlane, Samuel A. Engstrom, John Milligan, N. Gauthier, Olof Sutherland, Michael Milligan, Charles H. Gahlon, Nels E. Johnson, Nels Erickson, William Lee, Edwin D. Maxon, Axel R. Diseth, George P. Craig, Eugene L. Norton, Andrew Westlund, Frank Scriven,

Arnold F. Will, Oscar H. Gahlom, Lewis C. Nelson, Irwin A. Lee, Gustaf A. Diseth, Andrew Broms, Ernest De F. Maxon and Lyman C. Atwood. Lodge records were all destroyed by fire on February 26, 1913, when the Gunderson and Raiter buildings were burned. The above is taken from a duplicate charter which was furnished after the fire. Policies issued at the date of organization are signed by Ernest D. Maxon, president, and Geo. P. Craig, secretary. Meetings are held in Raiter's Hall on the fourth Friday evening of each month. The present membership of the lodge is twenty-one, and the present officers are as follow: D. B. Shepard, president; W. C. Nass, vice-president; George P. Craig, secretary; W. E. Nesbitt, treasurer; H. S. Anderson, conductor; S. A. Engstrom, chaplain; G. A. Andersson, inside guard; J. L. Aiton, outside guard.

#### DOUGLAS COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY.

The Douglas County Humane Society was organized on June 21, 1904, with the following charter members: J. S. Cowen, John J. Allen, Cleveland H. Hicks, Maurice Cohn, Constant Larson, H. S. Campbell, C. A. Benson and Frank Stevens. The first officers were: President, N. P. Ward; secretary, Cleveland H. Hicks; treasurer, W. K. Barnes. The present officers are: President, Frank M. Stevens; secretary, George L. Treat; treasurer, W. K. Barnes. The present membership is about one hundred and seventy-five. Though the society was organized at Alexandria, the membership is from all parts of the county. During the twelve years since its organization the society has investigated more than ninety complaints of cruelty, seventy-five of which have been complaints of cruelty to animals; eleven of cruelty to children, and four of cruelty to adults. There have been nine prosecutions of cruelty to animals with eight convictions. Twenty-eight animals have been killed by order of the society, and thirteen children have been taken from their parents on account of cruelty and neglect and sent to the State Public School at Owatonna on complaint of the society, whose motto is: "We speak for those that cannot speak for themselves."

## CHAPTER XIX.

### ALEXANDRIA, THE COUNTY SEAT.

Beautiful for location, Alexandria, "Lady of the Lakes," county seat of Douglas county, occupies a charming and most advantageous position in the delightful park region of Minnesota and has for many years enjoyed its well-merited reputation as one of the prettiest and most flourishing county-seat towns in the state. In the beginning it was fortunate in being settled by an intelligent and enterprising class of citizens and the high standard of citizenship then established has ever been maintained, its business, school and church privileges being second to no other city of its size and the equal of those of much larger places. Its miles of cement sidewalks, well-graded streets, attractive homes, spacious and well-kept lawns and abundance of shade trees combine to make Alexandria an ideal place of residence, rendered all the more attractive by its proximity to the chain of seven lakes, pronounced by Warren Upham, of the Minnesota Historical Society, to be the finest chain of lakes in the state and whose shores are lined with summer cottages, club houses and resort hotels, making the city the center of the summer tourist business throughout the park region, greatly swelling the population during the summer months.

According to the census returns of 1910 Alexandria then had a population of three thousand and one, but conservative estimates now place the population at between thirty-three hundred and thirty-five hundred and continued building operations point to a rapidly increasing population. The city has several thriving manufacturing establishments, substantial banking institutions and business houses and has excellent facilities as a market for grain and produce, with an outlet, by way of the Great Northern railway and the "Soo" line, to three of the best markets in the Northwest, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth. It has a handsome postoffice building, erected by the federal government at a cost of sixty thousand dollars, a fine library containing some nine thousand volumes, two fine grade school buildings, a new high-school building erected at a cost of seventy thousand dollars, three banks with combined deposits of more than one and one-half million dollars, the Douglas county buildings, eleven churches, three commercial hotels, besides the adjacent summer hotels, and three enterprising and well-conducted





ALEXANDRIA IN 1876.

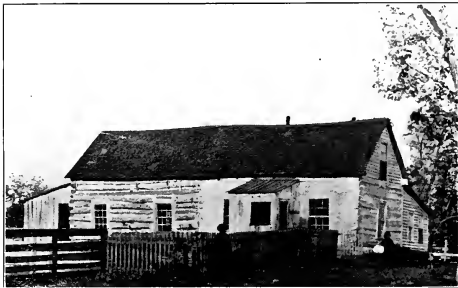
East side of Main street, photographed in 1876. The large building is the old Douglas House, a location now occupied by the James Walker store.



ALEXANDRIA IN 1876.

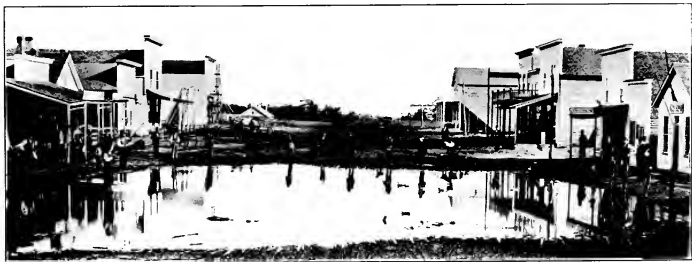
Looking north along Main street from Campbell's Mill.





THE HICKS HOMESTEAD.

Home of William E. Hicks, one of the chief promoters of the Alexandria townsite, in the latter sixties; a sample of the kind of buildings in which the very best of the pioneers had to live. This was one of the best houses in Douglas county at that time.



AFTER A RAIN.

A view in Alexandria in 1876, following a heavy rain storm. This scene was directly in front of the Cowing & Robards store.



newspapers. The city government is up-to-date and energetic and the city owns its own electric light and waterworks plant and the general attractiveness of the main business street is enhanced by a half mile of brilliant boulevard lights. As the commercial center of the county, all lines of general business are well represented and some of its banks and commercial houses would do credit to a town of many times its population.

#### IN THE DAYS OF THE BEGINNING.

In an earlier chapter relating to the early settlement of Douglas county, the history of the beginning of things in Alexandria is set out at considerable length, as it was then, as now, the central point in the community and its early history was practically identical with that of the county, all matters of interest in and to the county clustering about the county seat. In 1865 the second store in the county was opened at Alexandria by Thomas F. Cowing, J. H. Van Dyke still running his sutler's store, mentioned in the earlier chapter, at that time. Mr. Cowing had just completed a term of service in the army and he erected a little log building and opened up a small stock of general merchandise, later building a larger store room and extending his stock, remaining in business for many years thereafter. His father, Thomas Cowing, had come to Douglas county in 1861, settling on a farm near the present site of Holmes City, and when the Indian outbreak occurred left with his family, but when the soldiers established the stockade at Alexandria he returned and shortly afterward erected a log house in which for some time he conducted a hotel, later engaging in the mercantile business. In 1866 William E. Hicks, a New Yorker, whose activities in promoting the development of Alexandria are mentioned more at length elsewhere in this volume, started the third store, building a log store building which he stocked with a line of general merchandise. In that same year Hicks bought the townsite, which meantime had concentrated in the hands of two or three persons, one of whom was Judge Gregory, who had expended money and labor and had encountered hardships in behalf of Alexandria. Almost immediately afterward Hicks, in connection with Thomas Cowing, erected a saw-mill on Long Lake and in the following year began the erection of the Alexandria flouring mill, completed in 1869 and a few years later sold to G. G. S. Campbell. Hicks also erected a hotel, the Woodhull House, and in the fall of 1868 started the *Alexandria Post*, the first newspaper in Douglas county. In the same year he was elected to the Legislature and continued to take an active interest in the work of developing the

new town until his death in 1874. His widow is still living in Alexandria, occupying the building at the corner of Sixth avenue and H street, erected by her husband back in the old days.

In the meantime other lines of business gradually were being developed in the new settlement and there presently came to be quite a village at the site of the old Kinkaid settlement at the junction of the two pretty lakes, Agnes and Winona. In the chapter relating to newspapers there is set out, in a review of the history of the *Post*, a list of the merchants doing business at Alexandria when the *Post* was established and it will not be necessary to repeat the same here. One of the causes of the considerable impetus given to business and the rapid growth of population in the new settlement was the establishment in the winter of 1868-69 of a government land office at Alexandria. It was in February, 1869, that the land office was opened, with Lewis Lewiston, of St. Cloud, as register, and J. H. Van Dyke, of Alexandria, as receiver. The office at first was located in the building which then was being used as a court house. In June, 1869, Lewiston was succeeded as register by L. K. Aaker, then of Goodhue county, and in the winter of 1874 Warren Adley became receiver, Soren Listo, of Breckenridge, succeeding Aaker as register the following spring, and in the following winter the office was moved to Fergus Falls, but by that time almost all the tillable land in this region had been taken. It is undoubted that the land office was a great factor in the development of Douglas county and gave an impetus to trade and every branch of business at Alexandria, which thus was the headquarters for a very wide territory throughout the Northwest, settlers driving there to mill even from the Red River settlement and Rush Lake, distances of more than one hundred miles, and for several years during the early seventies the town was constantly full of people, hotels crowded and all places where accommodations could be furnished, either for man or beast, taxed to their utmost. In the fall of 1878 the railroad reached Alexandria and the day on which the first train rolled into the town, the 5th of November it was, was made a gala day in the village, which ever since has been gradually developing into its present substantial state.

#### THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

By an act of the Legislature approved February 20, 1877, the following described territory in the county of Douglas, state of Minnesota, to-wit: Lots 5 and 6 in section 18, the north half of section 19, the north half of the southwest quarter, the north half of the southeast quarter and the north

half of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 19, all in township 128 of range 37, "be and the same is hereby set apart, constituted and incorporated as the village of Alexandria. \* \* \* and the inhabitants of said territory shall form and constitute a municipal corporation and shall have the powers possessed by municipal corporations at common law," etc., and James H. Van Dyke, Lewis I. Brown and Fred von Baumbach were appointed to call and give notice of the first election in said village.

Pursuant to legal notice dated March 5, 1877, and signed by the above named persons, the legal voters of the village of Alexandria met at the court house on March 12 of that same year, at nine o'clock a. m., the meeting being called to order by J. H. Van Dyke, and on motion L. I. Brown and Thomas Cowing were elected judges and Theodore Bordson, clerk of election and the election by ballots proceeded with the following result: President, F. B. Van Hoesen; trustees, John Sundblad, Charles Schultz and John Kron; recorder, Fred von Baumbach; treasurer, John B. Cowing; justice of the peace, A. J. Ames, and constable, Frank Reynolds.

The first meeting of the village council was held on March 17, 1877, and the recorder was instructed to obtain from St. Paul books for the use of the treasurer and recorder and all blanks needed. At the meeting on April 3, ordinances were adopted relating to licenses and relating to police regulations, racing of horses and fast driving. At the next meeting ordinances were adopted relating to health and to cattle running at large and Frank Reynolds was appointed pound master. At the meeting on April 18 an ordinance was adopted relating to the incumbering of certain streets and a committee was appointed to see that chimneys, stove pipes and fire-places were kept in safe condition, and Chester Van Dyke was elected street commissioner. At the meeting on May 1, John Abercrombie was employed to survey the chief streets of the village for the purpose of establishing a grade. On May 15 the council approved the bonds of five applicants for liquor license and on June 8 James Walker was appointed village constable to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Frank Reynolds, whose bill for services had been scaled from \$33.10 to \$20.60 at the previous meeting of the council. At that same meeting, "it having been reported to the council that the drug stores were in the practice of retailing liquor without license, a motion was adopted appointing Charles Schultz a committee to consult with Knute Nelson about bringing action against said stores for selling liquor," and the minute of the next meeting, June 10, noted that "the president and recorder were requested to notify Mess. Sims & Nelson, druggists, that they must take out a license for selling liquors;" and thus the new village began to

exercise its authority and to get under headway as a governing body. On December 15 of that first year of the village organization the resignation of Fred von Baumbach, recorder, was accepted and George H. Roe was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

On January 1, 1878, the second village election was held, with the following result: President, F. B. Van Hoesen; trustees, L. K. Aaker, George A. Freudenreich and G. C. Sims; recorder, W. F. Ball; treasurer, J. B. Cowing; justice of the peace, H. H. Wilson; constable, James Walker. At the meeting of the council on January 10, following, the bonds of Charles Volk, B. A. Livingston, Aberle & Aberle and Van Dyke & Larson, as liquor dealers, were approved, the license fee at that time being noted at seventy-five dollars. On March 7 a special election was held for the purpose of electing a justice of the peace to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of A. J. Ames, and H. Shippey was elected.

The next annual election was held on January 7, 1879, with the following result: President, F. B. Van Hoesen; trustees, John N. Herder, H. H. Wilson and T. F. Cowing; recorder, George W. Robards, treasurer, Theodore Bordson; justice of the peace, Hiram Shippey; constable, James Walker.

1880—President, Thomas Cowing; trustees, C. F. Canfield, Frank Reynolds and M. J. Norde; recorder, James Purdon; treasurer, Ole Narver-son.

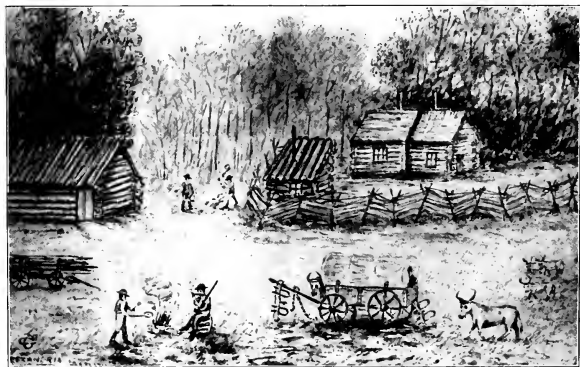
1881—President, F. B. Van Hoesen; trustees, James Walker, Charles Robards and John Sundblad; recorder, N. J. Trenham; treasurer, George C. Sims; constable, Len West. In March of that year the Legislature granted to the village a new charter and on March 15 an election was held under the charter, with the following result: President, F. B. Van Hoesen; councilmen, C. T. Robards, for one year; C. W. Cofield, for two years, and John Sundblad, for three years; recorder, N. J. Trenham; treasurer, George C. Sims; assessor, James Fitzgerald; marshal, Len West; justices of the peace, William McAboy and James Fitzgerald.

1882—President, F. B. Van Hoesen; councilman, John Kron; recorder, N. J. Trenham; treasurer, G. C. Sims; assessor, James Fitzgerald; marshal, John Knapton. "In favor of restraining horses, etc.," 43 votes; against the same, 150.

1883—President, H. H. Wilson; recorder, N. J. Trenham; treasurer, G. C. Sims; councilman, N. P. Ward; assessor, W. H. Sanders; marshal, Charles Culcross.

1884—President, F. B. Van Hoesen; recorder, N. J. Trenham; treas-





FIRST HOUSE IN ALEXANDRIA.

From contemporary crayon drawing of the cabin erected by the Kinkaid brothers, the first persons to settle at Alexandria, which was named in honor of Alexander Kinkaid.





HICK'S FLOUR-MILL, THE FIRST IN ALEXANDRIA.



C. H. RAITER'S MEAT MARKET, ALEXANDRIA.  
Mr. Raiter wearing apron.



urer, G. C. Sims; councilman, P. Arnott; assessor, James Fitzgerald; marshal, John Metcalf.

1885—President, H. H. Wilson; recorder, George H. Brundage; treasurer, George C. Sims; councilmen, John Kyed and G. A. Kortsch; marshal, John Metcalf; assessor, J. H. Van Dyke.

1886—President, H. H. Wilson; recorder, George H. Brundage; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; councilman, John Sundblad; marshal, John Knapton; assessor, J. H. Van Dyke. Favoring liquor license, 223 votes; against, 86.

1887—President, N. L. Page; councilman, Theodore Johnson; recorder, F. A. Reimer; treasurer, G. C. Sims; assessor, J. H. Van Dyke; justices of the peace, J. H. Van Dyke and F. G. Stevens; marshal, A. W. DeFrate.

1888—President, N. L. Page; councilman, Fred von Baumbach; recorder, A. G. Sexton; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; assessor, J. H. Van Dyke; marshal, A. W. DeFrate.

1889—President, James Walker; councilman, J. H. Letson; recorder, A. G. Sexton; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; assessor, J. H. Van Dyke; justices, J. H. Van Dyke and George L. Treat; marshal, C. W. Cofield. A proposition to bond the village for the construction of a waterworks plant was carried and a similar proposition to bond the village for the construction of a sewer system was rejected. Waterworks bonds to the amount of eighteen thousand dollars were issued in that same spring. In December of that year a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of purchasing from J. B. Hardebeck the electric light plant, which had been operated as a private enterprise, and the same presently was taken over by the village for the sum of eight thousand five hundred dollars and has since been operated as a municipal plant, in connection with the waterworks plant.

1890—President, N. P. Ward; councilman, Robert McCrory; recorder, A. G. Sexton; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; assessor, J. H. Van Dyke; justice, W. E. Chidester; marshal, C. Hanson.

1891—President, N. P. Ward; councilman, Fred von Baumbach; recorder, N. W. Hicks; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; assessor, S. M. Thompson; justice, F. G. Stevens; marshal, Frank Reynolds.

1892—President, James Walker; councilman, Richard Dent; recorder, N. W. Hicks; assessor, James S. Chapman; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; justice, James Fitzgerald; marshal, Chester Van Dyke.

1893—President, James Walker; councilman, William McCrory;

recorder, James Fitzgerald; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; assessor, James S. Chapman; justice, W. B. Mitson; marshal, C. B. Van Dyke. Whole number of votes cast, 349.

1894—President, R. McCrory; councilman, Fred von Baumbach; recorder, James Fitzgerald; treasurer, G. G. S. Campbell; justice, J. A. McKay; marshal, Peter Bolin; assessor, J. A. McKay; street commissioner, A. E. Shippey. For license, 282; against, 167. Whole number of votes cast, 479.

1895—President, R. McCrory; councilman, Robert Walkter; recorder, James Fitzgerald; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; marshal, J. S. Lampman, justice, W. B. Mitson; assessor, George Whitcomb; street commissioner, C. B. Van Dyke. License, yes, 251; no, 193.

1896—President, O. J. Robards; councilmen, R. J. McNeil and W. K. Barnes; recorder, James Fitzgerald; treasurer, S. M. Thompson; assessor, G. F. Whitcomb; marshal, J. S. Lampman; justice, A. A. Brown; street commissioner, C. B. Van Dyke. License, yes, 266; no, 274.

1897—President, N. P. Ward; councilmen, J. F. Hiebel and M. Kraemer; recorder, James Walker; treasurer, W. F. Sundblad; marshal, C. B. Van Dyke; justice, W. B. Mitson; assessor, William Van Dyke; street commissioner, G. R. Morse. License, yes, 259; no, 255.

1898—President, N. P. Ward; councilman, T. R. Aiton; recorder, James Walker; treasurer, William F. Sundblad; justice, Joseph Gilpin; assessor, William Van Dyke; marshal, C. H. Klein; street commissioner, Nick Henkes.

1899—President, N. P. Ward; councilman M. Kraemer; treasurer, W. F. Sundblad, recorder, James Walker; justice, W. B. Mitson; marshal, F. E. Franklin; assessor, James H. Wettleon; street commissioner, Nick Henkes.

1900—President, N. P. Ward; councilman, C. Aberle; treasurer, W. F. Sundblad; recorder, James Walker; justice, Joseph Gilpin; assessor, William Van Dyke; marshal, L. S. Kent; street commissioner, A. E. Shippey. License, yes, 307; no, 241.

1901—President, George G. S. Campbell; councilmen, John Anderson and H. T. Halvorson; treasurer, Joseph F. Heibel; recorder, W. F. Sundblad; justices, W. B. Mitson and J. A. McKay; assessor, William Van Dyke; marshal, C. Fiskness; street commissioner, Nick Henkes.

1902—President, G. G. S. Campbell; councilman, Herman Nootnagel; recorder, W. F. Sundblad; treasurer, Joseph F. Heibel; assessor, William Van Dyke; street commissioner, Nick Henkes; marshal, Christ Fiskness.

1903—President, N. P. Ward; councilman, Michael Kraemer; recorder, W. B. Matson; treasurer, L. S. Atwood; justice, F. E. Ullman; marshal, Christ Fiskness.

1904—President, John Anderson; councilmen, William Moses and J. A. Prodger; recorder, W. B. Mitson.

1905—President, John Anderson; councilman, M. D. Freshenburg; recorder, L. C. Atwood; treasurer, Charles J. O'Brien.

1906—President, Toleff Jacobson; recorder, W. B. Mitson; treasurer, C. J. O'Brien.

1907—President, Toleff Jacobson; recorder, W. B. Mitson; treasurer, C. J. O'Brien; justices, F. E. Ullman and William Van Dyke.

1908—President, Andrew Jacobson; recorder, W. B. Mitson; treasurer, C. J. O'Brien; marshal, J. R. Cowing; street commissioner, C. J. Hollquist. In the meantime the city charter having been adopted, the next election was held under that charter.

1909—Mayor, Gustav A. Kortsch; treasurer, C. J. O'Brien; justices, William Van Dyke and Joseph Gilpin; aldermen, Matt Habener, P. O. Unumb, J. A. Prodger, H. S. Campbell and W. E. Nesbett. License, yes, 365; no, 275. Recorder Mitson acted as clerk of the council until that body presently appointed C. J. Sundblad to the position of city clerk, which position he ever since has held.

1910—Mayor, John J. Anderson; treasurer, Nels Erickson; aldermen, Matt Haberer, P. O. Unumb and H. S. Campbell.

1911—Mayor, Michael Kraemer; treasurer, Nels Erickson; aldermen, Robert Peacock, W. W. Sheldon; justices, Joseph Gilpin and William Van Dyke.

1912—Mayor, Alfred A. Secord; treasurer, Nels Erickson; aldermen, Matt Haberer, P. O. Unumb and H. S. Campbell. License, yes, 328; no, 374. Total number of ballots cast, 735

1913—Mayor, Louis Ginther; treasurer, Nels Erickson; justice, William Van Dyke; aldermen, J. F. Anderson and W. W. Sheldon. License, for, 375; against, 291.

1914—Mayor, Louis Ginther; treasurer, Nels Erickson; aldermen, Matt Haberer and H. S. Campbell. Total number of votes, 636. License, for, 347; against, 287.

1915—Mayor, Louis Ginther; treasurer, Nels Erickson; justice, E. F. Nelson; aldermen, J. F. Anderson and W. W. Sheldon. License, for, 327; against, 305. May 31, 1915, Douglas county voted "dry" and the Alexandria saloons were closed in six months.

1916—Mayor, Dr. C. C. Strang; treasurer, Nels Erickson; aldermen, C. V. Anderson, P. O. Unumb and T. H. Weatherhead. Total vote cast, 621. The present city council consists of C. V. Anderson, P. O. Unumb, J. F. Anderson, T. H. Weatherhead and W. W. Sheldon, representing the five wards in the city, respectively. The city clerk is C. J. Sundblad and the city attorney is Constant Larson. C. A. Johnson is superintendent of the board of public works and the commissioners of the same are Louis Günther, N. P. Ward and Dr. E. E. Buell, C. J. Sundblad being secretary of the board. The chief of the effective volunteer fire department is L. S. Kent and the chief of police is Jerry Callaghan. Nicholas Hankes is street commissioner, also under appointment by the council, and the city health officer is Dr. L. W. Saterlee. The city hall, a substantial two-story brick structure, erected in 1882, affords headquarters for the city clerk, the police and fire departments and a well-equipped public rest room. The city jail adjoins the city hall on the south and the waterworks reservoir occupies premises adjoining. The city schools, a history of which is set out in the chapter relating to education, are admirably maintained and a Carnegie library, situated across the street from the new high-school building, is an excellent adjunct to the same.

#### THE ALEXANDRIA POSTOFFICE.

The first postoffice in Douglas county was established at Alexandria very shortly after the beginning of the settlement there in 1858 and it is the recollection of Mrs. Fanny Van Dyke that her father, Charles Cook, was the first person there to be put in charge of the mails, which were carried between St. Cloud and Ft. Abercrombie by the mail carrier, Evans, after whom the village of Evansville later came to be named. Upon Cook's return East the charge of the little local mail was taken over by Alexandria Kinkaid and was distributed to the settlers from his cabin until J. H. Van Dyke started his store at the settlement, when the "office" was moved to that center of congregation and Van Dyke presently was appointed postmaster, continuing to hold his commission until his resignation in 1866, at which time Robert Wyman, who was running a hotel in the stockade abandoned by the soldiers in that year, was appointed and he was succeeded in turn by T. F. Cowing, N. B. Patterson, Charles T. Sims, 1874; Sophus N. Miller, 1876; Lorenzo G. Sims, 1880; Sophus N. Miller, 1883; Dr. Godfrey Vivien, 1887, and he by J. H. Van Dyke, who was succeeded by his widow, Mrs. Fanny Van Dyke, who served for three terms, she being succeeded by Charles S. Mitchell, who served for one

term, being succeeded by H. K. White, who died in office and was succeeded by his deputy, Robert K. Brough, present incumbent, who has held the office continuously since in December, 1908. Following an ample appropriation by Congress, the present handsome postoffice building was erected at a cost of about sixty thousand dollars, one of the most substantial buildings in a town the size of Alexandria in the state, and was opened for business on February 22, 1911.

#### COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS.

Alexandria has a well-organized Commercial Club and its commercial and industrial interests are represented by the following concerns:

Alexandria Auto Company, garage and machine shop; *Alexandria Citizen*, J. A. Kimney, proprietor, newspaper and job printing; Alexandria Confectionery Company, candy manufacturers, ice cream, and restaurant; Alexandria Boat Works, E. G. Erickson, proprietor, manufacturers of boats; Alexandria Hardware and Lumber Company, J. A. Wedum, president, hardware, lumber, farm machinery, coal, bicycles, paints and oils; Alexandria Electric Supply Company, motorcycles and electrical supplies; Alexandria Milling Company, E. G. Olson, president, flour and feed grinding; *Alexandria Post-News*, E. E. McCrea, proprietor, newspaper and job printing; American Laundry, Lackey and Olson, proprietors, general and family laundry; Alexandria Soda-Water Works, Michael Kraemer, proprietor, soft-drinks bottling works; Alexandria Telephone Company, C. H. Raiter, president, local and long-distance service; Alexandria Potato Warehouse Association, buyers and shippers of potatoes; Atlantic Elevator Company, grain and coal; Anderson Furniture Company, Carl V. Anderson, proprietor, furniture, undertaking, carpets, rugs, pianos, sewing machines, bicycles, picture framing and trunks; Anderson, John F., cement works and contractor; Aiton & Anderson, plastering contractors; Aiton, Thomas R., contractor and brick layer; Alexandria Tire Vulcanizing Company, Breese Brothers, proprietors.

Baker Weedless Fish Hook Company, J. Griebler, F. W. Becker, manufacturers of fishhooks; Blake's Hotel, C. J. Blake, proprietor, summer hotel; Boyd, Dr. L. M., physician, specialist in eye, ear, throat and nose; Broms Cutlery Works, J. M. Broms, proprietor, factory and general repairs; Broms Tire Repair Co., Anton Broms, auto tires and repairs; Brown Brothers & Chapin, farm machinery, vehicles and automobiles; Buell, Dr. Eugene E., dentist; Birchard, Mrs. B. J., flower store; Brophy, G. S., second-hand store; Bjorklund, A. W. T., plumbing and heating.

Cable, John W., blacksmith shop; Campbell, George G. S., flour and feed store, and elevator; Carlson, John A., groceries and crockery; Central House, L. Michaelson, proprietor, hotel; Chase, Richard, dray line; Colbjornsen & Wegener, clothiers and tailors; Cole, Dr. C. L., dentist; Cowen, John S., real-estate dealer; Costello, Sherman, restaurant; Cowing-Robards Company, hardware, agricultural implements, plumbing, heating and coal; City Flower Store, Mrs. Myra Pennar, proprietor; Cozy Theatre; Chidester, Buel, real estate and insurance; Central House, feed barn.

-Dickinson Inn, Harry L. Dickinson, manager, summer hotel; Douglas County Bank, G. A. Kortsch, president; W. K. Barnes, cashier; Drum, Simon R., pianos.

Eagle Clothing Company, The, C. A. Kolstad, president and manager; Edwards, W. C., veterinarian; Earl I. Best Lumber Company, lumber and fuel; European Hotel, William Heyer, proprietor; Eickmann, cigar manufacturer.

Falconer, Dr. Thomas, veterinarian; Farmers National Bank, Tollef Jacobson, president, Andrew Jacobson, cashier; First National Bank, C. J. Gunderson, president, P. O. Unumb, cashier; Franklin, F. E., real estate and insurance; Fredenburg, Moses D., machine shop; Fair Store, The, C. E. Mabee, proprietor, variety store.

Gamble-Robinson Company, H. N. Doyle, manager, wholesale fruits and groceries; Goodwin, Albert G., real estate broker; Great Northern Express Company, W. L. Lawson, agent; Gregersen, A. H. and Company, dry goods and groceries; Griebenow, Herman H., groceries; Gunderson & Leach, Claus J. Gunderson, Hugh E. Leach, lawyers; Gilbertson, A., soft drinks and billiards.

Hammar, Mrs. Mary, restaurant; Hanson, Dean, harness; Halverson Furniture Company, furniture, undertaking, rugs, wall paper, picture framing; Hanson, J. R., furs and electric wiring; Haskell, Dr. A. D., physician and surgeon; Herberger-Wattleson Company, dry goods; Herbert, F. O., groceries; Herbert, Cyril, billiard hall; Høglund, J. L., jeweler; Holverson, Henry T., druggist and optician; Howard Theatre, C. P. Hanke, proprietor; Hande and Tonsager, barber shop; Hopson, A., barber shop.

Johnson, P. A., photographic studio; Johnson, Charles A., granite monuments and tombstones; Johnson, E. W., tailor and cleaner.

Keene, Dr. L. M., physician and surgeon; Kent's Bus and Transfer, L. S. Kent, proprietor; Kitzke, Miss Clara A., millinery; Knapton Sisters, millinery; Koyle, Kittie, millinery.

Larson, Constant, lawyer; Letson House, Louis Ginther, proprietor,



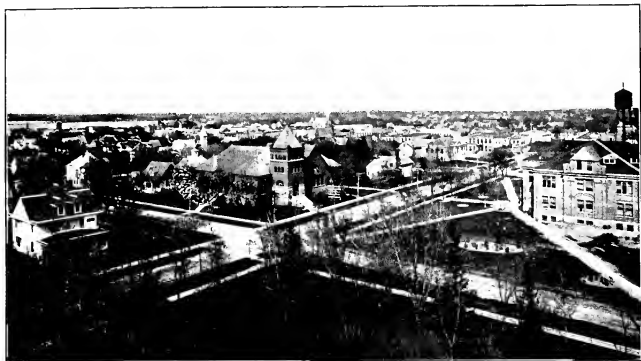




HOTEL BLAKE, ALEXANDRIA.



SENATOR KNUTE NELSON AT HOME, ALEXANDRIA.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF ALEXANDRIA.



STREET SCENE, ALEXANDRIA.



hotel; Levin, Albert, barber shop; Loo Land Company, real estate; Ludke-Luckert Company, wholesale groceries; Lindquist, Albert V., photographic studio; Lundberg, Levine A., restaurant.

McKay, J. A., real estate; McCabe, Dr. John A., osteopath; Manhattan Oil Company, W. V. Abercrombie, agent; Motor Inn Garage Company, garage, automobile dealers and auto repair shop; Moore, John L., restaurant; Minnesota House Feed Barn, William Hagan, proprietor.

National Contracting Company, J. A. Shulind, president, general contracting; North American Storage Company, F. R. Noonan, manager, cold storage and creamery, dealers in butter and eggs.

Olson, Frank C., plumbing and heating; Oppel, C. and Company (C. and F. C. Opel, H. Paulson), shoes.

Purdon, Andrew, wagon-maker; Pederson, photos; Pennar, Alex., contractor; People's Store (Ferdinand F. and Carrie Wellin), dry goods and millinery; Peterson Brothers, garage and auto machine shop; Peterson, C. O., drugs, books and stationery; Peterson, P. M. & Company, painters and decorators; Prescott, W. L., real estate; Prescott, Dr. Laurel, dentist; Prodger, J. A. auto livery; *Park Region Echo*, Carl Wold, proprietor, newspaper and job printing; Paulus, William, contractor.

Quality Bakery and Lunch Rooms.

Radecop, Fred C., blacksmith shop; Raiter Brothers, shoes and rubbers; Raiter, Fred C., meat market; Renner, J. M., plumbing, heating and general repairs; Rul. Wegener Brewing Company, H. Birkhofer, president; Ruud, Dr. M. B., physician and surgeon.

St. Anthony and Dakota Elevator Company, H. S. Campbell, agent, elevator; St. Paul Bakery, Joseph Leuthner, proprietor, commercial baking; Satterlee, Dr. L. W., homeopathic physician; Satter, Andrew, livery and feed stable; Seeger, Andrew, pop corn, fruit, tobacco; Sheldon Clothing Company, clothing and gentlemen's furnishes; Shepard, D. B., contractor; Shoppey's Bowling Alleys; Secord, Alfred A., real estate; Standard Oil Company, H. A. Schroeder, agent; Stevens, F. M., auto and horse livery; Strandberg, C. A., wood dealer; Strang, Dr. C. C., dentist; Stricker, Frank W., painter and decorator; Swenson's dray and ice line; Syvrud & Meyers, automobile dealers and auto livery; Syvrud & Hanson, real estate; Stoppel, Mrs. Max, millinery; Stoppel, Helmuth J., barber shop.

Thompson, Albert, garage, auto supplies and repairs; Thornton, Ralph S., lawyer; Treat, George L., lawyer and real estate; Thompson, Herman T., barber shop.

Unumb, E. O., dry goods, clothing and groceries.

Van Dyke, Lafayette, cigar manufactory; Vennewitz Brothers, meat market; Volker, Dr. J. J., dentist.

Walker, William, groceries; Ward, N. P., groceries and crockery; Weatherhead, T. H., dray and ice line; Weber, Barney, pool and billiard hall; Wecker, A. O., tailoring; Wittenburg, Dr. D. E., chiropractor; Western Express Company, O. F. Ehlers, agent; Westman, Wilhelm, photographic studio; Wagoner, Edward C., pianos.

The Commercial Club of Alexandria was incorporated on March 18, 1907, the names of the incorporators being A. H. Gregerson, G. A. Kortsch, Horatio Jenkins, Ezra E. McCrea, Fred C. Oppel, E. Eugene Buell, G. B. Ward, Constant Larson, H. T. Halvorson, H. A. LeRoy and O. Hennings and the following officers: President, A. H. Gregerson; first vice-president, G. A. Kortsch; second vice-president, Horatio Jenkins; corresponding and recording secretary, Ezra E. McCrea; financial secretary, Fred C. Oppel; treasurer, E. Eugene Buell; executive committee, A. H. Gregerson, Ezra E. McCrea, G. B. Ward, Constant Larson, H. T. Halvorson, H. A. LeRoy and O. W. Hennings. The present officers of the Commercial Club are as follows: President, J. H. Wettleson; first vice-president, Andrew Jacobson; second vice-president, H. S. Campbell; corresponding and recording secretary, George L. Treat; financial secretary, J. W. Knox, and treasurer, G. A. Kortsch. There are also live commercial clubs at Osakis, Brandon and Evansville, which look after the commercial interests of those towns and besides these there are numerous farmers clubs in the county, which have proved and are proving of large value in their respective rural communities. There are also a number of farmers' co-operative associations for conducting elevators, potato warehouses, the shipping of live stock and other products of the farm, the buying of farm machinery and other bulky merchandise at wholesale, besides a number of very effective local creamery associations.

#### THE ALEXANDRIA FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The fine public library at Alexandria had its beginning in a reading club started in the village days of that city as early as 1878, a small circulating library being established at that time. While Senator Nelson was serving in the state Senate he was instrumental in having enacted the present admirable public library law in Minnesota and under the provisions of that law there was organized the Alexandria Free Public Library, which has had a continuous and successful existence ever since. For a time after the village bought the building since used as a city hall, the books of the

library association were housed in the hall of that building, now used as a town hall, and during George G. S. Campbell's incumbency as president of the village he was able to secure from Andrew Carnegie a donation of ten thousand dollars for the erection of a Carnegie free public library in Alexandria. A choice lot across the street from the high-school property was obtained and the present handsome public library was erected, an additional two thousand dollars later being secured from the old iron master to complete the same. There are about nine thousand volumes in the library and one thousand four hundred and eighty-nine cards were in circulation in the summer of 1916, a fair index of the popularity of the library among the reading people of the city and vicinity. The present library board is composed of the following members: G. A. Kortsch, president; George G. S. Campbell, secretary; Constant Larson, H. A. LeRoy, U. P. Ward, E. E. McCrea, Mrs. Anna Volker, Knute Nelson and Mrs. W. F. Sundblad. Margaret A. McCord is the librarian and the city treasurer acts as treasurer of the board. Under the will of the late F. B. Van Hoesen the library board received a legacy of five thousand dollars, the income from which is to be applied to library purposes forever and this, in addition to the small tax levied for library purposes maintains the library in admirable fashion.

## CHAPTER XX.

### INCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

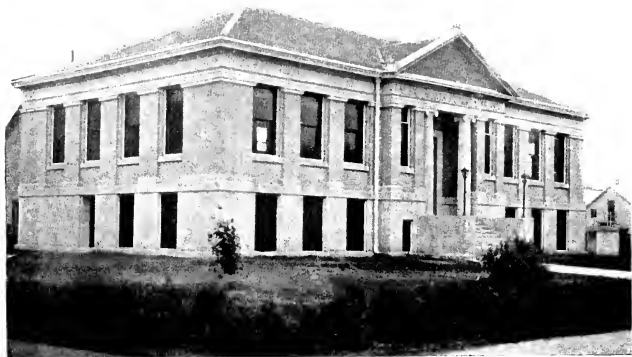
Very few counties in the state having the population claimed by Douglas county can pride themselves of so many incorporated towns and villages. Geographically, they are apportioned with regularity, which fact goes to show that they were located to meet the demands and needs of the surrounding communities and not to appease the selfish ambitions of some ambitious person. Each town and village has shown growth and prosperity and in each case has become a commercial center and trading point for the surrounding community.

#### OSAKIS.

In the eastern edge of the county on the Great Northern Railway, and on the shore of the most picturesque lake in Minnesota, is located Osakis, the second village in size and importance in the county. The history of the village is somewhat obscure but it is known that with the coming of the early settlers, a man by the name of Peter Botneau, a Canadian half-breed Indian, had a camp one mile east of where the village now stands. His camp was on the dividing line between the Sioux Indians, who inhabited the prairie, and the Chippewa Indians who lived in the timbered region. Therefore he called his place "Sakis," which meant a place of danger. With the coming of some English settlers they added the prefix "O" and thus the village took on the name of Osakis.

Early in the history of Douglas county, a few white settlers had gathered near Osakis Lake, attracted by the great beauty of the place, locating just over the line in Todd county, and one of them, John Potter, in 1859, made a claim where Osakis now stands. In 1859 the stages began running here on their way to Ft. Abercrombie, and this was one of the stations. When the Indian outbreak came in 1862 all the settlers abandoned their claims and left for safety, and many never returned. However, along in the latter part of the sixties, Daniel Stevenson, one of the pioneers of Minnesota, purchased the land and laid out a town. Among the first settlers were the Gordon boys who took up their residence on the bank of the lake. The first store in the village was erected by James Chambers in 1866 and he con-





PUBLIC LIBRARY, ALEXANDRIA.



HIGH SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA.



tinued to hand out merchandise and groceries for several years. The year of 1867 brought several newcomers to the village. In January of the same year Warren Adley, who for several years had been engaged in the hotel business, erected a commodious hotel, and around his establishment clustered several homes and buildings of a various nature. Henry Stone established a general store where the Brown implement store is today. On May 25, 1867, Mr. Sanderson opened a tow mill and did an active business for some time. Among other early settlers not already mentioned were: Thomas Adams, J. C. Stone, Leon Faille, A. M. Giddeon, A. S. Worden, John McKinsey, W. H. Stevens, W. P. Long and W. H. Crowe. A large majority of male settlers were single men. For instance, in the summer of 1886 there were ten young single men in the village and all lived in two small houses. There was not a girl eligible to marriage in many miles. Finally, in the summer of 1868, Mrs. Tannehill moved into the village with five beautiful and charming daughters. At once there began a spirited and lively contest among the young men to win the hearts of these fair maidens. So persistent were the attentions of the young men that the contest was not long drawn out and in a very few months Mrs. Tannehill was alone.

The first fire in the village occurred in 1887 when the old railroad eating house, built in 1879, was burned to the ground; the second fire occurred on January 16, 1889, when the building belonging to George Frye and Adley's barn burned; the third fire was on May 18, 1890, but not a great loss was sustained.

The first passenger train came through the village November 1, 1878.

The first wooden sidewalk was laid by William H. Crowe, as was also the first cement sidewalk in May, 1881.

The village became an incorporated district on February 21, 1881, with the following officers: President, W. P. Long; recorder, William H. Crowe; treasurer, J. B. Bird. At the present time Osakis has a village form of government with the following officers: Mayor, L. D. Bentley; recorder, S. J. Lyons; treasurer, D. B. McCleery; Robert Metcalf, William Brown and William Baker; justices, W. B. Lyons and C. S. French; constables, R. H. Belknap and Mike Clifford.

The business and professional interests of the village during the summer of 1916 were in the hands of the following: Allen, H., contractor and builder; Anderson Bros. & Baker, hardware and implements; Anderson, Mrs. A. B., milliner; Austin, G. A., real estate.

Belknap & Son, livery; Bentley, L. D., real estate; Berg, Carl, contrac-

tor and builder; Bjorklund, Alexander, contractor and builder; Bjorklund, John, shoe shop; Borschert, F. H., attorney; Brown Bros. Implement Company, farm implements and automobiles; Bryant, G. L., veterinary; Buck, Charles, stone mason.

Caughren, H. J., department store; Christensen, Peter, ditch and tiling contractor; Cagley, Roy, restaurant; Christensen, C. M., ditch and tiling contractor; City Hotel, W. S. Garner; Cobb, R. E. & Company, branch produce dealer; Cowen, L. C., summer resort.

Davis, Henry, power saw rig.

Earle, M. A., contractor and builder; Electric light plant, S. M. Lowery, manager; Empress Theatre, E. H. Voss; Engells, P. A., blacksmith and wagon shop; Erwin, S. E., harness and shoe shop; Evenson, O. C., contractor and builder.

Fairhaven summer resort, C. H. Comport, proprietor; Faille, A. M., carpenter and builder; Fearing & Conley, livery and feed stable; Fezler, F. H., auctioneer; First National Bank, Nels M. Evenson, president; Fisher, N. E., live stock shipper; Finneke, Andrew, contractor and builder; French, C. S., licensed embalmer; Flynn, Ray Auto Co., Ray Flynn, manager; Fry, Verne, painter and decorator.

Garber, Louis, proprietor People's Bargain Store; Gilkinson, Dr. A. J., physician and surgeon; Gingery, H. E., lumber, grain and coal; Gresty, G. W., real estate; Great Northern Railroad and Express Company, H. F. Greeley, agent.

Harris Land Company, real estate; Harden, D. A., painter and decorator; Hagen, William, wagon shop; Hanson, Nels, contractor and builder; Harsh Bros., shippers of ice; Herberger-Cruse Company, department store; Hedberg, J. A., furniture and undertaking; Hengstler, Dr. W. H., physician and surgeon; Hicks & Robertson, sale and feed stable; Hotel Idlewilde, summer resort, E. R. Ruggles, proprietor; Hause, C. W., restaurant; Howe, B. E., auctioneer; Hawlett, John, painter and plasterer; Hyland, W. H., clothing; Ideal Cafe, A. S. Jackson; Ingersoll, H. A., pool and billiards.

Jacobson, H. J., milkman; Jenkins, S. G., auctioneer; Johnson, W., boatman; Johnston, Chas., carpenter and builder; Johnson, L. J., milkman; Jorgenson, Peter, tailor.

Kirk, William, street sprinkler; Kirk, Leslie, auto livery; Kulstad, Oscar, laundry; Kline Oil Company, Charles Kline, manager.

Lakeside Ice Company, Lake House; Lamphear, G. E., general merchandise; LaMont, Lou E., milliner; Larson, Peter, blacksmith and wagon-shop; Lane, Ralph, dray line; Langston, William, auto repair shop; Lenz





A LEADING ENTERPRISE AT OSAKIS.



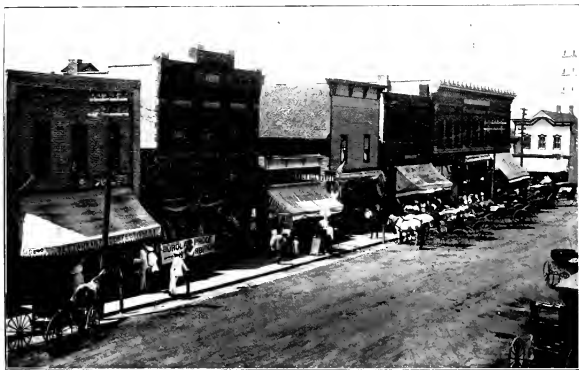
STREET SCENE, OSAKIS.



Methodist Episcopal  
Presbyterian

Catholic  
Danish Lutheran

CHURCHES OF OSAKIS.



STREET SCENE IN OSAKIS.





Summer Hotel, James A. Norris, proprietor; Long, Dr. C. M., physician and surgeon; Lyons, W. B., justice of peace; Ludwig, A. A., attorney.

Madson, J. M., insurance and notary public; Mann, Mrs. Lucy, dressmaker; Mix, Herman, carpenter and builder; McCleery, D. B., real estate; Mix & Sampson, dray line.

North American Storage Co. (branch), Geo. Buck, manager.

Osakis Creamery Company.

Osakis Commercial Club, C. H. Bronson, president; Osakis Milling Co., H. E. Gingery, president; Osakis Meat Market, B. C. Blakeslee; Osakis State Bank, F. H. Borschelt, president; Osakis Telephone Company, F. B. Cannada, proprietor; *Osakis Review*, C. H. Bronson, proprietor; Osakis public school, E. N. Hamilton, superintendent; Osakis Roller Mill, H. W. Smith; Olson's Variety Store, A. Olson; Olson, R. A., photographer.

Park Region Hospital, Drs. Gilkinson and Hengstler; Palmatier, H., barber; Palmer, H., auctioneer; Palmatier & Earle, barbers; Penfield, Mrs. dressmaker; Phelps, Warren, contractor and builder; Postoffice, F. H. Borchert, postmaster, S. L. Lyons, assistant; Poncelet, Michael, plasterer. Quim, Frank, real estate and insurance.

Rellar, Frank, well driller; Riis, Laura, dressmaker; Ruggles, E. R., attorney.

Shinners, W. E., real estate; Skuey, J. J. & Co., general store; Smith, C. M., barber; Smith, H. W., feed mill; Spaulding, H. H., restaurant; Stevens, G. T., real estate; Steintl, V., blacksmith and wagonshop; Stewart, R. E., dentist; Stratemeyer, E. H., shoe shop; Swore, Knute, general store; Standard Oil Co. (branch); Sutliff, Pearl, dressmaker.

Thornburn & Larson, dentists; Thoma, G. M., bakery; Thompson & Son, live stock shippers; Togstad Bros., jewelery and opticians.

Von Retter, P. J., tailor.

Wigal, Mary, milliner; Woodard Hospital, Mrs. A. A. Woodard; Withers, H. W., pool and billiards.

Yates, W. A., lumber and coal; Yates & Nelson, automobile repair shop. Zimmerson, J. P., stone mason.

A conservative estimate of Osakis' population would be one thousand four hundred people, which number is increased during the summer months by tourists who visit the summer resorts for rest and recreation. Beautifully situated on the shore of the most picturesque lake in Minnesota, Osakis is favored in the beauty and scope of its natural surroundings.

Osakis is an enterprising city of modern conveniences for comfort and advancement, including one of the best high schools in the central part

of the state, churches, fraternal and civic societies, a well-equipped volunteer fire department, an active commercial club, excellent rural route facilities, electric and power service, local, long distance and rural telephone service, water-works, sewerage, miles of cement walks, and in fact all improvements that go to make up a modern, progressive and up-to-date city. The majority of the business blocks are of brick thus giving the town a substantial and metropolitan appearance. A school building has just been completed at a cost of seventy thousand dollars and is a model of its kind.

As a market town Osakis is pre-eminent among the cities and villages in this section of the state. A large merchant flour-mill, a roller feed-mill, two grain elevators, two potato warehouses, creamery, and a market for straw, baled hay, eggs, poultry, vegetables are provided to furnish an outlet for everything the farmer produces.

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES.

The village owns its own water system which furnishes adequate fire protection and provides water service for many families. A water tower and tank provide immediate pressure in case of fire until the pump at the pumping station may be put into operation.

The village has day and night electric service furnished by the Osakis Milling Company and the service is equal to the best found in the larger cities.

The Osakis Telephone Company has an extensive system with over two hundred subscribers and connecting with eleven farmer's lines.

#### MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Among the most successful manufacturing institutions of the county is the four-hundred-barrel merchant flour mill erected at a cost of fifty thousand dollars. The famous "O-sa-kis" brand is a household word not only through this part of Minnesota but in neighboring states. In connection with the mill the company has an elevator of thirty-thousand-bushel capacity and equipped with all the latest machinery. A spur track provides adequate and economical facilities. The company grinds nearly one-half million bushels of wheat annually, operating day and night and giving employment to about twenty people.

The Osakis Co-operative Creamery is owned and managed by farmers. The company was incorporated in 1897 and has enjoyed prosperity

ever since. In 1914 a new building was erected at a cost of six thousand dollars. The plant is equipped with all the modern machinery and the products command a premium in the New York market. The report of the output for the year of 1915 is not at hand but for 1914 the amount of butter turned out amounted to three hundred and thirty-eight thousand one hundred and forty-five pounds. At the present time the creamery has over three hundred patrons.

Among other manufacturing industries is a roller feed mill, equipped with an electric motor for power purposes, so that the farmer can have his feed ground while he waits.

A tile and cement factory has been in operation for the last few years and has enjoyed success and prosperity. In September, 1915, the company moved into a larger and more convenient building erected by the company.

The village has a planing and moulding mill and several iron and wood-work shops that give employment to several people.

#### CHURCH AND FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

The religious and social life of the village is all that could be desired. There are four churches, including the Catholic with Rev. Father Wessendorf as pastor; the Danish Lutheran, Rev. P. C. Paulsen, pastor; the Methodist, Rev. Edward Kaneen, pastor; the Presbyterian, the pastor to be supplied.

Many fraternal organizations are represented, most of them maintaining lodge-rooms. Among the number represented are the following: Masons, Eastern Star, Improved Order of Odd Fellows, Woodmen of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Degree of Honor, Knights of Maccabees and Danish Brotherhood.

#### OSAKIS COMMERCIAL CLUB.

Osakis has a wide-awake commercial club of seventy members. The club maintains nicely furnished rooms in the Caughren block with reading tables, writing desks, billiard and card room and all modern conveniences, including janitor service. The present officers include the following well-known business men: President, C. H. Bronson; vice-president, E. N. Hamilton; secretary, E. R. Ruggles; treasurer, G. R. Lee; executive committee, Nels Evenson, George Herberger, H. E. Gingery, F. H. Borchert and D. W. Henstler.

## POSTOFFICE.

While the early records were burned in a fire that destroyed the Osakis postoffice several years ago, it is known that the Osakis postoffice was established in 1865, and the first postmaster was Donald Stevenson, the earliest pioneer and townsite proprietor. Mr. Stevenson was succeeded as postmaster in 1867 by J. B. Johnson, who for many years kept the postoffice in his store building. Shortly after the railroad reached Osakis in 1878, Rasmus Flore was made postmaster. Mr. Flore was succeeded by John H. Rock who held the office a number of years and under whose incumbency the office reached the presidential class. Mr. Rock was a Republican and when Cleveland became President was succeeded by Frank J. Herberger, a prominent young merchant of the village. Upon the return of a Republican administration Mr. Herberger was succeeded by Gilbert Sargent, who died after holding the office five years, and was succeeded by his son, Harry C. Sargent, who was postmaster for four years, and was one of the youngest postmasters in the state holding a presidential postoffice. Harry Sargent gave way to Clement H. Bronson, editor of the *Osakis Review*, who was appointed to the office in February, 1907, by President Roosevelt and was re-appointed by President Taft in 1911. Mr. Bronson served until June 1, 1915, when a change of administration resulted in the naming by President Wilson of the present postmaster, Frank H. Borchert, president of the Osakis State Bank. The present efficient assistant postmaster, S. J. Lyons, has had active charge of the work of the office since Mr. Bronson was appointed postmaster in 1907, and Miss Bertha Larson has held the position as clerk for a number of years.

Rural route service out of Osakis was established in 1902 during the administration of Postmaster Gilbert Sargent. David W. Allen was the first rural carrier appointed and is still in the service. At the present time there are five rural routes out of Osakis, the carriers in every instance being the ones originally appointed to the routes, as follows: Route 1, D. W. Allen; route 2, S. M. Donaldson; route 3, John J. Hanson; route 4, I. I. McSevany; route 5, E. J. Lee.

## EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

In 1915 the Osakis school district constructed a new and modern building at a cost of seventy-five thousand dollars. The building contains the eight grades besides the high school and its various departments. The new





SCHOOL HOUSE, EVANSVILLE.



SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, EVANSVILLE.



MAIN STREET, EVANSVILLE.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF EVANSVILLE





building gives added facilities for all industrial departments, a teachers' training course and a public library. The domestic science and manual training departments are each supplied with a suite of three rooms completely equipped. The agricultural department is also supplied with a suite of rooms leading to which is an inclined entrance, thus permitting live stock to be taken into the class room for study.

The teachers' training course fits students of the senior year to teach in the rural school. Only a small number are permitted to enroll in this department for the reason that the character of the work does not permit a larger number to accomplish the desired results. According to Superintendent Hamilton's report, the enrollment for the past year was three hundred and eighty, of which number the high school contributed about one hundred.

#### CITY OF HOMES.

Situated in the park region and on a beautiful lake, Osakis is especially favored with attractive building spots. A large majority of the homes are modern and especially is this true of the beautiful dwellings erected in recent years. They are surrounded by large and well-kept lawns and trees. The greater part of the citizens own their homes and take pride in their upkeep.

The village owns a lake shore park covered with native timber and is kept as a public picnic and playground. The park is about two and a half acres in extent and provides an ideal shady spot for all out-door and public gatherings.

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#### EVANSVILLE.

Evansville is located in the northwest corner of the county, surrounded by the very best of farming land, with black loam and clay subsoil, many groves of timber, and is within a short distance of many sparkling lakes. The old St. Cloud and Ft. Abercrombie stage road, twenty miles north of Alexandria, passed along the south edge of one of the most handsome groves that adorn the wide area of the park region. This road was opened in 1859, and stages were running during that year. A man named Evans was the first carrier, and as this point was made a stage station, he here put up a little shanty, in the locality, and afterwards the village took his name. In 1860, a man named Rogers settled there and kept the station until

the Indian outbreak. Settlers commenced to gather in and a number of claims were taken, but when the outbreak came, the whole country was deserted and very few ever came back. Peabody & Kyde built a store and sold the first goods ever offered in this market. In the fall of 1865, L. E. Thompson selected and occupied a homestead on the banks of Lake Fanny, and was the first settler in the town after the outbreak. He built a cabin in the beautiful grove and passed the winter alone, being joined by his family the following spring. The next year M. C. Plummer, W. H. Saunders, Messrs. Youngroth, Delheim, Peterson, and others, with their families located here. The site of the old stage station, faultless in its picturesque beauty, overlooking the wide sweep of the prairie land, groves, and shining lakes which extended away southward, so captivated Jacob Shaner, that in 1872 he laid out a townsite, and in course of a few years a number of dwellings and business houses nestled in the edge of the grove. But Mr. Shaner neglected to record his plats, and the first real townsite of Evansville was laid out by Lorentz Johnson, in the fall of 1879, covering between fifteen and twenty acres. Later Gustaf Willius, of St. Paul, laid out about the same number of acres as a new village by the name of East Evansville, often called "New Town" or "Lower Town." The first cars reached Evansville late in the fall of 1879, and since that time the village has shown a steady and gradual growth. The village has a splendid location, and will always be one of the best points in the county as a trading center. A thickly populated and prosperous farming country is tributary to it, and as the railroad makes it a good shipping point, it is bound to always be a growing, busy place.

Evansville was incorporated in 1881 by Chapter 13 of the Special Laws of Minnesota for the year 1881, and the charter was amended by Chapter 23 of the Special Laws for the year 1883.

In the way of improvements the village has installed a complete water-works system and in 1897 constructed a substantial town hall. A new school building is under consideration which will add much grace and dignity to the village.

The village is well supplied with church and fraternal organizations. The churches represented are the Swedish Lutheran with Rev. S. W. Swenson as pastor; the Swedish Mission, Rev. Engstrom, pastor; Swedish Baptist, pastor to be supplied; Norwegian Lutheran, Rev. T. A. Sattre, pastor; Presbyterian, Rev. Hubber, pastor.

The fraternal organizations are represented by the Masons, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Royal Neighbors.

The business and professional interests of the village during the summer of 1916 were in the hands of the following:

Auto garage, N. J. Lindstrom, manager; Banks, Evansville State Bank, Farmers' State Bank; barber, E. L. Anderson; blacksmith shop, L. J. Klein and Martin Nelson; creamery, J. J. Micklish; clothing, Nick Swartz; dentist, Dr. W. R. Porter; dray line, L. A. Larson, P. J. Johnson; druggist, C. C. Cowden; elevators, Anderson Grain Company, Inter-State, J. H. Harris; general dealers, L. A. Schwartz, H. E. Alstead, V. M. Reif, M. O. Dahe; grocery store, Carl Borgrud; hardware dealer, Evansville Hardware and Lumber Company, G. L. Bristol & Company; hotel, The Commercial, J. Johnson, proprietor; jeweler, I. J. Jacobson, livery and feed stable, Ole Homme; milliners, Hilma Johnson, Mrs. V. M. Reif; merchant tailor, Evansville Tailoring Company; meat markets, Nils P. Johnson, Charles Peterson, newspaper, *The Evansville Enterprise*, W. H. Bronson, proprietor; physician, Dr. H. O. Ruud, Dr. P. G. Cowing; photographer, H. A. Pries; restaurant, Aug. Carlson, A. F. Lane; furniture, C. S. Peterson; rooming houses, Olof Dollheim, Herman Rogers; shoe and harness shop, Chris Nelson.

The present elective officers of the village are as follow: President, H. A. Pries; recorder, I. J. Jacobson; treasurer, O. J. Wallen; trustees, A. B. Anderson, Chris Nelson and H. G. Urie; constables, John Johanson and Ole Homme; justices, H. E. Alstead and V. M. Reif. A conservative estimate of the population would be about five hundred.

#### BRANDON.

Years ago the old St. Cloud and Ft. Abercrombie stage and mail line passed two miles north of this point, and a station was established on the wood-crowned hill that marks the spot. Henry Gager was the first settler in this locality, which was then called Chippewa. A hotel was opened, later a general store and postoffice were established, and the usual industries of a frontier village grouped about the place. In August, 1879, when the railroad graded through the town of Chippewa, Engineer Sewall laid out the town-site of the village of Brandon of today, two miles south of the conspicuous old village on the hill. The proprietress of the site was Mary Griffin, whose business manager was J. W. Griffin, of Minneapolis. Martin Stowe immediately commenced the erection of a large store and residence on the then open prairie of the new village. Halvor Engemoen of Holmes City, a man of means and enterprise, also built a large store and residence.

Soon afterward Emil Larson built a hotel; Philsbury & Hulbert and David Dows & Company erected grain houses, and the railroad company put up a neat and pleasant depot building. Other business interests followed rapidly. A glance at the business interests of the present day is sufficient to satisfy one of its growth and prosperity. The business and professional interests are as follow:

Beraud, Victor, barber; Brandon Cement and Tile Factory; Brandon Cemetery Association, Wigo Werner, secretary; Brandon Co-operative Creamery Association, Emil Bergh, secretary; Brandon Farmers' Grain Company, Ole Holpin, manager; Brandon Farmers' and Merchants' Union Elevator Company, J. Lorsung, manager; *Brandon Forum*, W. J. B. Moses, editor; Brandon Grain Company, S. Dickinson, president; Brandon Hotel, William F. Meissner, proprietor; Brandon Meat Market, O. O. Talaat; Brandon Lumber Company, C. J. Rosengren; Brandon Potato Company, O. F. Olson, president; Brandon State Bank, T. Jacobson, president; Burke, A. B., insurance agent; Dickinson, S., express and telegraph agent; Farmers State Bank, P. O. Unumb, president; Farmers and Merchants Co-operative Telephone Company; Haber, A. G., flour; Halgren & Christenson, general merchants; Hoplin & Berg, hardware; Kronberg, Nels, farm implements; Larson, P. A., garage; Lahn, August, livery; Leonard Olund & Co., general merchandise; Meckstroth, Dr. C. W., physician and surgeon; Melby, John, painter; Moe & Urness Township Mutual Fire Insurance Co., A. H. Strom, secretary; Olson Hardware and Implement Company; Olson, T. F., insurance agent; Pehan, Casper, confectionery; Ringdoll, C. A., drugs; Seidlinger, P. J., harness; Swinger, L. H., blacksmith; Tamble, Jacob, furniture; Teigen, B. T., general merchandise; Videen, G. R., restaurant.

The village became incorporated by a bill passed by the state Legislature and signed by the governor on November 22, 1881. About nine years after incorporation a town hall was built which has since been a public meeting place and headquarters for the fire department.

Brandon has excellent graded schools doing two years' high school work. The teachers for the coming year are: Principal, Morris E. Hawley; grammar grades, Jennie Beckman; intermediate, Clara Nelson; primary, Esther Erickson. The average enrollment is about ninety. The school board is composed of: Emil Bergh, president; Dr. C. W. Meckstroth, secretary; Wigo Werner, treasurer.

The present village officers include the following: President, B. T. Teigen; recorder, Wigo Werner; treasurer, A. Burkel, trustees, Math Nel-

son, W. J. B. Moses and John Hammergren; justice; A. Burkel; constable, August Lehn.

The religious life of the village is supplied by four congregations, they being the Catholic, Norwegian Free Lutheran, Norwegian Synod Lutheran, and a Norwegian congregation.

It is a recognized fact that Brandon ships more grain than any other station in the county. The village has a live commercial club composed of farmers and merchants. There are six fine lakes within fifteen minutes' drive of town, and the town is surrounded by fine farms.

#### HOLMES CITY.

This is an inland village, located in the northern part of the township bearing the same name. It was one of the first settled points in the county, Mr. Holmes, after whom the town was named, Noah Grant and W. S. Sanford having settled here in the summer of 1858. The village today has a good grade for an inland town. A directory of the present business is as follows:

Backelin, J. J., shoemaker; Bergstrom, John, blacksmith; Hanson Bros., general merchandise; Bjelm, P. M., flour mill; Holmes City Co-operative Creamery Association; Johnson, Albert, tailor; Johnson, J. M., carding mill; Malm, S. J., jeweler; Wagemus, S. O., postmaster; Wolf, Oscar, blacksmith.

Two religious denominations have congregations here, namely, the Swedish Lutheran and Swedish Baptist. This village it not incorporated.

#### NELSON.

Data is not in hand to show who were the very first settlers in this village or just when it began its existence, but facts go to prove that the date must have been in the latter part of the seventies. A man by the name of Star was the first merchant and was also the first postmaster. The postoffice at that time was known as Dent. Star served as postmaster seven or eight months and on May 12, 1881, he was succeeded by the present postmaster, Thomas Olson, who has seen continuous service ever since. The name of the postoffice was later changed to Nelson in honor of Senator Knute Nelson.

In about 1890, S. J. Miller bought the land now comprising the site of Nelson and platted it into lots. The first lot was sold to John Silrose for fifty dollars, which was the average price.

On August 31, 1905, the village was incorporated and the following

officers elected: President, J. P. Larson; recorder, Olof Erickson; trustees, L. J. Hanson, Mat Berglund and S. J. Miller. The present officers include the following: President, G. A. Fosgren; recorder, J. G. Myers; trustees, H. A. Iverson, J. F. Henry and Olof Erickson.

Many lines of business are now carried on in the village as will be noticed by giving attention to the present business directory which is as follows:

Auto repairing, C. E. Iverson; builder and contractor, J. F. Henry; Bank of Nelson, George Stromlund, president; buyer of live stock, J. P. Larson; carpenter and contractor, T. A. Jensen; cement and lumber, N. O. Johnson; city meat market, J. G. Myers; department store, Herberger-Cruise; depot Great Northern, W. O. Fadden; elevator, N. O. Johnson; flour and feed, J. P. Larson; hotel and restaurant, T. A. Jensen; Nelson potato house; pump supplies and repairs, Olof Erickson.

The Nelson Telephone Company was organized in 1906 and was installed by C. E. Iverson. The service has always been first-class, which is quite a tribute to the present operators, Mrs. C. E. Iverson and daughter.

The village has a concert band of twenty-two pieces that would do credit to a town many times the size of Nelson. During the summer months weekly concerts are held in the band stand near the center of the village.

There is only one church in the village and that is the Danish Baptist, the pastor being the Rev. P. C. Paulson.

In the way of fraternal organizations there are two, the Knights of Maccabees, organized on April 13, 1901, and the Ladies of the Maccabees, organized on April 30, 1904.

An object of great pride and admiration among many citizens is the Young Peoples Branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. This branch was organized in 1911 by Mrs. Scovell, a state worker. In 1913, a building was erected by this organization at a cost of about eight hundred dollars. The building was dedicated by state workers and gained a great deal of notice from the fact that the building was about the only one of its kind in existence. The societies are also very few. The society already referred to maintains an organization holding regular meetings semi-monthly. Edna Larson is president of the organization and also state secretary of the state organization; Wallace Larson is vice-president; E. Youngner, secretary; Chris Hanson, treasurer.

Nothing gives the inhabitants of the village and the surrounding community more pride than to speak of their school. And rightfully too, because they have just completed a new brick building at a cost of about twenty

thousand dollars. The building is modern from basement to attic and is a model of its kind. The village school has been consolidated with a school district in the country and thus made more satisfactory to all. Four teachers are employed and the enrollment averages about one hundred and ten. Ralph Borman is the principal for the school year of 1916 and 1917.

#### GARFIELD.

The village was named in honor of James A. Garfield, President of the United States. Among the first settlers in and near the village were: T. Knutson, Oscar Dahlin, Fred Bartle, Claus Peterson, Mrs. M. Sanstead and August Fenstad. The townsite plats for the village were filed by Andrew Sanstead, February 17, 1882.

The village began its corporate existence on September 9, 1905. The following officers were elected: President, T. Knutson; treasurer, J. A. Nelson; recorder, W. W. Dunncliff; trustees, Ole Johnson, Joseph P. McCord and J. C. Peterson; justices, Gust Loo and K. P. Landru; constables, S. L. West and Fred Bartel. The present elective officers include the following: President, P. Christiansen; recorder, Theodore Walstad; trustees, Leonard Loren, Simon Jensen, Edward Sanstead; constable, Herman Zeigelman.

Among the postmasters of the village have been the following: Swan D. Larson, who was probably the first; C. H. Larson, Andrew Gustavson, John Lundstrom, J. L. Larson, C. G. Bergsten, and the present postmaster, C. J. Johnson, who was appointed October 17, 1907.

The business interests of the village during the summer of 1916 were in the hands of the following men:

Auto garage, Charles Johnson; bank, State Bank of Garfield; barber, Gust A. Lund; blacksmith, John Youngberg; creamery, Farmers Creamery Association; elevator, Farmers Elevator; general dealers, A. Abrahams, L. Olund & Co., A. Bergsten & Son; hardware, Knutson & Son; harness, Fred Passenheim; hotel, August Buthner; livery, E. Peterson; lumber, Garfield Lumber Company, John Nelson, manager; meat market, Ketter Bros.; potato warehouse, Farmers, L. Loren.

The German Lutheran church has a congregation in the village and is served by the Reverend Bartz. The village maintains no separate school district, but is very conveniently served by the district school just at the edge of town.

The first potato warehouse in the county was built at Garfield in 1911 by a farmers co-operative company, and was so much of a success that in 1912 a second one was built.

## MELBY.

The village of Melby, with a population of about seventy, is located in the northwest corner of the county and twenty-four miles from Alexandria. It was platted by A. G. and Sigrid Johnson in April, 1902. The village is surrounded by a fine agricultural community which is its main support. Although the village is small, yet the business interests are varied and almost any need can be accommodated. The business directory is given as follows:

Bank, Melby State Bank; blacksmith, Ole Olson; creamery, Gust Wahlin; elevator, Farmers Elevator Company, Johnson & Palmquist; furniture dealer, Constant Lundgren; feed mill, A. G. Johnson & Sons Co.; general dealer, O. M. Gilbertson & Co., Johnson Bros.; harness shop, Swan Lindstrom; hardware dealer, H. N. Palmquist; implement dealer, P. M. Pearson; lumber dealer, Evansville Lumber Company; potato warehouse, Farmers; restaurant, L. C. Calkin, Fritz Carlson; shoe shop, N. A. Westman. This village is not incorporated.

## FORDA.

Forda is a small village located on the "Soo Line," about seven miles south of Alexander and with an estimated population of seventy-five. The village is the heart of an agricultural region and also where much fruit is grown. Thus, the village satisfies the need of a local market and doubtless will continue to grow as time advances. The village was platted by Cyrus A. Campbell in July, 1903, was incorporated on April 6, 1905.

Following is a directory of the business interests: Affeldt, John, hardware; Beisek, Lewis, blacksmith; Chase, C., hotel; Farmers State Bank; Forada Co-operative Manufacturing and Warehouse Company; Jenson, William, general merchandise and postmaster; Northland Elevator Company; Stevens, O. P., grocer; Turnland, Harry, express and telegraph agent.

## MILTONA.

Miltona is a small village located in the township that bears its name. It is on the "Soo Line" and although not as large as some of the other villages in the county, is well equipped with elevator and stock shipping facilities. Sufficient business enterprises exist to satisfy all local needs. J. A. Hintzen conducts a general store; Edward Jerome, a blacksmith shop; P. G. Miller, a grain elevator; the Sandbeck Lumber Company, a branch. Miltona is not incorporated.



## MILLERVILLE.

The town site of Millerville was platted by Edward Schirber in June, 1903. The village began its corporate existence June 29, 1903, after a hotly-contested election had been held to decide the question of incorporation. The liquor question was one of the main issues, as many of the citizens wanted saloons and incorporation was the only means to such an end.

The village is located in the township that bears its name, and though inland, has an extensive local trade. The first house in Millerville was built by John A. Miller, second by Frank Weber, third by Peter Lorsung. The first store was built and operated by Mathias Kotschevar, Joseph Stariha, the first hotel keeper, and Mathias Baden, the first blacksmith.

The business interests during the year of 1916 were as follow:

Bank, German American State Bank of Millerville; blacksmith, Jacob Thoeness; creamery, John Poppler, Jr.; druggist, C. M. Klein; flour-mill, Fred G. Dobbmeyer; general stores, J. Linster and A. J. Lorsung; hotel, Mathias Stariha; harness shop, P. B. Lorsung; meat market, J. P. Lorsung; physician, Dr. John C. Drexler; machinery, Val. Thoeness & Sons.

## CARLOS.

The town-site plats for the village of Carlos were filed in the register of deeds office on August 12, 1903, by Cyrus A. Campbell. The village began its corporate existence on July 7, 1904. It is located on the "Soo Line" and about eight miles northeast of Alexandria. The estimated population is two hundred. The village has two Lutheran churches and a general business that is characteristic of towns of its size.

Following is a directory of the business interests:

Auto garage, G. H. Gilbertson; bank, First State Bank; blacksmith, G. H. Gilbertson, J. Heskenhoff; barber, Charles H. Holgrimson; creamery, Carlos Co-operative Creamery Company; elevator, Homestead Elevator Company, N. Steidl, agent; Woodworth Elevator Company, A. Athman, agent; Farmers Society of Equity; general dealer, Albert Kohler, A. J. Ogren, Renter Bros.; harness shop, Thomas Roach; hardware dealer, August Kohlhaas; implement dealer, Ehlert & Gilbertson; livery, Casper Reuter; lumber dealer, C. O. Franzen & Co.; meat market, J. E. Taylor; physician, P. A. Love; real estate dealer, J. B. Hove, Bundy Scott; restaurant, Charles Annis; telephone, Central Telephone Company.

## KENSINGTON.

Kensington was platted by William D. Washburn in March, 1887, and incorporated on June 6, 1891. It is located in the extreme southwestern corner of the county, on the "Soo Line" and nineteen miles from Glenwood. Kensington is situated on a rolling prairie whose land is unequalled in productiveness. A conservative estimate of the population at the present time would be about two hundred and sixty. In the way of religious and civic organizations the village has a Swedish Lutheran church and an active and wide awake commercial club.

The business directory for the year 1916 is as follows:

Auto garage, Colmark & Brandt; bank, First State Bank of Kensington; barber, Mark F. Chan; blacksmith shop, Axel W. Hallberg; creamery, Kensington Co-operative Creamery; druggist, John A. Wedum; elevators, Farmers Elevator Company, Andrew Holt, agent; Atlantic Elevator Company, P. G. Peterson, manager; furniture dealer, George S. Maxfield; Farmers Warehouse Association, J. T. Rotto, president; general dealer, Abraham Desnick, John Bisek; harness dealer, Ole Berglund; hardware dealer, Kensington Hardware and Lumber Company; hotel, Kensington Hotel, Mrs. E. J. Colmark, proprietor; implements, Harry Osterberg; livery, Bjorklund Bros.; lumber dealer, Kensington Hardware and Lumber Company; meat market, Frank Dahlin; physician, Dr. Otto L. Hanson; photographer, E. J. Colmark; restaurant, George Hendricks, J. A. Bjerke; tile works, Kensington Tile Company, L. A. Larson, president.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### SIDELIGHTS ON COUNTY HISTORY.

As an interesting "sidelight" on the history of Alexandria and of Douglas county, perhaps no event of recent years hereabout has been more significant or productive of greater interest in the days that have gone than the "home-coming week" celebrated by the people of Alexandria and of the county at large at the county seat in the last week of June, 1916, under the direction of the Commercial Club and of the home-coming committee. A series of interesting meetings were arranged for the affair and the event was marked by the return to the scenes of other days of many who had gone away from this favored community seeking fame and fortune elsewhere, but who still regard Douglas county as "home, sweet home." Meetings were held in the high school hall and music was furnished by the Alexandria band, on Saturday bands from Eagle Bend and Kensington also being present.

The first meeting was held on Thursday evening, Gustav A. Kortsch presiding. The Rev. Francis Welp delivered the invocation and Dr. C. C. Strang, mayor of Alexandria, made an address of welcome to the "back-homers," the response to the same being made by Theo. A. Erickson. Other speakers were A. M. Darling, O. H. Larson, Julian Fitzgerald, Walter Shotwell, W. E. Landeen and A. M. Wilton, all of whom spoke in a reminiscent strain of other days. On Friday morning a reunion of former pupils of the Alexandria schools was held, the program being carried out by members of former classes, and a short historical review of the school dating back to 1861 was given, while talks fraught with interesting stories of past school days were made by A. T. Larson, Theo. A. Erickson, A. P. Nelson and W. E. Landeen. R. C. Bondurant presided and an alumni association was organized with the following officers: President, A. T. Larson, of Minneapolis; vice-president, W. E. Landeen, of Elbow Lake; secretary, Alma Anderson, of Alexandria; treasurer, R. C. Bondurant. There were present at this alumni meeting five members of the class of 1878. The afternoon meeting on that day was presided over by H. A. LeRoy and a series of interesting letters from persons who had left this county in days past for farther fields was read by George L. Treat, secretary of the home-coming committee.

Reminiscent talks were made by M. N. Koll, of Cass Lake, and by James F. Dicken, pioneers of the county, and A. T. Larson also gave an interesting talk. At that meeting the address of the week was made by Adolph P. Nelson, of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, who paid a glowing tribute to Alexandria, "Lady of the Lakes," and to the pioneers of Douglas county, among whom he mentioned the names of the Kinkaid brothers, Holmes, Grant, Hicks, Sanford, Gregory, Dicken, Darling, Blackwell, Van Dyke, Shotwell, Sims, Whitcomb, Kent, Lewis, Nord, Walker, Thorp Sprague, Freudenreich, Cowings, Van Hoesen, Baumbach, White, Robards, Moles, Canfield, Brown, Vivian, Aaker, Christie, Sundblad, Bondurant, Hawley, Fahlin, Kortsch, Gilpin, Burkel, Gunderson "and last, but not least," concluded the speaker, "that splendid citizen of your midst who is known as the 'grand old man,' not only of Minnesota, but also of the United States Senate. A man who has made his statesmanship and his influence of life so felt in the national government that when he speaks, not only America, but the world is glad to listen and to take counsel. I have reference to your peerless citizen, your great representative in the United States Senate, Senator Knute Nelson." Among the earlier teachers in the schools, the speaker mentioned Mr. Gunderson, Miss Gunderson (now Mrs. Van Hoesen), Miss Childs, Miss Thompson, Miss King, the Misses Wright, Miss Barnard (now Mrs. Robards), Miss Dudley, Miss Donaldson, Miss Lloyd and Prof. A. D. Gaines, "through whose genius and leadership the Alexandria high school attained a rank second to none in the state."

The Friday evening meeting was presided over by J. H. Wettleson, president of the Commercial Club, and with one exception the program was made up of five-minute talks by George F. Whitcomb, N. P. Ward, A. M. Darling and R. C. Bondurant. The exception noted was a talk given by James F. Dicken, of La Grand, now past eighty-one years of age and one of the very first settlers of Douglas county, who gave for the entertainment and edification of his hearers a review of the history of Douglas county, he having been a resident here since the very beginning of a social order in this section of the state. Mr. Dicken arrived in Douglas county in 1859 after having spent two or three years in the vicinity of the present city of Hutchinson, this state, and he gave the dates of the cutting out of the Alexandria-Garfield and the Alexandria-Carlos roads, the names of the parties who did the work and of the occasion that demanded the construction of the roads. He gave also a brief history of the Indian uprising of 1862, of the excitement that followed and of the general exodus of the settlers from this region to points of safety at Sauk Center, St. Cloud and elsewhere during that time

of trouble. On Saturday evening, closing the home-coming week, a reception was given by the ladies at the rooms of the Commercial Club and on Sunday evening a union service was held in the Congregational church, the Rev. F. S. Stein, of Lincoln, Nebraska, preaching on the subject of home influence, or the place of the home as a factor in civilization. As stated above, the delightful home-coming was arranged under the general direction of the Commercial Club of Alexandria, the general committee and chairmen of sub-committees being as follow: Chairman, G. A. Kortsch; secretary, George L. Treat; program, George L. Treat; publicity, John Griebler; finance, Andrew Jacobson; reception, Constant Larson; entertainment, H. T. Holverson; decoration, W. T. Cowing; music, J. M. Renner; parade, Lewis S. Kent; membership, J. H. Wettleson.

#### MEMORIES OF OTHER DAYS.

Among the many letters received by the secretary of the home-coming committee and read at the meeting, there were some so interesting, recalling scenes and incidents of other days so pleasantly, that it is regarded as a matter of value and interest to succeeding generations to quote a few extracts from the same in this connection.

Senator Nelson wrote: "I am very glad, indeed, that you and the other friends have moved in this matter. It will be a great opportunity for the old settlers to meet and come together to talk over old times and the struggles and trials of frontier life. We have now ceased to be a frontier country, but nevertheless we are still so young that many of the pioneers are still with us and bear the scars and marks of the intense struggle of pioneer life. Alexandria and Douglas county were fortunate in securing an energetic, industrious and thrifty class of people, who have, by their efforts, succeeded in making Douglas county one of the garden spots of Minnesota. We old settlers, who will in the near future pass away, can look back with pride on the great work that has been accomplished with the knowledge and assurance that our work will be taken up by the younger generation that will succeed us and that they will expand and enlarge upon the foundations that we laid. They will have strenuous work before them, but they will be subjected to less trials and tribulations and have more of the modern conveniences than we had; but we bespeak for them the same blessings of an All-Wise Providence that we have enjoyed in our day and generation."

Major E. H. Whitcomb, major and chief sanitary officer of the First Brigade, Minnesota National Guard, and a son of Capt. George C. Whit-

comb, who was commandant of the old Alexandria stockade when the latter was disbanded in 1866, writing from Camp Bobleter, where the Minnesota troops were being mobilized for border service, wrote: "Disappointment falls to the lot of most of us at one time or another, and it certainly has hit me this time. I felt that a duty was incumbent on me to be present at the home coming and have a vacation, but duty of a more serious character has called and I am doing what I can for my country. I was mustered into the United States service yesterday (June 27, 1916). I am chief sanitary officer, with what other duties may arise. I would dearly enjoy the handclasp of friends of old who will be with you. As I sit here in my tent, in fancy I can look into eyes long closed on earth and hear familiar voices wafted on waves of tender recollection from across the Mystic Sea. These will not respond to your invitation, but they will be thought of and spoken of in tenderest terms and will occupy their fitting and essential place in the history of Alexandria."

C. D. Baker, of Fergus Falls wrote: "I wanted a chance to tell what few old settlers there were left there and what I knew about them in an earlier day. I was going to tell about our trip at the time that Knute Nelson, Baumbach, Van Hoesen, Charles Schultz, John Cowing and about a dozen others went down east of town fishing; the time that Charles Schultz could not pull a tree up by the roots, and that Mr. Nelson and Baumbach had to sing songs for the party on their way home that night. I wanted to tell about Mr. Baumbach helping me to sell apple trees up in the Millerville country, when two of us rode in a two-wheeled road cart; I wanted to tell about Jim Dicken, the time when he was selling fire insurance, when 'for a moment' he forgot himself; and then there were a lot of the boys that I wanted to talk about, but I find most of them have gone to the 'happy hunting grounds.' As I figure it, there is only about one out of ten of the old-timers alive. . . . My heart is with you, and it seems as though I can see among the crowd that you have there, some of the old-timers that I knew forty years ago. There must be a few of them left."

Mrs. Edward Gillette, of Santa Barbara, California, wrote: "And we are among the pioneers! My dear father, Richard Dent, wife and family of seven children, three sons and four daughters, arrived at Alexandria, September 9, 1868, coming by team from LeSueur, Minnesota. It was indeed a frontier town of few inhabitants—looked very dreary to us, never having lived where we could not see railroad trains every day. Father went to work for Mr. William Hicks, in the grist-mill, as engineer. We lived in a log

house owned by Mr. Shotwell, near Lake Geneva, until a log house could be built on our farm on Lake Victoria. We moved on October 28 and it was not half finished; no chinking in cracks and without windows—hung up blankets to keep out the cold, but we were all well and happy. The few people seemed like one large family. . . . D. W. Colby and family were among the early settlers, also Cal. Roland and James Rusk. All were there ahead of our family. Mrs. Van Hoesen and her brother, C. J. Gundersen were there at Robert Smith's, who had a farm near the Shotwells, on Lake Geneva. Three youngest children of our family were born in Alexandria: Mrs. H. A. Plahte, of Spokane, Washington; Mrs. M. H. Terryll, of Faribault, and Dr. Frank E. Dent, of Sequim, Washington. Dear mother passed away at Spokane, May 10, 1911; father, May 19, 1915. Brother James Dent, who was in the railway mail service office for twenty years in St. Paul, passed away June 23, 1909. He was chief clerk at that time and was loved by all who knew him. Brother Richard is a member of the big real-estate firm of Arthur D. Jones & Company, of Spokane, Washington, and is vice-president of the company."

William G. Scott, of Winnipeg, wrote: "The receipt of your letter caused me to indulge in some 'reminiscing' and recall the fact that it is fifty years this present month of June since my father and my eldest brother—the latter now a resident of the state of Washington—first arrived in Douglas county and located on homesteads in the township of Hudson. The other members of the family, including the writer, followed in October of the same year (1866). The journey from Toronto occupied seventeen days and was made by steamboat to Milwaukee, railway to LaCrosse, steamboat to St. Paul, railway to St. Cloud and 'prairie schooners' to Hudson. At that time there were no large centers of population west of Milwaukee, the present flourishing cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis being mere hamlets. It boasted an abandoned stockade, but few buildings. It had a tri-weekly mail service, carried by the Burbank four-horse stage coaches, which made regular trips between St. Cloud and Ft. Abercrombie, on the Red river. It was on the main highway to the various forts in northern Minnesota, the then territory of Dakota and what was then known as Ft. Gary, or the Red River Settlement. There were continually passing through it long lines of government wagons, each drawn by six mules, carrying supplies and munitions to the western forts. The commerce of what is now the three prairie provinces of Canada, served at the present time by three transcontinental lines of railway and numerous branches, was then carried along the same route in Red river carts, each drawn by one ox, their journey leading through northern

Minnesota and Dakota, then homeless plains, within whose borders civilization had not yet entered except in the vicinity of two or three forts."

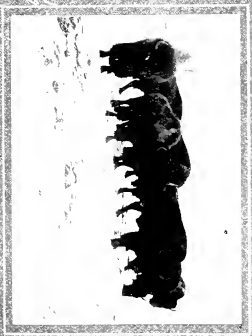
The Rev. J. Scott Willmarth, of Greenwood, Wisconsin, wrote: "Alexandria may well be proud of her citizens and of the products of her school. She always has a Treat to show her visitors. Some may come and some may go, but one is always Constant. She is renowned, not only for her fine houses, but also for her barns. In competing with other towns for recognition she can rely on her Knox, and she can easily wrest first honors from all comers with her double Nelson."

J. A. Cranston, superintendent of schools at Santa Ana, California, former superintendent of the schools at Alexandria, wrote expressing the hope, "in the not too distant future, to have the pleasure of seeing once more Alexandria, the crown city of northern Minnesota, and enjoy once more those beautiful lakes and drives for which Douglas county has become truly famous."

Col. B. L. Bull, of North Yakima, Washington, past commander of Meade Post No. 9, Department of Washington and Alaska, Grand Army of the Republic, in a letter to the committee recalled that "We lived there in 1871 and slept in our prairie schooner near your beautiful city, but passed on to Ottertail county. We are inclined to think our mistake was in not driving our claim stake there in 1871."

W. H. Sanders, who located many of the roads in this part of the state and was later for some years superintendent of schools of Douglas county, writing from Los Angeles, California, conveyed the following interesting bit of information: "I made my first trip to Douglas county in 1867. As I passed through Alexandria, I noted that the old stockade was about all there was of the town. There was a store within the stockade and a little later T. F. Cowing built one outside the structure. I went up to what is now the town of Evansville and took up a claim about five miles south of the present town, my nearest neighbor being about five miles south of my location. Later Mr. Plummer took a claim adjoining mine and then quite a number of settlers came into that section. All fled several times at the report that the Sioux Indians were coming, only to return after the scare was over. Only once did we realize that it was not a false alarm. A canoe with Indians came down the lake and paddled straight across for my home, but backed by Mr. Plummer we stood our ground, shooting over the heads of the Indians, which soon caused them to retreat. There were many stirring times, hardships, even sufferings, in those pioneer days, but the settlers realized even then the great possibilities of that glorious county and remained. In 1872 or 1873,





Virginia and White-tailed Deer.  
A Young Fawn and Its Foster Mother.

American Bison (Buffalo).  
Wild Cat.

WILD ANIMALS OF THE NORTHWEST.



when I moved to Alexandria, it was still a small town, among the early settlers I recall having been the Cowings, Van Dykes, Hicks, Mr. Van Hoesen and many others."

J. V. Roland, writing from Postoak, recalled to the attention of the committee that he could "date back as far as 1867, when I first arrived in Alexandria. I made my home in Douglas county for ten years and experienced some very hard times. In the summer of 1868, during a high-water period, the country was out of flour and none could be obtained at any price. I was working for a Mr. Platt, who lived on a farm on the south side of Lake Louise. At that time there was a company of United States soldiers camped for the night on the shore of the lake and after they had gone on their way I went down to the camp and found a box of hard-tack that had been left behind because of some mold on some of them. I hurried to the Platt cabin and told of the find. Immediately the lady of the house, Mrs. Platt, and myself hurried to the place and gathered up the fragments; carried them to the home and Mrs. Platt prepared a most luscious dinner."

From Dymont, Ontario, Mrs. D. A. Larson wrote: "I shall ever remember the pleasant circumstances which first brought me to Alexandria. I took up residence there in my bridal days—in October, 1868. Though being away for many years, yet my heart will always drift back where my cherished interest is—as my husband's resting place is in Kinkaid cemetery."

From New Bedford, Massachusetts, the Rev. and Mrs. Anton A. Anderson wrote: "Although it is many years since we lived in the heart of the park region of Douglas county, many sweet remembrances linger with us and we can truthfully say with the ancient Israelites: 'If we forget thee, O, Jerusalem (Alexandria), let our right hand forget! Let our tongue cleave to our palate, if we do not remember thee; if we prefer not Jerusalem (Alexandria) above our chief joy.' Alexandria and its beautiful surroundings will always be the dearest spot to us."

From Claremont, California, Mrs. Stella Stoneman Moles wrote: "I doubt if many are back whose entrance to Alexandria antedates my own, for I went there first as a little girl in 1874, when Mr. Norton preached in the little old church down in the hollow. He, too, is gone, and his wife, and Annabel, with whom I played dolls and whom I loved almost as a sister in those days. In those days the railroad came no farther than Melrose, and I went the rest of the way with Mr. David Mason, who also has been laid to rest. He had taught his horse to be a home missionary horse, for I remember how the horse stopped at every boy, girl, man, woman and house that

we came to, to ask if there was a Sunday school in the neighborhood, apparently as concerned as Mr. Mason as to their religious opportunities. But it was when, as a young woman, I visited my sister at Sylvan Home and later, when I went as a bride to Alexandria, that I spent perhaps the happiest days of my life. I can see it all now, the woods and the lakes and the country roads. It was then that I learned what beautiful puff-balls could be made from thistles. It was there I picked wild strawberries and raspberries. It was there I saw my first ski and took my first toboggan slide. I have many happy memories and I remember lovingly the kindly people I knew both as a little girl and later as a woman grown."

Writing from Urbana, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Mason sent "greetings to all our friends in the following lines from Browning:

"Grow old along with me!  
 The best is yet to be,  
 The last of life, for which the first was made;  
 Our times are in His hand  
 Who saith, 'A whole life I planned.'  
 Youth shows but half; trust God; see all, nor be afraid."

The Rev. George E. Soper wrote: "The prospect of hearing the address of Adolph, of seeing Lew Kent, in all his glory, leading the parade; of listening to all those speeches of early friends would be enough to draw me from a long distance; but when added to all this, there is the prospect of meeting many old friends and of reviving the friendships of earlier days, I find the desire to be there most enticing. It will no doubt be a glorious occasion and will do much to strengthen the chords of home joys, which after all is said, lie very near the sources of the truest happiness."

From Tacoma Miss Bessie Kasson wrote: "Alexandria spelled home for so many years that we always think and speak of it in that sense, and assure you we have never forgotten the years we spent among you, or the beauties of Alexandria and surrounding country, the many kindnesses of your citizens and the spirit of friendliness which made us feel at home among you. My father, who was eighty years old last January, looks no older than when leaving Alexandria and my mother has changed very little. I would like to suggest that you follow the example of our chivalrous western men and grant your women the right of suffrage. It's a fine thing to feel that you are, indeed, a real citizen of the United States of America."

Mrs. Della Isom, of Lovell, Wyoming, wrote: "My father, Benjamin Stewart, lived near Garfield and the home now owned by Mrs. Robert

Angus used to be my home when I first came to Douglas county forty-seven years ago. We lived mostly among the Indians, as my father often traded groceries for furs and meats, which were plentiful in those days. The Indians were not hostile then, yet when they used to gather in the house and sharpen their knives, the hearts of my sisters and mother seemed to stop beating as they used to watch me at play with my rag doll. They would laugh and talk to me in their own language and, of course, I was afraid they wanted my doll, not seeming to realize what mischief they might be planning. I also lived in Alexandria with my husband, George Dixon, and two small sons, who now are grown men in business in the city of Minneapolis."

Mary Elizabeth Whitcomb, of Minneapolis, wrote: "I would gladly do something to add to the pleasure of the occasion were it in my power, but I know there will be no lack of interesting things to fill the time, and I have perhaps done my share in recalling the old times, as in response to Mr. Bondurant's request before the dedication of the new high school building, I wrote an account of the early school days there, which is, I think, fairly accurate for the years which it covers."

From Roseburg, Oregon, N. Bevier wrote: "I often think of the old frontier days, for I enjoyed them better than later days. There are lots of Pope and Douglas people here, following being the names of a few: Mr. and Mrs. P. Brooks, Mr. Hagan, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. H. Boyd, Mrs. Henri Boyd and son, Vern; Mr. and Mrs. John Pennie and family and the three daughters of Mr. P. Pennie, besides whom there are quite a few Minnesota settlers, but not right from that part."

From Hazel, Minnesota, Mr. and Mrs. George Prodger wrote: "Our kindest thoughts are always with the old neighbors of Douglas county, with whom we used to have such good times. It doesn't seem like home here, as it did there where we lived so many years."

Mrs. Herbert M. Boyd wrote from Roseburg, Oregon: "Father Boyd moved with his family to Hudson township the 22nd of June, 1867, and I went to live with them, July 24, 1879, so even I have seen many changes. I well remember the first trip to Alexandria, September 4, 1879. The store of Moses & Wylie was considered quite a fine store, and I remember the L. J. Brown store, at one time where the Griebenow store has been for years, and then they were fine stores. I remember many changes in all the years of my sojourn in Hudson."

John Templeton wrote his regrets from Forest Grove, Oregon, declaring

that "nothing would give me more pleasure than to meet with all the old-time friends and talk over old times and renew our youth together."

F. M. Nelson, of Minneapolis, wrote: "When I go back in my memory to the 13th of June, 1887, at 2:20 o'clock, when I got off the train as an immigrant, how little did I dream, when walking up Main street seeing the signs: L. K. Aaker, John Sundblad, Moles Brothers, Baumbach & Holverson (or Momessey, as it was then), Spaulding, drugs, and Kortsch, Hardy & Heebel, with others, what Alexandria would mean to me. Most of those signs are gone from the dear old Main street, but in my memory lingers those names of the pioneers, of which I have a fond recollection. Wherever I go I always think and speak of Alexandria as my home town."

L. T. Mathison wrote his regrets from Rush Lake, Saskatchewan, declaring that "my heart is right there, where I spent my boyhood days."

From Tacoma Caroline M. Sprague wrote: "Nothing would please me better than to make a visit to the old home town and I deeply regret not being able to do so. The longing to see the kinsfolk I have left behind, and the dear old friends, also makes my old heart ache."

From Claremont, California, Samuel D. Moles wrote, recalling that "it is over twenty years since my wife and I left Alexandria to come to California;" continuing, "It was in Douglas county that nearly one-half of my life was spent, and I often think of the beautiful country and clear lakes and business opportunities that your county affords."

From Kingsburg, California, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Jern wrote: "We have always held the most ardent respect and have today a warm place in our hearts for the old town of 'Alex.' Though we are not able to be present on this occasion, personally, we are with you in kindest memory at all times. Since our departure, years ago, we have traveled to some extent, but have never found quite the same ideal conditions that exist there."

Mrs. Kate McLellan Finkle, of Minneapolis, expressing her regret at her inability to be present at the home coming, wrote: "I would have enjoyed meeting the friends. Oh, the wonderful review that passes before the mind's eye! Alexandria deserves to have the best of everything, as the former citizens were of such a lovely and interesting type and as I am sure the present ones are."

#### THE MAN WHO STARTED ALEXANDRIA GOING.

It may very properly be said that William Everett Hicks was the man who started Alexandria going and by doing so performed a service for Douglas county that will keep his memory green in this section of Minnesota

for generations to come. Though he died before he was forty years of age, he had shown a notable capacity for performance and his life had been full of activity. A New Yorker, he came to this section of Minnesota in the fall of 1866 and was so deeply impressed by the beauty of this charming lake region that he decided to make his permanent home at Alexandria, where, during the next eight years, or until his death in 1874, he took a very active part in local affairs, becoming the owner of the townsite and the promoter of various commercial and industrial enterprises, besides representing the district in the Legislature and establishing the first newspaper in this part of Minnesota.

William E. Hicks was born at Sand Point, Long Island, in 1835, and was educated in the schools of Brooklyn. In 1853 he became a reporter on the *New York Tribune*, Horace Greeley's paper, and in 1857 became financial editor of the *New York Evening Post*, holding that position until 1862, when failing health compelled his resignation. The next year he traveled extensively in Europe and returned in the following year, going into business in Wall street. In the spring of 1866 Mr. Hicks came West on a general prospecting and pleasure trip and in the fall of that year came out here from St. Paul on a hunting trip. As noted above, he became so charmed with the scenic beauties of the park region hereabout that he decided to remain. He bought the Alexandria townsite, which up to that time had not been making very great headway, and also began to develop timber lands in this section. In 1867 he built a log store building at Alexandria and stocked the same with a general stock of merchandise. He also erected a hotel building and built the two-story frame building which for some time thereafter was used as a court house, and on the second floor of which he conducted a newspaper, the *Alexandria Post*, which he established in 1868, the year in which he was elected to the Legislature from this district. Among Mr. Hicks's other enterprises was a combined grist- and saw-mill, which became the leading industry in this section, attracting patronage for many miles in all directions and giving a real impetus to the development of this section, which before that time had been suffering for the lack of an adequate flour-mill and for a saw-mill. Mr. Hicks donated from his townsite lands the square on which the Douglas county court house stands and also donated to the Congregational church the fine corner lot on which that society erected its first church and on which the present handsome Congregational church stands. In other ways Mr. Hicks contributed to the civic, commercial and industrial life of the growing community and remained active in all good works until his death at Alexandria on July 17, 1874. He left a widow and five children. One

of his sons, Cleveland H. Hicks, for years has been private secretary to Senator Knute Nelson, whose home is in Alexandria, but whose official duties require his presence in Washington much of the time.

#### ALEXANDRIA'S "GRAND OLD MAN."

United States Senator Knute Nelson has been a resident of Douglas county since the year 1870, when he moved over here from Wisconsin, and has ever since been one of the most active factors in the life of the community, as well as in the wider and more general life of the whole state. Senator Nelson is a native of the kingdom of Norway, born on February 2, 1843, and was but six years of age when he accompanied his parents to the United States in July, 1849, the family remaining in Chicago until the fall of the next year, 1850, when they removed to Wisconsin, where the future United States senator grew to manhood. During the Civil War Knute Nelson enlisted for service as a private in the Fourth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was promoted to a non-commissioned office in the same. At Port Hudson, Louisiana, June 14, 1863, he was wounded and taken prisoner. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to Wisconsin, took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar as a practicing attorney in the spring of 1867. He was elected to the Wisconsin state Legislature and served in the assembly during the years 1868-69, after which he sought a field farther west in which to enter upon the practice of his profession, and in 1870 came to Minnesota and located at Alexandria, which ever since has been his home. Mr. Nelson at once began to take a prominent part in the civic affairs of the new community in which he had located and it was not long until he was recognized as a potent factor in the same. He was appointed county attorney of Douglas county shortly after settling at Alexandria and served in that capacity until 1874. During the four years, 1875-78, he served this district in the upper house of the Minnesota General Assembly and in the campaign of 1880 was a presidential elector from this state. On February 1, 1882, he was commissioned a member of the board of regents of the Minnesota State University, a position which he retained until January 1, 1893. Senator Nelson's larger public service began with his election as a member of the forty-eighth Congress from the fifth Minnesota district, and he was re-elected to the forty-ninth and fiftieth Congresses. In the fall of 1892 he was elected governor of Minnesota as the nominee of the Republican party in this state and was re-elected to that office in the fall of 1894, during which second incumbency, January 23, 1895, he was elected United



States senator from Minnesota and has ever since represented this state in the Senate, having been re-elected by the Legislature in 1901, 1907 and 1913. Senator Nelson has a delightful farm home situated on the outskirts of Alexandria and takes much pleasure in the same during his brief respites from public service. He also maintains his old law office in Alexandria, but gives little attention to the practice of his profession, long having been practically retired from active practice.

#### ALEXANDRIA'S FIRST VILLAGE PRESIDENT.

Francis Bennett Van Hoesen, who died at his home in Alexandria on January 27, 1907, not only was the first president of the village of Alexandria, but in many other ways, during his residence of forty years in the county seat of Douglas county, contributed of his talents and energies to the general upbuilding of the community at large. Born in Onandaga county, New York, he was fifteen years of age when he came with his parents, in 1854, to Minnesota, the family settling at Hastings. He later returned to his native state, where he completed the academic course in the schools and then entered the law department of the Michigan State University, from which he was graduated in 1864, after which he for a time was engaged in practice in the law office of his uncle, at Harvard, Illinois, presently returning to Minnesota, where he spent a year as bookkeeper in a bank at St. Cloud, after which, in 1867, he moved over to the new and ambitious village of Alexandria, where he spent the rest of his life, one of the most active factors in the development of the town. Upon settling at Alexandria Mr. Van Hoesen opened a branch land office and in 1869 joined with his uncle, George Ward, and Robert Smith in the establishment of the first bank in Alexandria, of which he was made cashier. When the bank was reorganized as the First National Bank in 1883 Mr. Van Hoesen was made president of the same and continued in that capacity continuously until his death. When the village of Alexandria was incorporated in 1877 Mr. Van Hoesen was elected first president of the same and by subsequent elections served for more than five years in that capacity. He previously had served the county in several capacities, county attorney, clerk of court and register of deeds and later for some years was a member of the board of health, while in 1872 he had been elected representative to the Legislature from this district and was re-elected in 1881, and in 1883 was elected to the Senate. From the very beginning of his residence in Alexandria Mr. Van Hoesen took an active interest in the schools and was also a prime mover in the organization of the library

association. He was a charter member of the First Congregational church, organized in 1876, and was president of the board of trustees of the same at the time of his death. Among the legacies he left was one of one thousand dollars to the church, one of five thousand dollars to the library and one of three thousand dollars to the Kinkaid Cemetery Association. He was a charter member of Constellation Lodge No. 81, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Alexandria, organized in 1870, and served for eleven terms as worshipful master of the lodge.

#### FIRST COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED.

The record of incorporations in the office of the register of deeds of Douglas county reveals that the first commercial association incorporated in the county was the Norden Commercial Association, whose articles of incorporation were filed for record on August 16, 1871, Peter O. Chilstrom, Eoen Newman, Peter Newman, Peter Hanson, William Christensen, Bernhard C. Hanson, S. P. Christensen, Magnus Olson and Soren Listoe, of the city of Minneapolis, incorporating under the above title to carry on a general trading business at Herman, Grant county.

The first cemetery association incorporated was the Orange Grove Cemetery Association, organized at a meeting held at the school house in district No. 7, in the township of Orange, March 24, 1873, Robert Thomas, chairman, and M. G. Pixley, secretary, the others signing the articles of incorporation being J. S. English, Joseph Pixley, Robert Thomas, Jacob Manning, John Gray, George H. Robart, R. T. Bullard, M. G. Pixley, Gustav Klatt, Harmon Dumerl, O. Kator, John Mada and John Baker.

The first farmers co-operative association to file incorporation papers was the Farmers Co-operative Company of Osakis, a general mercantile concern, organized on December 17, 1875, those signing the articles of incorporation being James Chambers, A. C. Peterson, Mathew Easton, J. C. Stone, J. P. Simonson, Charles Handy and Andrew Bergsten.

The first cornet band to file articles of incorporation was the Osakis Cornet Band, incorporated on May 3, 1886, the following persons signing the articles of incorporation: H. M. Chalfant, W. A. Yales, I. P. Schei, C. Nelson, Alex. Anderson, J. R. Gallinger, D. M. Farr, George L. Fry, Paul Herman and William Cressy.

## THE CELEBRATED PAULSON CASE.

In as well ordered and quiet a neighborhood as this there naturally have been very few notable criminal cases to attract the attention of the court and a chapter devoted to crimes and misdemeanors in a work of this character would be short indeed, but there is one case that for years provided a mystery for the people of Douglas county to talk over and which was not cleared for years after the commission of the crime. It was in the early days of the settlement of this region, back in the old stage-coach days, long before the coming of the railroad to this section, and the scene of the crime was at the old log inn and stage station at the stop which later became the thriving village of Evansville. Five Scandinavians, one of whom was named Paulson and who were not long from the old country, arrived at the inn one day and while renewing old acquaintances drank quite liberally of frontier whisky, served at the inn, a quarrel presently being started and some scuffling or wrestling, which was not altogether good natured in character, but which ended apparently without serious ill-feeling on the part of any and late in the evening the men started for the home of one of the party who lived nearby, where they expected to remain the rest of the night. On the shore of a small lake in the vicinity the quarrel was known to have been renewed. That evening was the last Paulson was seen alive and although the neighborhood was searched no trace of him could be found. The four men last seen in his company were arrested, but as there was no evidence against them they presently were released. Three Indians, skilled in the lore of the woods and of the lakes, were called in to assist in the search for the body, the theory of the community being that Paulson had been killed as an outcome of the quarrel and his body thrown into the lake, but the most careful search of the lake failed to reveal the body. In the meantime the county commissioners had offered a reward of five hundred dollars for the recovery of the body and not long thereafter, shortly after the Indians had made their ineffectual search, the wife of the landlord of the inn in which the initial quarrel between the Scandinavians had occurred, volunteered to find the body in the lake and pointing out a certain spot in the water told the searchers to look there, even though the ground had been gone over carefully before. The body was found, even as she had declared it would be, and she collected the reward money. The four suspects again were arrested and the one with whom Paulson had quarrelled was placed on trial for his life, but there being no direct evidence against him, he was acquitted and all four were again set at

liberty. Not long afterward the landlord of the inn and his wife left the county, with the five hundred dollars that had been paid the wife, and went up into Canada, where they settled. On his deathbed the landlord cleared the mystery of the Paulson case, declaring that Paulson had returned to the inn about midnight of the night he had left with his four compatriots and had demanded more whisky. This the landlord refused and a quarrel ensued in which the landlord killed Paulson. He hid the body in a haystack until the night after the Indians had searched the lake, when, with the assistance of his wife, he carried the body to the lake and cast it in, it therefore having been an easy matter for the wife later to locate the body for the searching party and claim the reward that had been offered by the county. No suspicion was attached to them and after going to Canada they kept their secret well, until remorse compelled the deathbed divulgence of the same.

#### REMINISCENCES BY A FIRST SETTLER.

During the agitation of the project for holding a "home-coming" week at Alexandria during the early summer of 1916, Mrs. Fanny Van Dyke, widow of J. H. Van Dyke, the first merchant in Alexandria, who came to Douglas county with her parents, as a girl, in 1858, contributed the following bit of reminiscence to the *Alexandria Post-News*: "The first settlers were the Kinkaid brothers, Alexander and Will, who came here from Delaware. After Alexander our town was given its name. Then came the Joseph James family from Philadelphia. Their child was the first child born here and was named Winona Douglas, after our lake and county. After them our family (the Cook family) came in the year 1858. The house we lived in was built where the von Baumbach home now stands. It was made of peeled logs and was very comfortable, but coming from the busy city of London, as we did, it was a decided change. My father, who was a member of the Hudson Bay Company bought furs of the Indians, but spent much time fishing and hunting. Game of all kinds was very plentiful. With us came the Bedman family, Mr. Bedman being the first blacksmith here. Shortly after this came the N. F. Barnes family and Peter L. Gregory. Then the Darling family came and they were the first people who knew how to be good farmers, and everyone went to them for advice. About this time came also our good old friend, James Dicken, who was a trapper and who told extraordinary stories. Among the many was the following one: Jim wanted some shirts, and goods of the cheapest quality being very expensive at that time, he bought only three yards. When he found this would make but one

shirt, he said that he knew of a woman in Pennsylvania who could make two shirts out of three yards of material so long that they dangled on the ground and he could pull them up over his ears. He also knew how to make 'stone soup,' which was very rich and tasty. A little later on came the Shotwell and Canfield families in the year 1859. Also about this time came my husband, J. H. Van Dyke. The Cowdrys and Barrs made up some of the early settlers and after that the people began to come thick and fast.

"My father, Charles Cook, was the first postmaster, the 'office' being our dining table. The mail was brought by ox-team from St. Cloud and later a Mr. Evans, the first Scandinavian, brought the mail on horse-back. The town of Evansville was named after him and they built a small log house there for him to stay over night and break the distance of the journey, which was a very difficult one. He was later killed by the Indians.

"The first school teacher I recall was a Miss Jonvier, a sister of Mrs. Kinkaid. The school house was an old log house on the von Baumbach place and belonged to my father. Mrs. Haines was the teacher in the stockade and later a Miss Pye taught. Then came Miss Olive Darling, who taught about the time that the Hicks family came. The first doctor was Doctor Andrews, then a Doctor Borden and later Doctor Vivian. Mr. Van Dyke had the first settler's store here, in which he had the postoffice. He also had the land office and was justice of the peace. The mail was quite large at that time, as the stockade had been built and the soldiers had been stationed there. The mail was brought from St. Cloud by the Burbank stage and was heavily escorted by mounted men. The stockade was situated about where the Aberly brewery now stands and was built in 1862 by 'Company 25' of Wisconsin. It was made of logs, with a bastion at opposite corners to use in case of an attack by the Indians. Many sad things happened there, one being the death of a young soldier, John Hazelton, who died of exposure. He was given a military funeral and his body was later taken to the Kinkaid cemetery, where it now lies. The assassination of President Lincoln happened about this time and caused much sadness among the soldiers, some of whom wept like children. We were ordered to put on mourning and the flag was draped with some black lining I had bought to line a dress with, each soldier wearing a piece of it around his arm.

"The first minister, to the best of my memory, was Bishop Whipple, but several other missionaries came here at different times.

"The spirit among all the early settlers was a kindly one and each one helped the others. Eatables were very high and hard to procure, flour being thirteen dollars a barrel. The poorest grade of calico was twenty-five cents

a pound and ordinary sheeting was fifty cents a yard, and a very poor grade of white flannel was over a dollar a yard. With all the inconveniences at this time we managed to have quite a little sociability and when one had anything extra nice to eat they always gave a party for the rest. Mrs. Bedman had invited us all one evening and the feature was to be dried-apple pie. She only had enough apples to make two pies and had set them on a bench near the stove. In her excitement and lack of chairs she sat down on them, much to her sorrow, and ours. The Whitcomb family were also here during the time of the stockade, Mr. Whitcomb being captain of the post. Many of the people who first came here were driven out by the Indians and never came back."

#### AN EARLY TRAVELER'S IMPRESSIONS.

Among the first settlers in Douglas county were Charles Cook and family, Londoners, who came to Minnesota from Canada in the later fifties and in 1858 settled on the banks of Lake Agnes, the present site of the city of Alexandria. Charles Cook had been an extensive merchant in the fur trade in London, his Hudson Bay establishment on Regent street in that city having been one of the largest of its kind in the metropolis, and it was he who introduced into London the use of seal skin as a luxurious form of outer apparel, his first seal-fur coat having been made for the Duke of Wellington, the second for Charles Dickens, the famous coat referred to in the latter's "American Notes," and the third for the Count d'Orsay. Mr. Cook's beautiful and accomplished wife was a Franklin, daughter of Robert Franklin, a cousin of Sir John Franklin and of Benjamin Franklin, and a reproduction of the portrait of her younger sister, painted by one of the most celebrated artists of that day and hung in the Royal Gallery, is known world wide. Charles Cook unfortunately met with business reverses and left his beautiful home in London for New York, where he engaged for a time in business, going thence to Canada, later coming, with his family, into the wilds of Minnesota, in behalf of his Hudson Bay Company connection, but after a few years spent on the banks of Lake Agnes went East and later returned to London, where he spent the remainder of his life. In the meantime his young daughter, Fanny, married James H. Van Dyke, Alexandria's first merchant and one of the most active promoters of the destinies of the new settlement, and remained at the settlement. During the stockade days Mrs. Van Dyke was known as the "Florence Nightingale" of the post, where her husband was running the suttler's store, her kindness to ailing soldiers there endearing her to the whole command. Mrs. Van Dyke, who is still

living in Alexandria, retains a very vivid recollection of the old stockade days and of the days preceding the Indian outbreak and retains at her pleasant home a number of interesting souvenirs of those days, including the first table and chair made by the hands of the soldiers at the stockade. She also is the possessor of a well-worn and valuable copy of the Franklin Bible, printed in 1813, and of numerous family portraits and works of art, souvenirs of her girlhood days in London before she became one of the pioneers of the Minnesota frontier. Her brother, Charles Cook, had a good bit of artistic ability and among her cherished possessions are several crayon drawings of scenes hereabout during the pioneer days, including a drawing of the old Cook log cabin, the house over on the hill, where now stands the von Baumbach home, where the first school in Douglas county was conducted, and of the old stockade, reproductions of which appear elsewhere in this volume. In her library Mrs. Van Dyke has a bound volume of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* for the year 1860, in which appears a wonderfully interesting narrative of an anonymous traveler, the same illustrated by an equally anonymous artist, conveying in vivid language the author's impressions of a trip "to Red River and Beyond."

#### AN IMPRESSIONIST'S VIEW OF ALEXANDRIA.

The narrative of the anonymous magazine writer above referred to opens with a description of the departure of his party from St. Paul on June 10 and of the journey to St. Cloud, the first station, and then takes up the second station of the journey on to Pembina, the reference to the trip across that section of the state comprised in what is now Douglas county being as follows: "On Monday, June 20, the train struck its tents and left St. Cloud; here beginning its experiences of camp-life with a background. So far we had been treading the warp and woof of civilization—now we began to slip off the fringes of its outermost skirts. Our direction was northwest, by the valley of the Sank river, through the lake district of central Minnesota to the head of navigation on Red River. Such articles as were needed had been added to our outfit, including a boat to cross streams in, which served for a wagon-box on dry land. The second day out all our horses and mules ran away before breakfast. Half the camp scoured the camp in every direction for the runaways. They were caught four miles away, making steady tracks for St. Cloud and its possible oats, led on in their desertion by two of the handsomest, smallest and meekest-looking mules in the train. The road rewarded them with retributive justice that day. The sloughs were innum-

able, and indeed innumerable they continued to be for weeks and weeks, only approaching the limits of mathematical calculation as we neared Pembina. This may seem strange when it is considered that we crossed the divide between the tributaries of the Minnesota and Mississippi; but, as Joseph said, 'with a general convexity of outline there was great concavity of detail.' The convex 'divide,' like a rounded cheek, had a small-pox of lakes, bogs, ponds, sloughs and morasses.

"To give in detail the particulars of this part of our experience would be cruel to writer and reader, though it might gain for the former a seat in the Chinese Paradise of Fuh, where the purgatorial price of admission is to wade for seven years in mud up to the chin. So let me give the spirit of it all, in a lump. The only external indication of some kinds of sloughs is a ranker growth of grass, perhaps of a different color, in the low ground between two hills of a rolling prairie. Again, on a level prairie, where the road seems the same as that you have been traveling dry shod, your horse's hoofs splash in wet grass. This goes on, worse and worse, till you get nervous and begin to draw up your heels out of the water; and so, perhaps, for a mile, whether in the water or out of it you cannot tell, horses up to their bellies trudging through the water and grass, carts sinking deeper than the hubs, you travel at the rate of one mile in 2:40. Very often, however, sloughs put on no such plausible appearance, but confess themselves unmistakably bad and ruinous to horses and carts.

#### SOMETHING ABOUT MULES AND MULE DRIVERS.

"It is the wagon-master's business to ride ahead of the train a few hundred yards and on coming to a slough, to force his horse carefully back and forth through it until he finds the best place for crossing. I have fished for trout in Berkshire streams so small that, to an observer a hundred yards distant, I must have seemed to be bobbing for grasshoppers in a green meadow; but the appearance is not more novel than to see a strong horse plunging and pitching in a sea of green grass that seems to have as solid a foundation as that your own horse's hoofs are printing. Some sloughs have no better or worse spot. It is mud from one side to the other—mud bottomless and infinite, and backing up in some infernal Symmes's hole. The foremost cart approaches, and, at the first step the mule sinks to his knees. Some mules lie down at this point; but most of ours were sufficiently well broken to make one more spasmodic leap, and, though the water or mud went no higher than their fetlocks, then and there they laid them down. This is the moment for



human intervention, and, on the part of profane mule drivers, for an imprecation of divine intervention. The men get off their horses and carts and hurry to the shafts and wheels, tugging and straining, while one or two yell at and belabor the discouraged and mulish mule.

"The census man would have no difficulty at this juncture in ascertaining the persuasion to which profane mule drivers belong, or, at least, in which they have been reared. Some of their oaths derive their flavor from camp-meeting reminiscences. Another man excels as a close-communion swearer, and, after damning his mule, superfluously damns the man who would not damn him. Other oaths have a tropical luxuriance of irreverent verbiage that shows them to have been drawn from the grand and reverent phrases of the Prayer-book, and still others are of that sort which proves their users godless wretches, with whom, for very ignorance, oaths stand in the stead of adjectives. Belabored by oaths, kicks, whip-lashes and ropes-ends, the mule may rise and plunge and lie down again, and rise again and plunge, until the cart is on solid ground; but it was generally the quicker way to unload the cart or wagon at once, or to lighten it until the mule could get through easily. If this was inconvenient for any reason, a rope was fastened to the axle, and twenty men pulling one way would generally succeed in beating the planet pulling the other. Our Indian ponies got through the mud splendidly. Joseph was heard to recommend a stud of them for the hither side of Bunyan's Slough of Despond. They were too lazy to be other than deliberate in getting out of a hole. They put their feet down carefully, and, like oxen, waddled along, one step or one jump at a time. So they never strained themselves as high-spirited horses would, and yet were not so mulish as to be willing to stay stuck in the mud for centuries, until the branches of future trees would lift them up for fruit like Sir John Mandeville's sheep.

#### GLIMPSES OF CLAIM-STAKES AND CLAIM-SHANTIES.

"Three times we crossed the tortuous Sauk, first by a ferry like the one at Rum river. The next time, four days afterward, we had to make our own ferry. One stout fellow swam across with a rope in his teeth, which was tied firmly to stout trees opposite each other. Then the wagon box was taken off the wheels, two or three hours spent in caulking it, launched, and a man in the bow, holding on to the rope which sagged down to within a yard of the water, by bending his body and keeping stiff legs, could head the bow up stream against the swift current and pull himself and the load

across. A Cree half-breed did this canoeing as dexterously from the first as if he had spent his life on the river. Horses, mules and oxen were then pushed into the stream, one by one, their lariats tied around their noses, and held by another person in the boat, so as to guide them at once to the only place where they could get ashore. Finally, the empty carts and wagons were floated across and pulled up the bank by a rope around the axle. Crossing other streams where the current was not swift enough to overturn the carts, and the water only deep enough to flow over the boxes, we cut sapplings, made a floor on top of the frames, lifted the goods top of that and crossed without unharnessing a mule. The conclusion of all which is, that people on railroad cars don't realize what they have to be thankful for.

"This valley of the Sauk up which we were traveling is one of the garden spots of Minnesota. The new settlers of the last two or three years have many of them taken that direction. Claim-stakes and claim-shanties speck the road from one end to the other. Some of the claim-shanties were built in good faith, had been lived in, and land was tilled around them. Not a few, however, were of the other sort, built to keep the letter of the law; four walls merely, no windows, doors or roof. We often found it convenient to camp near these edifices, and saved ourselves the trouble of going half a mile for wood when we found it cut so near at hand.

"A terrific thunder-storm came on one afternoon in this Sauk valley to which the average thunder-storms of latitude  $40^{\circ} 42'$ , longitude  $74^{\circ} 41'$ , are two-penny and theatrical. We were drenched, of course, with the lowest cloudful, in a moment; but the thunder was so near, prolonged and hurtling, that it was enough to make a brave man shiver to remember that his trousers had a steel buckle. All day and night the tempest continued, rain pouring, lightning flashing round the whole circuit of the heavens, and the thunder unintermitted. But the next morning rose as clear-skied as if the preceding had been a June day or old tradition, and not written down in the calendar of the battle-month as the anniversary of Montebello.

#### THE APPROACH TO ALEXANDRIA.

"Our last day's travel in sylvan Sauk valley took us to Osakis Lake. Here we camped for Sunday, in an opening in a fine forest which surrounded the lake. Sunday was a perfect day. With patient sight one might trace here and there the graceful scarf-like shadowy white of the highest and rarest clouds against the pure blue. No lower or coarser forms were visible anywhere from horizon to horizon, and even these would sweep into

such evanescent folds, and ripple away into such ethereal faintness, that the eye passed them and looked through the blue ether itself. To breathe the pure air was indeed an inspiration. The wind came fresh and clear over the lake. There it lies, surrounded by forests on every side, with only here and there vistas of open prairie. From the level of the roots of the nearest trees, and from the shadows of the rest among their huge trunks, the shining beach slopes down, its white sand the floor where the waves endlessly run up, visible far out and then fused with the surface blue. I gave myself a baptism in this beautiful cold lake, and then finding an old gnarled oak whose spreading limbs made a comfortable couch overlooking the water, whiled the still hours away till the shadows of the distant trees lengthened over the lake and touched the hither shore. Osakis lake is twelve miles long and two or three wide; its waters are quite cold and abound with the largest and finest kind of fresh-water fish—wall-eyed pike, bass, perch and other. The Doctor, our one skillful fisherman, brought in a boat-load, caught in an hour or two's drifting. The rest of the camp spent the day in reading, writing, sewing, fishing, washing, cooking and mending wagons.

"Ten or twelve miles over the very worst road yet, brought us to a place which, when it gets to be a place, is to be called Alexandria. Half of the distance and more was through woods. Look up, and there was gorgeous sunlight flooding the fresh, young leaves, lighting up old oak trunks, and glorifying the brilliant birch and maple, pigeons flying or alit, robins and thrushes and what other mellow-throated songsters I know not, making the vistas and aisles of shadow alive with sounds; but look down, and your horse was balking at a labyrinth of stumps, where there was no place to put his foot; this extending for ten rods and there terminating in a slough aggravated by the floating debris of a corduroy bridge, and this ending in a mud-hole, the blackness of darkness, with one stump upright to prevent your wading comfortably through it, to transfix your horse or upset your cart.

"The carts and their drivers could not get through by daylight, but were compelled to stay in the woods and fight mosquitoes all night, reaching Alexandria about noon the next day. Joseph and I, on our ponies, 'thridded the somber boskage of the wood' and got to Alexandria before dark. It was slow traveling, but on sure-footed Indian ponies, not very disagreeable. The mosquitoes were our worst torment; we avoided their terebrations by 'taking the veil.' About the middle of the afternoon we caught glimpses through the leaves of a lake at the right of us, and soon came to the short branch road which led to it. Leading our horses down to the water's edge, we

observed a blazed tree just at the margin, and an inscription neatly written on the white wood, with name and date of the company by whom it had been cut.

"Coming out on the beautiful prairie which is the site of Alexandria, we were surprised to see the wagon and tents of Messrs. Burbank and Blakely's first two stage loads, showing that their road-makers were not far enough ahead for them to follow on. Is it possible that I have forgotten to tell the romance of that stage load? Two Scotch girls, sisters, journeying without any protection save their good looks and good sense, from Scotland to Lake Athabasca, where one of them was to redeem her plighted faith and marry a Hudson Bay Company's officer. Ocean voyage alone, two or three thousand miles travel through a strange country to St. Paul alone, then this journey by stage to Ft. Abercrombie, camping out and cooking their own food, and voyaging down Red river in a batteau, near a thousand miles more, and fired at by Red Lake Indians on the way, then journeying with a company's brigade to Athabasca, going north all the while and winter coming on too, and the mercury traveling down to the bulb; but her courage sinking never a bit. Hold her fast when you get her, Athabaskan! She is a heroine, and should be the mother of heroes. And the brave bridesmaid sister! Where are the 'chivalry?' Letters take about a year to get to Athabasca, gentlemen.

"Three English sportsmen and their guns, tents and dogs filled another stage. They had hunted in Canada and Florida, shot crocodiles in the valley of the Nile, fished for salmon in Norway, and were now on their way to the buffalo plains of Saskatchewan to enjoy the finest sport of all. Purdy rifles, Lancaster rifles, Wesley Richards's shot-guns and Manton's shot-guns, single-barreled and double-barreled: these were their odds against brute strength and cunning. One of them was a baronet, the others Oxford men, and all might have passed a life of ease in London with society, libraries, establishments; but this wild life, with all its discomforts and privations and actual hardships and hard work, had more attractions for them in its freedom, its romance, its adventure. Their stories were of beleagured proctors and bear fights, Hyde Park and deer-stalking, Rotten Row rides and moose hunts. Next year we may hear of them up the Orinoco or in South Africa. Better there than wasting away manliness in 'society' or the 'hells,' or in bribing electors; but is there not something else in all England worth living and working for? One of the three was a splendid rifle-shot. With my Maynard rifle, breech-loading and weighing only six pounds, unlike anything he had ever handled, he plumped a sardine-box at distances of 100, 150, 200

and 300 yards, and hit the small tree, in the cleft of which it was fastened, almost every time in twenty.

#### HOSPITALITY OF THE WILDERNESS.

"Our tented field was a fair beginning for a town. In fact, we far outnumbered the actual population of Alexandria. Joseph and I were glad enough to be permitted to enjoy more than municipal privileges under the roof of Judge G—— (P. L. Gregory). If pioneers were all of the kind that have founded Alexandria, civilization and refinement would travel west as fast as settlement, instead of being about a decade behind. The house was built of hewn logs, of course; but inside grace and beauty struggled with the roughness of such raw materials and came off victorious, and yet nothing was out of place. There was an air about the main room that made you remember that the grandest queen walked on rush-strewn floors not half so fine as these spotless planks—and what wall-paper had such delicate hues as the peeled bark revealed on the timber beneath?—and there was a woman's trick in the fall of the window curtains and the hanging of the net over the spotless counterpane in the corner, and the disposition of things on the bureau, crowned by its vaseful of beautiful prairie flowers. Here we enjoy such dinner-table chat and such long evening talks, W. and L., with Judge G—— and his wife, as made us wish we had known them in London Terrace ten years ago, though we could regret the absence of none of the luxuries which they were daily proving a well-ordered life could be lived without.

"Alexandria is environed by beautiful lakes—lakes which I obstinately refuse to rhapsodize over, simply because there are so many and all deserve it. To a promontory jutting out into one of these I took a seven-mile walk early one drizzly morning, with one of our party, accompanied by a hound, for which he had returned, to follow up the scent of a deer which he said he had shot and badly wounded two hours before. We found the place—the leaves were splashed with blood—gave the dog the scent, and followed his wild running for two or three miles, but saw no deer and walked home in the rain. \* \* \* First day's travel from Alexandria train made two and one-half miles. Best four-wheel wagon had all its spokes crushed out falling into some rut in a wood-road. Next day we got on a dozen miles farther to Chippewa crossing. A party of Chippewas were hunting and fishing in the vicinity. Two dusky boys watched us crossing from their canoe and laughed. I fancy, at white paddling. A shower came up, but

before the shallow lake had put on its goose-flesh to meet the raindrops, their paddles were out, and they skimmed the water, straight as a crow flies, through the rushes to the shelter of the trees which overhung the water, and there the canoe rested motionless again, and they watched us in silence. They had speared a half dozen buffalo fish and a plug of tobacco bought all we wanted for supper. \* \* \* The prairie from Alexandria to Otter Tail river was a very beautiful one, the hills moderately high, but of gentle slopes, their green, grassy sides flecked with wild flowers of a thousand brilliant or quiet hues, and then every mile or two a high swell of land from which we could look over these smaller undulations to the great green wave rising to its height again." And it was thus that this genial but anonymous traveler passed on out of what afterward came to be known as Douglas county on his way to the Pembina country and beyond, leaving a record of his impressions along the way that is invaluable today as a reflection of the country and of the condition of things in the days of the very beginning of a social order hereabout.

#### THE SIMS BROTHERS.

Among the most active of the early residents of Alexandria were the three brothers, Charles F., Lorenzo G. and George C. Sims, uncles of George L. Treat, of that city. The Sims brothers were natives of New York state, but early took up their residence in Minnesota, Charles F. Sims arriving at St. Paul in the spring of 1856. From 1861 to 1863 he was in the drug business at St. Anthony and in 1864 he joined Captain Fisk's expedition of that year bound for Idaho. He later engaged in the milling business at St. Cloud and in 1866 he and his brother joined the last Fisk expedition west, returning to Minnesota in 1868. From 1869 to 1875 Charles F. Sims was in the employ of W. E. Hicks as manager of the latter's mills at Alexandria, and in the fall of 1871 made two trips to Ft. Gary in the interests of the mill. In 1875 he went to California, three years later locating in Minneapolis, and in 1882 moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, returning to Minneapolis in 1905, where he died on May 8, 1910. For a time during his residence in Alexandria he was postmaster of the village, as was also, later, his brother Lorenzo G. Sims, who located in Alexandria in 1867, remaining there engaged in the drug business until his departure about 1881 for Rosco, South Dakota, where he remained in business for about twenty years, at the end of which time he retired and moved to Minneapolis, where

he is now making his home. The third brother, George Sims, located at Alexandria in 1868 and was for some time employed in the old Hicks log store there, presently engaging in business for himself and was thus engaged until he sold out and went to Wisconsin. His death occurred in Chicago, October 22, 1898.

#### OLD PEOPLE'S HOME.

The Old People's Home of the Red River Valley Conference of the Augustana Lutheran church, now being erected near Alexandria, will be when completed one of the finest institutions of its kind in the state. The buildings are being erected on a naturally beautiful and desirable site, on the shore of Lake Winona, just west of the city of Alexandria, on ground donated by C. H. Raiter. They occupy a high rise of ground, commanding a view of a large oak grove, the grounds gently sloping to the lake shore.

The main building, of which the corner-stone was laid during the first week in September, 1916, is fifty-three by eighty-eight feet in dimensions. It has full basement, two floors of rooms and large attic. The main building was ready for occupancy on November 1, 1916, and cost about twenty-five thousand dollars.

#### EARLY DAYS NEAR NELSON.

The following interesting reminiscence was written by C. H. Larson, the Nelson merchant, who has a vivid recollection of pioneer conditions in this neighborhood:

"We arrived in this county by mule-team from St. Cloud in November, 1868, stopping at the farm house of John A. Nelson that first winter. Some time during the winter a bear broke through an out shanty and stole a butchered pig from Mr. Nelson and, by the way, pigs were pigs in those days. In the spring of 1869 my grandmother walked through the wilderness for a week or ten days trying to find some small pigs and she finally found a farmer south of Melrose that had pigs and she persuaded him to sell her two which she carried in a basket and came home after traveling for about ten days. She was a very strong woman and for several summers went with my father out in the harvest fields in English Grove, there being a settlement in that part in the early days. The settlers came in quite a few in the early seventies, homesteaded land in the Crooked Lake country and what we called the Geneva Woods. We moved into our own shanty

in the early fall of 1869 and built a better house a year later made of hewn logs with moss between the logs and birch bark and dirt on the roof. These were the prevailing high-toned dwellings in those days; the poorer trash lived in holes in the ground or huts built of round logs.

"House-keeping was very easy in those days, one room made up for sitting room, dining room, bed room, kitchen and all the other rooms. Furniture consisted of a couple of hewn log benches, same for table, and logs nailed up in a corner for bed. Feed was potatoes, salt bread and butter, burnt bread, coffee and milk, and of course those that could shoot and had a gun could get game all they wanted, but my father had never shot a gun in his life but he finally bought one and I remembered plainly one evening we met a large buck but in place of shooting he stuck the gun in the air and hollered so the buck would not run over us. There was plenty of fish but there was no way of getting them except to get out in the water with a pitchfork and shovel them out, which some of the most enterprising did.

The mode of traveling in the early days was walking through mud and water knee deep in some places and through brush and thrash that was nearly impassable. In 1869 a path was cut through the woods to Alexandria called the Crooked Lake road. This was the outlet from East Bell river, Crooked Lake and the Geneva Woods settlement and connected with the so-called State Road some four miles east of Alexandria. In the winter of 1872 and 1873 railroad work was started and the settlers all wore a grin. This work kept up for about two years and then quit; some of the settlers cut some cord wood and ties and hauled out to the track expecting to sell—but nothing doing. The railroad company was busted. Then on top of all this drawback we had an Indian scare in the year 1876. Everybody expected to get killed; many people flocked into the village and barricaded themselves. We stayed on the farm; my stepfather got the broad-ax into the house and we barricaded the door, so we expected to decapitate at least some redskin before we were willing to give up. But no Indians came.

"When this scare was over the grasshoppers came and practically ate up everything, even the pitchfork handles. We would run over our little field of wheat with a clothes line, one man in each hand, to scare them off or at least keep them from continually eating; we saved some of our crop that way. Some people would dig ditches across the road to keep the small grasshoppers from going from one field to another. When the ditch was full of hoppers hay was put on them and set afire to, burning them up. The government furnished coal tar and many used to run little carts across the field in the spring and capture hoppers in this way.



"Finally, some years later, the railroad was finished and cars came along. The engine toots was sweet music to the settlers. Wood chopping and hauling was the going business in those days and every shack in the woods was full of wood choppers and haulers; prairie farmers coming in from all over the country buying stumpage, put up shacks and spending the winters that way.

"The first minister that I can remember came in here in the spring of 1869, stopping at a farm in Crooked Lake and preaching in several of the homestead shacks around. There was a small Swede paper printed in Chicago that was circulated around in the early days. In this paper the minister I spoke about above wrote about his trip here. He said: 'I stopped at a place in Crooked Lake one night. I got mush in a wooden bowl, milk in a wooden bowl and ate with another wooden bowl and butchered all night.' The bedbugs were very active in the log shacks in those days and the more sensitive people had a hard time to sleep. The Crooked Lake church was built a year or two later. It was quite up-to-date for those times. It was built of hewn logs, had several windows in it and had two iron rods running across the building to keep the logs from bulging out. The benches were hewn planks put on log standards, cut from round legs so they were quite substantial but hard on the back, as the ministers in those days never preached less than four hours at one sitting. Reverend Lundblad, of Parkers Prairie, was the first minister that preached regularly in the Crooked Lake church. The people came to church in their blue overalls and what we called in those days government boots, but they were all happy and contented and I doubt if the people of our day are as satisfied as those settlers of the early day. Most of them walked to church and the better class would drive a team of oxen when the roads were passable.

"The first school in district No. 22 was held in my grandfather's hut, in the summer of 1873. A Mr. Fred Leasure taught the school, having about four scholars when all attended, but mostly only myself, as I am a stickler and attended the three months every day. I learned the A, B, C's and to talk a little English and how to kill snakes successfully. Crushing the head done the business. The next year a log school house was built on the Crooked Lake road, on section 14. The first term we had many teachers, most of them staying only a few days. Mr. C. J. Gunderson was the first successful one we had and even he had to take a layoff for several weeks during the term but was ably substituted with his sister, Mrs. Van Hoesen.

"The Swedish church in Alexandria was organized about 1878 and

we shared the church with the Norwegians for many years, finally buying them out. Reverend Lind was our first minister in Alexandria, having Alexandria, Crooked Lake and Ida congregations, and from then everything has gone merrily on."





GRANT COUNTY COURT HOUSE, ELBOW LAKE.

# GRANT COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

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### CHAPTER I.

#### GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

Grant county lies in western Minnesota, in the second range of counties east from Lakes Traverse and Big Stone. Elbow lake, in the central part, is the county seat. The county is square, measuring four townships, or twenty-four miles, from east to west, and the same from north to south. The area of the county is 578.28 square miles, or 370,099.24 acres, of which about twenty thousand acres are covered by water.

#### SURFACE FEATURES.

The west half of Grant county is included within the basin of the Red River of the North, being drained to Lake Traverse by the Mustinka river and its tributaries. The rest of this county is drained to the Minnesota river, mainly by the Pomme de Terre, which flows very directly from north to south through the east half of the county. The Chippewa river, however, flows nearly parallel with the Pomme de Terre river, and only four or five miles east of it, through the southeast edge of Grant county.

Lakes are numerous in the county excepting in the western portion thereof. They range in size from the smallest, a few rods in diameter, to Pelican lake, which covers approximately six square miles, in the most north-east township of Grant county, to which its name is given. Elk lake and Elbow lake also give their names to the townships in which they occur. Its other most noteworthy lakes are Pomme de Terre lake, through which the river of this name flows, Lightning lake in Stony Brook township, Cormor-

ant lake and Barnett lake in Lien township, and a group of a dozen small lakes within five miles east and southeast from Herman.

Grant county has mostly an undulating or rolling surface, rising in smooth, massive swells ten to thirty or sometimes fifty feet above the hollows and lakes. Seen in a view of wide extent, however, the appearance is that of an approximately level plain. The valleys or channels eroded by these streams are from fifty to seventy-five feet deep, and vary from a quarter to a half of a mile, or rarely, where the Pomme de Terre river flows through lakes, one and a half miles in width.

The northeastern third is more prominently rolling than other parts of the county; and rough morainic knolls and hills border the north side of Pelican lake and extend westward into the northeast corner of Pomme de Terre township. These are the southwest edge of the great morainic tract called the Leaf hills. Within the limits of this county they attain only slight altitudes, fifty to one hundred and fifty feet above Pelican lake and Lake Christina, or about twelve hundred and fifty to thirteen hundred and fifty feet above the sea.

In the western range of townships of Grant county the area that was occupied by the glacial Lake Agassiz, as described in a later part of this chapter, is characterized by a much more smoothed and even surface than the other parts of the district toward the east and south, this being the margin of the very flat, broad expanse which reaches thence west to the Bois des Sioux river and north along the Red River valley to Winnipeg.

#### ELEVATIONS.

The following elevations were taken on the old St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway, from profiles in the office of Col. C. C. Smith, engineer, St. Paul:

#### *Fergus Falls Line.*

	<i>Feet above the sea.</i>
Outlet from Lake Christina to Pelican lake, water, 1,213; grade	1,225
Interlaken -----	1,228
Ashby -----	1,291
Summit near Ashby, cutting ten feet; grade-----	1,294
Pelican creek, water, 1236; grade-----	1,249

*Breckinridge Line.*

Hancock -----	1,155
Summit, cutting only one foot; grade-----	1,172
Pomme de Terre river, water, 1,066; grade-----	1,078
Junction of Brown's Valley branch-----	1,120
Morris -----	1,129
Summit, grade -----	1,156
Donnelly -----	1,124
Herman -----	1,070
Upper beach Lake Agassiz, cut six feet; grade-----	1,060
Norcross, on lower beach of Lake Agassiz-----	1,039
Mustinka creek, water, 1,018; grade-----	1,026

The highest land of Grant county, in Pelican Lake and Erdahl townships, is about thirteen hundred and fifty feet above the sea and its lowest land, on its west boundary, is about ten hundred and ten feet above the sea. Estimates of the average heights of the townships of Grant county are as follows: Pelican Lake, twelve hundred and seventy-five feet; Erdahl, twelve hundred and seventy-five; Elk Lake, twelve hundred and fifty; Land, twelve hundred and twenty-five; Pomme de Terre, twelve hundred and forty; Sanford, twelve hundred and twenty; Lien, eleven hundred and eighty; Roseville, eleven hundred and sixty; Stony Brook, eleven hundred and sixty; Elbow Lake, eleven hundred and forty; Delaware, ten hundred and ninety; Macsville, ten hundred and ninety; Lawrence, ten hundred and fifty; North Otawa, ten hundred and thirty-five, and Logan, ten hundred and fifty. The mean elevation of Grant county, from these figures, is eleven hundred and fifty-five feet.

## SOIL AND TIMBER.

A black loam soil extends everywhere one to four feet deep. This is the enriched upper part of the glacial drift, which below forms the subsoil, having a yellowish color, due to weathering, to a depth of ten to twenty feet, beyond which it has a darker and bluish color. Clay, sand and gravel, with occasional boulders, intermingled in an unstratified manner (clay being the predominant ingredient), constitute the greater part of this formation. With this boulder-clay, till, or hardpan, as it is called, are associated comparatively thin and scanty deposits of stratified gravel and sand, which occur as layers

in the till, or rarely in knolls or swells on its surface, also in flat tracts on the bottom lands of the larger streams, and in beach-ridges on the borders of Lake Agassiz.

The county is wholly prairie, with timber only in small groves besides many of the lakes and in a very narrow belt along portions of the rivers and creeks. Basswood, bur-oak, white and red elm, silver maple, box-elder, wild plum, green ash, hackberry, ironwood, poplar and cottonwood are the principal species of trees.

#### GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

The drift-sheet, consisting chiefly of till, and probably varying from one hundred to two hundred feet in depth, covers the county and wholly conceals the bed-rocks. Beneath the drift are doubtless in many places deposits of Cretaceous age, similar to those outcropping in Brown, Redwood, Lyon and Stearns counties; but under these, or, where they are absent, immediately underlying the drift, Archaen rocks are believed to occupy this whole district, at a depth of a few hundred feet.

A well drilled for the railroad at Herman passed through one hundred and twenty-four feet of till, and then went sixty-five feet in rock. The first seven or eight feet of the rock was the fine-grained, buff, magnesian limestone, boulders of which are common throughout northwestern Minnesota. Professor Winchell thinks it probable that this portion was a compacted mass of boulders. The nearest outcrops of this rock in the direction from which the drift came, are near Winnipeg in Manitoba. The remaining fifty-seven feet were evidently in Archaen rocks, being quartzose granite, with red feldspar; white micaceous quartzite; and mica schist of several varieties.

The glacial drift forming the surface of this county has the same smoothly undulating or rolling contour which characterizes the greater part of the Minnesota basin. Its only portion presenting the rough, irregularly grouped, stony knolls and hills of terminal moraines in northeastern Grant county, including Pelican Lake, some parts of Erdahl and the northeast corner of Pomme de Terre township. These morainic accumulations belong to the time of the eighth or Fergus Falls moraine. The ice-sheet appears to have lain upon this district until its recession from the seventh or Dovre moraine, when it was melted back from Swift and Big Stone counties to Fergus Falls and the Leaf hills in Otter Tail county.

The gravel on the bottom land of the Pomme de Terre river is about



half limestone; and nearly the same proportion holds for the gravel of lake-shores and for that contained in the till. A much less proportion of the large boulders is limestone, perhaps not more than a twentieth generally, and in some localities scarcely a hundredth, the remainder being granite, syenite, gneiss and crystalline schists. But in section 31, Elk Lake township, about a dozen limestone blocks, three to eight feet in size, were seen together one to three rods west of the road, much outnumbering the comparatively small granitic boulders that could be counted on the same space.

The valleys of the Pomme de Terre and Chippewa rivers, fifty to one hundred feet deep along most of their course, and one-fourth mile to one mile or occasionally more in width, were avenues of drainage from the melting ice-fields in their northward retreat. By these glacial floods the Pomme de Terre valley was eroded below its present depth, and the subsequent alluvial deposits brought in by tributaries and washed down from adjoining bluffs by the springs in their ravines, have filled some portions higher than others, so that depressions not thus filled hold the Pomme de Terre and Little Pomme de Terre lakes.

#### LAKE AGASSIZ.

Lake Agassiz, formed in the basin of the Red river by the barrier of the ice-sheet, extended into the northwest part of Eldorado, the most northwest township of Stevens county, and its upper beach continues thence northward through Grant county, lying four to six miles east of the county line. On the area occupied by this glacial lake, the surface is notably smoothed and nearly flat. Its material here is mainly till, in some places showing indistinct marks of stratification due to the leveling action of the lake, but containing sand and gravel and frequent boulders, and much more properly classed as till than as modified drift. No lakes are now found on this part of the area that was covered by Lake Agassiz, but it has occasional sloughs, sometimes a mile or more in extent. Besides the upper or Herman beach of this lake, which is crossed by the Great Northern railway one and one-half miles northwest of Herman, its next lower or Norcross beach is well exhibited through the west range of townships of Grant county, being crossed by this railway at Norcross, five miles northwest of Herman. These beaches consist of gravel and sand, each being a low, flattened ridge, ten to twenty to one hundred rods wide, three to ten feet above the adjoining land on the side away from the lake, and having a descent of ten to twenty feet on the other side.

The outlet of Lake Agassiz flowed in the remarkable channel or valley which now contains Lakes Traverse and Big Stone and the Minnesota river. At the time when the upper beach was formed, its mouth was about eighty feet above the present surface of Lake Traverse, or ten hundred and fifty feet above the sea. The Norcross beach in Grant county is one to three miles west of the upper or Herman beach and about thirty feet lower, showing that the outlet of the lake had eroded its channel considerably during the time between the stages recorded by these beach ridges.

The following notes were taken in connection with the work of mapping these beaches and leveling to determine their elevation:

#### UPPER OR HERMAN BEACH.

The beach ridge is well displayed in the northwest quarter of section 19, Eldorado township, in Stevens county, having an elevation of about ten hundred and sixty-three feet above the sea. Its height is seven to ten feet above the land next west, and five feet above the depression next east. The surface on each side is till, slowly falling westward and rising eastward.

Beach in the northwest part of section 27, Logan township, having an elevation of ten hundred and sixty-seven to ten hundred and sixty-nine feet; in the southwest quarter of section 22, ten hundred and sixty-seven; in the north part of this section 22, and the south part of section 15, Logan township, forming a broad, smoothly rounded gravel-ridge, ten hundred and sixty-eight to ten hundred and seventy-one.

Beach near the middle of section 15, Logan township, about thirty rods wide, with a broad nearly flat top, ten hundred and seventy; having a descent of about fifteen feet on its northwest side to the area of Lake Agassiz, and half as much on the southeast, thence rising very gradually in the one and one-half miles eastward to Herman. This ridge is gravel; the land at each side, till.

Beach equally well exhibited, at the southeast corner of section 10, and in the southwest part of section 11, Logan township, ten hundred and sixty-nine to ten hundred and seventy-one; and in this section 11, at the railroad, and for fifty rods southwestward, ten hundred and sixty-four to ten hundred and sixty-six. In the cut through this beach-ridge for the railroad, its material is sand and gravel, containing pebbles up to two or three inches in diameter, half or two-thirds being limestone.

Depression forty rods wide next southeast at the railroad, lowest twenty

rods from the top of the beach, ten hundred and sixty to ten hundred and sixty-three.

Surface of till at the southeastern snow fences of the railroad, about a third of a mile southeast from the beach, ten hundred and seventy-three; at the northwest end of the northwestern snow fences, about twenty-five rods northwest from the highest part of the beach, ten hundred and fifty-four; and at the one hundred and eightieth mile-post, about a quarter of a mile northwest of the last, ten hundred and forty-nine.

Railroad track at Herman, ten hundred and seventy; at the one hundred and eightieth mile-post, ten hundred and fifty-one.

In the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 18, Delaware township, ten hundred and sixty-seven; beach here, ten hundred and sixty-six to ten hundred and sixty-seven.

On the east side of the southeast quarter of section 12, Gorton township, on the western slope of the beach, ten hundred and sixty-two; top of beach-ridge, ten hundred and sixty-seven. Beach through the next one and a half miles north, along the west side of sections 18 and 7, Delaware township, ten hundred and sixty-six to ten hundred and sixty-eight. The beach for this distance is conspicuously developed, having a width of about twenty-five rods, rising five to eight feet above the depression at its east side and ten to fifteen feet above the land west.

In the southwest quarter of section 6, Delaware township, of same height with the top of the beach-ridge, ten hundred and sixty-eight.

Beach in section 31, Elbow Lake township, not so conspicuous as usual, ten hundred and sixty-six; in or near the southwest quarter of section 19, this township, ten hundred and seventy; in the southwest quarter of section 18, a gracefully rounded, low ridge, as elsewhere, composed of gravel and sand, including pebbles up to three inches in diameter, ten hundred and sixty-five to ten hundred and sixty-six; in the northwest quarter of this section 18, ten hundred and seventy; in the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 2, North Ottawa township, ten hundred and seventy-one; about one mile north of east, near the north side of section 35, Lawrence township, ten hundred and seventy-five; and about one mile farther north, also ten hundred and seventy-five.

Beach in the northeast quarter of section 26, Lawrence township, ten hundred and seventy-five feet, being four feet above the land adjoining this ridge on the east, and about ten feet above the flat land near on the west; in section 23, Lawrence township, ten hundred and seventy-six; and near the

south side of section 10, ten hundred and sixty-nine to ten hundred and seventy-four.

Extensive sloughs of marshes occur in section 36, and in sections 25 and 24, Lawrence township, each being about a mile long, lying on the east side of the beach-ridge and reaching two and one-half miles northward; the elevation of these above sea-level is about ten hundred and sixty feet.

In the north part of section 10, and the south part of section 3, Lawrence township, the shore line of Lake Agassiz is not marked, as usual, by a gravel ridge, but by a somewhat abrupt ascent or terrace, the top of which, composed partly of gravel, is ten hundred and eighty-five to ten hundred and seventy-nine; base of this terrace-land westward, consisting of till slightly modified on the area of Lake Agassiz, ten hundred and sixty to ten hundred and fifty. This escarpment, the eroded shore-line of the glacial lake, passes at the north side of section 10, Lawrence township.

Beach in section 34, Western township, the most southwest township of Otter Tail county, ten hundred and seventy to ten hundred and seventy-five.

#### NORCROSS BEACH.

At Norcross depot this beach has the same elevation as the railroad track, ten hundred and thirty-nine feet above the sea. There is a depression three feet lower on the southeast, and the surface ten to fifteen rods northwest from the top of this beach, on the side where the lake was, is ten hundred and thirty-two to ten hundred and thirty-four. Thence a very smooth plain descends to Gorton, Campbell, and the Red river at Breckinridge. About fifty rods northeast from Norcross depot, the beach attains its greatest height in this vicinity, ten hundred and forty-three feet. It is a rounded, low ridge of sand and gravel, lying on an area of till, having the same characters as the upper beach at the numerous places that has been described. The course of the Norcross beach has been mapped, but its elevation has not been exactly determined at other points in this county. In Western township, Otter Tail county, its elevation is approximately ten hundred and forty-five feet.

#### BUILDING STONE.

As there are no outcrops of rock, the boulders of the drift are considerably used for rough masonry. They are frequent throughout much of the district, but are comparatively scarce on the more smooth and flat areas.

## LIME.

Magnesian limestone boulders have been burned for lime in the southwest part of Pelican township, and also in the north part of this same township, as well as in the northwest part of Erdahl on the southeast side of Pomme de Terre lake.

## BRICKS.

The first brick-making in the county was begun in 1881. The clay used is till, excavated to a depth of five or six feet, containing gravel, a large part of which is limestone, so that nearly every brick is more or less cracked by the slacking of particles of lime. Some sand, hauled from the Pomme de Terre river, is mixed with this clay for tempering. The bricks are mostly cream-colored, but have a notably greenish tint when they are subjected to the greatest heat, and a light pinkish color close to the outside of the kiln, where the heat is least.

## ABORIGINAL EARTHWORKS.

An artificial mound of the usual dome-like form, forty feet across and six feet high, lies in section 12, Lien township, about thirty rods east of the road and a half a mile southwest from Little Pomme de Terre lake, which is about seventy-five feet lower.

Another mound, about five feet high, is located one-half mile northwest from the old Moose Island tank, on land some twenty feet above a little lake close east. This is four miles southeast from Herman.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE INDIAN OUTBREAK AND THE STOCKADE.

The principal scenes of the Sioux Indian outbreak of 1862 occurred some hundred miles to the south, but no introduction to the history of Grant county would be complete, or furnish a proper understanding of conditions just prior to the advent of white settlers in this region, which did not recite the main events of that fateful summer which ended forever the occupation of this county by the native red men. Not until this outburst of savage fury had been subdued and the hostile Indians driven from the state, was it safe for settlers to locate this far from supply stations and military protection.

In the campaign which followed the outbreak, outposts of soldiers were stationed in the area which subsequently became Grant county, and several expeditions of troops traversed this region, going or returning from the engagements farther west. A number of the men who a little later were among the early settlers of this county, passed through here during the Indian warfare, and secured such a favorable impression of the country that they made plans to return.

#### CAUSES OF THE OUTBREAK.

There is a great difference of opinion as to the primary cause of the Sioux Indian outbreak in Minnesota in the summer of 1862. However, it is certain that the white traders and the government agents were not entirely guiltless in bringing about this formidable uprising. Under the terms of the treaties of 1851 and 1858 the Indians were paid a certain amount of money each year in exchange for the land they had ceded to the whites. This payment was usually made in June, in gold and silver coin, and amounted to about thirty dollars to each Indian of the various Sioux bands. It had become an established custom for the white traders to be present at the payment and present bills against the Indians which often equalled and sometimes exceeded the amount to be drawn from the government. Soldiers were on hand to enforce the collection of these bills and this greatly incensed the Indians.

Another cause for dissatisfaction was the edict of the government that the Sioux should not make war on the Chippewas, who had recently killed several of their number. In May, 1862, a band of Sioux under Red Iron were hunting on the upper Pomme de Terre river, within the borders of this county, when they were attacked by the Chippewas, and lost two men.

The Indians assembled at the Yellow Medicine Agency about the usual time in 1862, to receive their annuity. The payment was delayed, and after waiting until their provisions were exhausted the Indians returned to their camps. This increased the unrest among the Sioux and the more headstrong warriors began to urge an uprising against the whites to regain the land they had parted with. The Civil War was then in progress and it seemed an opportune time for an organized attack. An accident caused the smouldering resentment to burst into flame.

#### THE FIRST BLOOD SHED.

During the second week in August, 1862, a party of young Indians who were hunting in Meeker county got to bantering each other as to which were the braver, finally each vowing that to show their courage they would kill a white man. They proceeded to the house of Robinson Jones, near Acton, and after making a show of friendship, shot and killed five people. Securing horses in that neighborhood they mounted and rode to the camp of their band near the Redwood Agency. A council was called and after various chiefs had been visited and informed of the happening, it was decided to make war on the whites rather than surrender their comrades who had killed the settlers.

The next day, August 18, 1862, the Indians attacked the Redwood Agency, killing many white men and capturing the women and children. A few escaped and carried the news of the uprising to Ft. Ridgely, which was the nearest garrison of government troops, fourteen miles away. The Indians divided into small bands and that same day killed many settlers on both sides of the Minnesota river, burned their houses and ran off their stock.

#### AMBUSCADE AT REDWOOD FERRY.

Capt. John S. Marsh, in command of Company B, Fifth Minnesota Regiment, stationed at Ft. Ridgely, upon receipt of the news of the massacre at Redwood Agency, deeming it merely a local trouble, set out with a party of about fifty men to quell the disturbance at the Agency. He had no idea

of the extent of the uprising and was confident that he could overcome any opposition he might meet. While this command was preparing to cross the river by ferry just below the Agency, they were attacked by Indians in ambush along the river and Captain Marsh and twenty-five soldiers were killed. This victory encouraged some of the hesitating Indians to join in the uprising.

#### ATTACK ON NEW ULM.

On Tuesday morning, August 19, 1862, about three hundred and twenty warriors under the command of chief Little Crow descended upon the town of New Ulm and laid siege to that place. After several fierce attacks during the succeeding four days the Indians finally withdrew. The loss to the defenders of New Ulm was some thirty-five men killed and more than sixty wounded. Ft. Ridgely was attacked on August 20 and 21, but was able to drive off the savages. A few days later reinforcements arrived under command of Colonel Sibley.

#### BATTLE OF BIRCH COULIE.

The main body of the Indians retreated up the river after their repulse from Ft. Ridgely. On August 31 Colonel Sibley sent a detachment of men to Redwood Agency to bury the bodies of Captain Marsh's men killed at the ferry, and to learn the strength and location of the Indians. While part of this command under Captain Grant were camped at Birch Coulie, on September 1, they were attacked by a large band of Indians who were on their way down the river to make a new assault on New Ulm. The soldiers were not taken altogether by surprise and were able to hold off their assailants until help came to them from Ft. Ridgely.

After the battle of Birch Coulie, Colonel Sibley organized a strong force and proceeded up the south bank of the Minnesota river after the retreating Indians.

#### BATTLE OF WOOD LAKE.

On the evening of September 22 Colonel Sibley's column of about two thousand men went into camp a short distance northeast of Wood Lake, in the eastern part of Yellow Medicine county. Early the next morning the camp was attacked by the Indians, who were driven off after many of their number had been killed. The loss to the whites was seven men killed and thirty-four wounded. This battle ended all organized effort on the part of



the Indians, who retreated to their camps up the river, opposite the point where the Chippewa flows into the Minnesota river. There they dug rifle pits and were ready to make a determined resistance, but when the soldiers under Colonel Sibley came up the Indians saw they were greatly outnumbered and surrendered, at the same time giving up ninety-one white prisoners, mostly women and children. In commemoration of this event the spot was named Camp Release and is now marked by a fine monument.

While this campaign against the organized bands of Indians was in progress, many outrages were perpetrated on settlers all over western Minnesota, by raiding Indians in small parties. A few days before the surrender at Camp Release, chief Little Crow with over one hundred warriors, fled into North Dakota. Later Little Crow returned to this state and was shot and killed by a settler near Hutchinson, McLeod county. Of the Indians who surrendered to Colonel Sibley, three hundred and three were condemned to death, but owing to appeals for clemency from eastern people, President Lincoln commuted the death sentences of two hundred and sixty-four to imprisonment. Thirty-eight were hanged on one scaffold at Mankato, on December 26, 1862. One of the condemned Indians proved an alibi at the last moment.

Thus ended the Sioux outbreak of 1862—the most terrible massacre the country has ever known. It is stated by R. I. Holcombe, in "Minnesota in Three Centuries," from which book many of the facts in the foregoing account are taken, that more white people perished in that savage slaughter than in all the other massacres ever perpetrated on the North American continent.

#### EVENTS IN GRANT COUNTY DURING THE OUTBREAK.

In 1859 a road was built by the government from St. Cloud to Ft. Abercrombie, near the present site of Breckenridge, Wilkin county. This road entered Grant county on section 36, Pelican Lake township, and crossed the northeastern corner of the county. This road was for some years the main line of travel for soldiers on their way to the frontier forts in the Red river valley, and was also used for stage coach traffic and ox-teams hauling supplies to the upper garrisons. In 1862, as soon as the serious nature of the Indian uprising was appreciated by the authorities, the Eighth Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, then being organized at Ft. Snelling, was hurried to the more exposed points on the frontier. The companies were widely scattered and one of them, Company D, was assigned to a position

along the old stage road on what is now section 18, in Pelican Lake township, Grant county.

#### THE OLD STOCKADE.

Company D, Eighth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, was commanded by Capt. Samuel McLarty, with Dennis Jacobs, first lieutenant, and Thomas Harris, second lieutenant. The company reached Pelican Lake township in September, 1862, and in a skirmish with a small band of marauding Sioux two soldiers were killed, Corporal Zenas Blackman and Private Comfort B. Luddington. The soldiers then erected a stockade and remained there until May, 1864, when the regiment was assembled at Ft. Ridgely, to become a part of the expedition under General Sully in his campaign through the "bad lands."

The stockade was built on the southeast quarter of section 18, Pelican Lake township, on the north side of the road where it passes between two small lakes, which would serve as natural defenses on the south and the north. There was quite a steep bluff leading down to the lake. The walls of the stockade were made from logs, ten or twelve inches in diameter, set close together in a trench and nailed securely to one another. They were about twelve feet high and enclosed an area some eight rods wide and twelve rods long. Two gates, one on the east side and the other on the south, afforded entrance to the enclosure. In the northwest corner of the stockade there was a two-story block house, with only one door leading from the yard. The second story of the block house was built over the first at an angle so that the sides of the building really faced in eight directions. Both stories were provided with loopholes for rifle firing. Four long low log barracks were built for soldiers' quarters and stables, and a story and a half house for the officers. There was a well back of the officers' quarters.

A garrison was maintained at this point until 1865, when the buildings and ground were purchased from the government by Carpenter & Burbank, owners of the stage line from St. Cloud to Ft. Abercrombie, who placed Edward Buckmaster, an old stage driver, in charge of the station. Meager provision was made for the entertainment of travelers. Samuel Snow had a small sutler's store at the stockade while the soldiers were still there, and about 1868 he was succeeded by N. Q. Puntches, who increased the stock of goods and later moved over to the village of Pomme de Terre nearby. While at the stockade he used one of the old buildings for a store room. In 1872 David Burns traded land at Sauk Center for the farm on which the post stood and lived there until he died in 1879. The old stockade fence was

used for fuel and the buildings were put to general farm purposes, disappearing gradually as they outlived their usefulness.

#### EXPEDITIONS THROUGH GRANT COUNTY.

After the Indians were defeated in the Minnesota valley those who fled from the state gathered at Devils Lake, North Dakota, where they were re-enforced by large bodies of Sioux from that neighborhood. An expedition was organized against these Indians, under command of General Sibley, who had been promoted after the battle of Wood Lake. This column ascended the Minnesota valley, proceeded to Devils Lake, and thence to the Missouri river, where pursuit of the savages was abandoned. On the return trip the command marched to Ft. Abercrombie, and then over the old stage road through Grant county to St. Cloud. Ole E. Lien, Ole Larson Sunvold and Jens Peterson Lee were members of this expedition, and later became settlers in this county, having obtained their first personal knowledge of this country while on their way through here in the fall of 1863.

Another expedition against the Indians in 1863 was known as Hatch's Independent Battalion of Cavalry. Three companies were mustered into service in September, 1863, and in October marched through Grant county to the Red river valley and went down the river to Pembina. In connection with the British authorities they captured a number of prisoners. These companies were on duty at different frontier posts during 1864, and returned to Ft. Snelling in small detachments. One of the members of this command who a little later became the first settler in Grant county, was Henry F. Sanford, one of the leading figures in the organization of this commonwealth.

## CHAPTER III.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Aside from the soldiers and stage company employees who lived at the stockade in Pelican Lake township, the first white resident in Grant county was Edward Griffin, who squatted on land in what is now Stony Brook township, in 1866. He was a trapper and trader. He constructed a rude cabin, planted a small patch of vegetables and later in the season harvested a crop of hay. Mr. Griffin had a small stock of provisions and goods which he traded to the Indians and half-breeds for furs, and as the white settlers began to come in he increased his stock until he had a nice little store. He was essentially a trapper, however, and in 1871 left these parts for a location more remote. His shanty was located near the big Skimmemoen grove in the northern part of the township.

#### SOME OF THE FIRST SETTLERS.

The first permanent settler in Grant county was Henry F. Sanford. Mr. Sanford made his initial visit to Grant county in 1863 as a member of Hatch's Battalion, stopped for a time at the stockade, then moved on with the troops to the Red river valley. In 1864 the company returned to the stockade, where Mr. Sanford was stationed until 1866, when he was honorably discharged from the service. In the meantime he had thoroughly explored this region and had determined to locate here. He located on section 17, township 129, range 42, just south of the present site of Elbow Lake village. He made a homestead filing on this land in 1868. Mr. Sanford erected a small cabin which was the first house built in Grant county. He cultivated a little garden in which he raised sufficient vegetables to supply his personal wants and also enough to entertain other hunters, trappers and land seekers who happened his way. For the first few years, however, most of his time was spent in hunting and trapping, as fur gathering in those days was more profitable than tilling the soil.

Following Mr. Sanford, Ole Gudmunson was possibly the next actual settler. He took up land in what is now Elk Lake township, in 1867, and

was the first settler in the county to break a large area of prairie land for crops.

Next in order were Timothy Heald, Joseph Pennock and Frank Smith who located here in 1868. Mr. Heald had made a prospecting trip through this region the previous year and selected a location on section 24, Pomme de Terre township, as he had hopes of establishing a town in that neighborhood, there being water power nearby and a railroad had been surveyed through there. Mr. Pennock located on section 18, across the line in Pelican Lake township, and developed a farm there.

Many new settlers came in 1868 and from that year the development of the county really begun. K. N. Melby located in Pelican Lake township that same year, and Ole E. Lien located in Lien township, he being the pioneer for whom the township was named. In 1871 S. S. Frogner located in Logan township, the first settler in that portion of the county. In 1869 Iver G. Holt and L. L. Tobiason located in Pelican Lake township; Ole Larson Sunvold in Pomme de Terre; Jens Peterson Lee in Sanford, and Halvor Anderson in Elk Lake. In 1870 O. W. Olson, Ole T. Ring, Even Bjerke, Ole Torstenson and Peter Gran settled in Elk Lake township. In that same year John K. Lee and Ole K. Lee were among those who settled in Lien township.

The year 1871 saw a considerable settlement made in Elbow Lake township and also in Stony Brook. In the former township J. N. Sanford and Ole O. Canestorp were among the first to locate, and in Stony Brook Steiner S. Skinnemoen and H. G. Lillemon were among the first settlers.

In 1872 accessions were made to all these settlements and farms were taken up in practically every part of the county except on the "flats" in the western border. The following year when the county was established and organized there were approximately eight hundred people in the county.

#### PIONEER CONDITIONS.

The experience of the pioneers in establishing homes in this virgin land varied only according to their means and equipment at the start, and the accessibility to timber for fuel and building purposes. As a general thing they came in covered wagons drawn by teams or oxen, and lived in the wagons until they could construct a rude cabin, which was soon displaced by a comfortable house. Where timber was not to be had, a dug-out was constructed and served as an admirable shelter. Those who had an equipment of farming tools went to work at once to cultivate their land,

but they were in the minority, as most of the early settlers had very little. The country abounded with game and many of the pioneers secured a large part of their living by hunting and fishing. There was a ready market for all kinds of pelts. Some of the early settlers used their teams and oxen to haul freight between government posts and thus secured money to purchase farm equipment. Barring accident, the first few years were the hardest, but after a garden was started and markets were near enough to receive the crops, it was not long until the rich soil began to return a sufficient harvest to supply all necessary improvements for home and farm.

Before the first railroad entered Grant county, in 1871, the long trip necessary to mill and market was one of the chief difficulties of the settlers, and even this first railroad did not entirely solve the problem for those in the northern part of the county. Some of the first crops were hauled to Morris, Alexandria and even to Perham.

#### SETTLEMENT BY TOWNSHIPS.

Henry F. Sanford and two other bachelors were the only settlers in Sanford township in the early part of 1869. They lived principally by hunting and fishing, doing little farming until they were married a few years later. Many stories are told of Mr. Sanford's skill as a hunter. It is said that he usually had his granary decorated each winter with a long string of wild geese hung under the eaves, where they would keep during the cold weather and could be used as needed. Prairie chicken were so plentiful they could be shot from his dooryard.

From the very beginning of settlement in this county Mr. Sanford took a leading part in public affairs. He was a member of the first board of county commissioners, later was county auditor and was postmaster of Elbow Lake village for many years. While Sanford township was one of the first to be settled it was one of the last to be organized, being attached to other townships for election and assessment purposes until 1882. When the petition for organization was circulated that year the name was left blank and the commissioners unanimously decided to name the new township "Sanford," in honor of the man who had devoted so much of his life to this county. Mr. Sanford was killed in an accident in New Mexico in 1914.

Ole Fletcher and John Olson settled in Sanford township in 1869. They were hunting companions of Mr. Sanford, and it was in the cabin of Ole Fletcher that the first school was held in the township. In 1869 Jens

Peterson Lee, with his wife and four-month-old daughter, settled in Sanford township. For almost two years Mrs. Lee was the only white woman in the neighborhood. Mr. Lee had passed through Grant county with the Sibley expedition and in the winter of 1867 made a trip to this locality from Brandon on snow shoes. He arrived at the site of the village of Elbow Lake just at dusk in the winter evening and came suddenly upon an Indian camp. A number of dogs rushed towards him, but he was able to drive them off, after which the Chippewas invited him to share their supper of roast muskrat. It developed later that these Indians had cut down a number of trees in the grove which was owned by George McComber, a timber speculator, and built some sixteen rude huts near the east side of the lake. For thus despoiling the timber they were taken to Alexandria and fined a considerable amount, which they paid in furs..

When Mr. Lee came with his family to settle in 1869 they lived for the first year in one of the Indian shacks, then located on land west of the lake on section 7. In 1870 Chris Mobraaten located in Sanford township, and that same year Ole Syverson and wife came in. Knud O. Laastuen settled on section 8, in 1873. C. S. Dahl, Ollof Otteson, Gunder Hanson and Henry Gunderson were among the settlers of an early day in Sanford township.

These settlers marketed their first crops at Morris, then Herman, and later hauled to Ashby. When the railroad was being built the construction gangs created a considerable market and several loads of potatoes were hauled to Tintah and sold. Flour was purchased by the early settlers of Sanford township until mills were established within driving distance.

#### POMME DE TERRE TOWNSHIP.

Timothy Heald laid out a town-site on his claim in section 24, and named it "Pomme de Terre." The township later was given the same name. Other early settlers in this township were: C. W. Briggs, who located on section 13 in 1870; Ole Sornson, on section 13 in 1871; Nels B. Brakke, on section 1 in 1871; George W. Vaughan and his son, John S. Vaughan, on section 12 in 1870; Oliver Williams, on section 23 in 1872; Thomas E. Midbon and Halvor O. Midbon, on section 24 in 1872; John Scott, Jens Adriansen and Ole Johnson Lene, all came at an early day. Another well known early settler was J. E. Rolfsen, who located on section 1 in 1875.

N. Q. Puntches moved his general merchandise stock from the old stockade over to the village of Pomme de Terre in 1871 and erected a two-

story frame building, twenty-six by fifty feet in dimensions. In 1874 August Scheafer and Fred Williams built a grist-mill on the Pomme de Terre river, near the village, where they had made a mill-race which developed seven head of water power. In 1875 Lage Johnson and his son-in-law, H. A. Langlie, built a store across the street from Puntches' establishment. The village seemed to be getting a good start, but the railroad did not come through there, and the early hopes of its founders were never realized. At one time, however, the village could boast of two stores, two blacksmith shops, a grist-mill, elevator, hotel and saloon.

#### PELICAN LAKE TOWNSHIP.

The settlement of Pelican Lake township was closely interwoven with the development just mentioned in Pomme de Terre, a number of the early claims being taken across the line from the village. There was also an early settlement made in the north part of the township, by people who had friends north of there in Otter Tail county. Among these were Iver G. Holt and Andrew J. Holt, who settled on section 2 in 1870; Peter Sorkness and John Stene, on section 2 in 1871; Thomas Gulickson and Gunder Gulickson, on section 1 in 1872; John Houston, on section 3 in 1870; John Newman and Abner Newman, on section 5 in 1870; L. M. Phinney, Charles Phinney and Jacob Halseth, on section 4 in 1872; Martin Jacobson, on section 3, and Gunder Gunderson and Hans Kjørven, all came at an early day.

Ole Larson Sunvold settled on section 29, being one of the first in the southern part of the township. R. Beardsley, one of the most prominent early settlers, long a justice of the peace and still living at Ashby, came into the township in 1869. Ole P. Settra, who came in about the same time, is said to have built the first house in the township, on Pelican Heights, north of the lake.

Settlers in Pelican Lake got their flour at Alexandria until the mill was built at Pomme de Terre. This township was a noted region for game in the early days, all kinds of ducks, geese, cranes, grouse and deer and bear being plentiful.

#### ELBOW LAKE TOWNSHIP.

J. N. Sanford came to Elbow Lake township in April, 1871, and took up a homestead on section 24. In May of that same year H. P. Hansen, Tiedeman H. Burtness, Erick Norgaard and Andrew Norgaard all located



here. Anders O. Pikop, who located here in 1872, became one of the large landowners of the township. Christopher Mobraaten, Lars Mohagen, H. I. Haugen, Andrew Olson, Erick Olson, Knut Syverson and Christopher Torgerson, all located here in 1871.

The first church service in Elbow Lake township was held at the house of Christopher Mobraaten in the summer of 1871, by Rev. L. Carlson, of the Synod Lutheran church. The first school was taught by Emma Gould, starting on May 10, 1875. The nearest early mill to this settlement was at Alexandria. Most of the early crops were hauled to Herman, but the nearest early store was at Pomme de Terre. J. N. Sanford, who was one of the organizers of the township and served as chairman of the first board of supervisors, was also rural postmaster for the neighborhood in the early days. The first death in the township was that of John Robinson, a settler who perished in the terrible snowstorm which raged for three days on January 6, 7 and 8, 1873.

#### ELK LAKE TOWNSHIP.

A strong settlement sprung up in Elk Lake township at an early day. Among those who came before 1872 were: Ole Gudmunson, Halvor Anderson, William Olson, Ole Torstenson, Jens Sethney, Sam Olson, Bernt Swenson, Tore Olson, Ole T. Ring, Iver Johnson, Kittel Johnson, Ole Anderson, Peder Gran, A. Benson, O. W. Olson, A. Hubred, Syver Ellingson and Even E. Bjerke. Ole Ostenson and Hans Ostenson were also early settlers. The first school house in the county was built in this township in the winter of 1872-73. Rev. Louis Carlson held religious services in this township also at an early day.

One of the first roads in the county was built through Elk Lake township to Herman and connected with a road to Alexandria. These two points were the early marketing places for settlers in this neighborhood. Stillman Meeker built a grist-mill on section 1, which did grinding for the settlers and was known as the "Chippewa Mills."

#### LIEN TOWNSHIP.

Congressional township 128, range 42, was the first to be organized as a civil township. It was named "Lien" for Ole E. Lien, who came in 1868 and took a pre-emption claim and also a homestead. Erland Anderson, Hans Hanson and Lars Larson were among the very early settlers in the township. Per Erlandson located on section 18 at a very early date. Other

early settlers were: Jens O. Strand, Ole D. Bartness, Mons Hesjedal, Martin Larson, H. Eide, Jens H. Gran, John G. Peterson, P. A. Moller, K. O. Bakke, Ole Mostad and A. Holen.

Per Erlandson was for a number of years county surveyor and is now the oldest living pioneer in Lien township. When he came here the country was all raw prairie with the exception of a few straggling thickets by the lakeside, and here he established a home, hauling the siding for his small frame house from Benson by ox-team and making the bricks himself for the foundations and chimney. With the assistance of his wife he dug a well twenty-eight feet in depth, which still serves on the old home place.

P. A. Müller was the first postmaster in Lien township. He carried the mail from Alexandria to Herman and kept the postoffice at his farm on section 22. Later R. J. Beach was postmaster until the office was moved to Barrett, where Ole K. Lee was the first postmaster in 1884. Lien township settled up rapidly in the early years and the homesteads were all taken in 1878.

#### LOGAN TOWNSHIP.

Settlement was made in what is now Logan township in 1871, when S. S. Frogner located there and very soon after his arrival opened a small store for the convenience of the incoming settlers. As the railroad came through that same year it served to encourage settlement in this neighborhood and the next few years witnessed rapid development. The townsite of Herman was laid out and all lines of business necessary to a frontier town were quickly established. Herman became the leading village of the county and remained so until it was definitely decided that it would not have the county seat.

Some of the early settlers of Logan township were: E. A. Ziebarth, P. H. Clague, Lewis T. Breen, Hans Prydz, Andrias Larson, A. C. Earsley, P. A. Lamarche, G. Johnson, Ole Taneru, O. Westin, H. W. Simons, William J. Brown, L. Baker, John Ohlsson, John Galvin, Charles Tancre and C. Pullman.

#### STONY BROOK TOWNSHIP.

Mention has already been made of Edward Griffin, who located for a short time in Stony Brook township and then moved on. In 1870 three brothers came from northeastern Iowa and settled here. They were Hans H., Terrace and Knute Haavig. They sent back word to their friends in Iowa about the fine land here and induced many others from that section

to join them. In 1871 quite a little colony came from Iowa and located in Stony Brook township. Among them were: Steiner S. Skinnemoen, H. G. Lillemon, Martinus Larson, Chris Mobraaten, Tosten K. Dahlen and Peder Gulbranson. In 1872 these settlers with a number of others contributed three or four logs each and built a little cabin in which church services were held. It was also used for a school house. Rev. Torgus Vetleson, who started a number of churches in this neighborhood, was the first pastor. Hans H. Haavig led the singing in the church services and also taught the first school. Children came from long distances to attend this school, staying a few weeks with neighbors and then returning home.

Other early settlers in Stony Brook township were: Knute P. Eidahl, H. Albertson, Nils N. Brevig, Ole Knudtson, Engebret Knudtson, John K. Folken, Anders Kjorven, Hans P. Heijer, Knut Olson, Jens Erickson, Christian Johnson, Kittel A. Sattrra and Reier G. Baasen.

The first house erected in Stony Brook township stands on the farm of John S. Skinnemoen and is being preserved with great care. Mr. Skinnemoen also has an extensive and interesting collection of Indian relics formerly used by the natives in this neighborhood, consisting of arrow-heads, spear-heads, stone hammers and axes.

#### ROSEVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Many names were suggested when Roseville township was about to be organized, but the settlers finally decided upon a name which would remind them of the appearance of the virgin prairie when they located there, beautiful with thousands of wild roses. At the time of organization, in 1878, the township was pretty well settled, and as most of the settlers had come in after the railroad penetrated this section, they did not have quite such a hard task as the pioneers who came a little earlier.

L. H. Patchen was one of the early settlers and had a postoffice at his farm for several years. The nearest mill was Johnson's mill at Morris, but provisions could be secured at Frogner's store at Herman. Among the early settlers were: August Endreson, Henry Boerner, H. J. Bollum, Theodore Shauer, C. W. Gifford, Albert Boerner, Syver Erickson, H. O. Hanson, Carl Anderson, John Brennin, P. F. McCollor, Hans Endreson, Charles Werk, Charles Shauer, John P. Molander, Charles A. Haskins, Ludvik Korner, S. R. Lerum, Ole Halvorson, John H. Kroke, Henry Bundy, Ferd Clark and John Buckman.

## ERDAHL TOWNSHIP.

Settlement was made in Erdahl township at quite an early day, and the pioneer homes were developed in all parts of the township. Perhaps the largest early settlement was along the road which connected Elbow Lake and Evansville. This was the first route established to mill and market for this neighborhood.

Gilbert Gilbertson was one of the first to locate here, and Gilbert Munson and Ole Munson were early settlers. Other pioneers of Erdahl township were: Jacob Olson, Mikkel D. Lien, Knute A. Lien, Ole Nilson, Martin O. Boe, Ole A. Boe, Nils A. Lee, Nils Olsen, Erik Nilson, Peder T. Alvstad, Thore Jensen and H. D. Downen.

## LAND TOWNSHIP.

There was an early trail which later became a road running north from Morris over which many of the pioneers of Land township made their entrance to Grant county. Settlement was made here about the same time as in Elk Lake township to the north, but not so rapidly at first. This township offered many natural advantages or account of the timber and watering places along the Pomme de Terre and Chippewa rivers. A number of pioneers in Land township came from Wisconsin.

Some of the early settlers in Land township were: Erik Olson, Lars O. Studlien, Sven Ausland, Christian Pederson, A. D. Ausland, Anton L. Studlien, John L. Studlien, Hans Helland, Ole Clarquist, G. P. Eklof and Ole Erikson.

## MACSVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Settlement in Macsville township was rapid after the railroad came through in 1871. A nearby trading point was established at Herman and the fine land around the numerous lakes was soon taken up.

Francis McNabb was one of the first settlers and was chairman of the first board of supervisors. John McQuillan, another early settler, was the first township clerk. Other early settlers were: John Gustafson, H. P. Ronell, Hans Christianson, H. H. Schram, J. W. Perry, John Sannom and Gustaf Johnson.

## DELAWARE TOWNSHIP.

One of the first roads built in Grant county connected Herman, Elbow Lake and Pomme de Terre villages, running through Delaware township. Along this road and in the eastern part of the township were the principal early settlements. Mails were carried from Herman over the road to Barrett, with offices at farm houses along the way.

Some of the first settlers in Delaware township were: Thomas C. Hodgson, Jacob Erlandson, Nels Helsene, Hans Channel, A. Selander, James Moses, A. Erlandson, O. Lundberg, John E. Hanson, H. C. Prescott, John Helsene, J. N. Casper, Louis Nelin, John Lundberg, A. J. Cates and J. P. Shoberg.

## LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP.

The first settlers in Lawrence township were J. S. Bean, John Shaw, Horace Shaw and Frank P. Symonds, who came here in 1870 from St. Lawrence county, New York. It was they who gave the township its name in remembrance of their former home. Settlement in this township was somewhat retarded on account of the fact that every other section was railroad land, and also because at first the government was allowing only eighty acres to be taken as a homestead. Frank P. Symonds built a little cabin which was the first house erected in the township. By making what they called a "field" bed, this little cabin often sheltered eight or ten men, sleeping on their blankets and quilts spread on the floor. About the time of the first settlement this region was noted as a great place to hunt prairie chicken, cranes and geese. Many hunters came from New York and other eastern points to enjoy the sport.

M. L. Adams settled here in 1878, when the country was still in a pioneer condition. At that time the farmers were hauling their grain over poorly marked trails to Campbell, Herman and Fergus Falls. Flour was secured at the mill at Parkdale and at the old Red river mill at Fergus Falls. Oxen were used for many years for hauling and farm work.

Other early settlers in Lawrence township were: L. H. Fowler, C. W. Stickney, R. H. Fenner, D. P. Carpenter, William Carpenter, A. Fisher, E. East, S. Fisher, G. H. Adams, J. C. Marple, Joseph Marple, James W. Ash, N. S. Denton, J. C. Titus, F. J. Titus and Theodore Connell.

## GORTON TOWNSHIP.

Gorton township lies mostly in the "flats" which characterize the western portion of Grant county, and on account of lack of natural drainage did not settle up as rapidly as some other townships. The railroad passed through here in 1871, providing a convenient access to market, and a trading point was established at Norcross.

Among the early settlers in Gorton township were: Frank Forstein, Samuel H. Wright, Gullik S. Moen, Abner Crawford, Ellef Ellson, Baak Iverson, Knut Hoginson, E. H. Johnson, Ole O. Hillestad, Kolben Gabrielson, Chris C. Ness, Ole Olson, Ole Lee, Knud Oland, Agrim Baarson and Lars Knudson.

## NORTH OTTAWA TOWNSHIP.

North Ottawa township also lies in the "flats" where only recently artificial drainage has made the naturally rich land fully available for agriculture. Thomas H. Toombs, from Ottawa, Illinois, gave the township its name. He was one of the first settlers and was chairman of the first board of supervisors.

Other early settlers in North Ottawa township were: John Tripp, Nicholas Thies, Peter Schuster, David Tripp, Gustaf Johnson, A. H. Bullis, James M. Tucker, Anders A. Falla, J. S. Ireland, George Allen, John Matchenske, John Schuster, Henry Fay, Gustaf Hanson, Steen Steenson, W. A. Bullis, L. C. Engelson, C. Christianson, Hans Monson, Ole A. Amundson, C. Nielsen Veng and Charles Johnson.

## CHAPTER IV.

### ORGANIZATION OF GRANT COUNTY.

The area comprised in the present limits of Grant county was first formally organized as a separate county on March 8, 1868, when the state Legislature passed an act establishing the county, and ordered that the county seat should be located on the southwest quarter of section 31, township 139, range 42. As this would have placed the county seat in Becker county, near the northeast corner of Sallie lake, it is supposed that an error was made in writing "139" instead of "129," which would have located the county seat in the geographical center of the county. This new sub-division of the state was named "Grant" in honor of Gen. U. S. Grant, who was elected that year to his first term as President of the United States.

Another step in the tentative organization of the county was taken in 1871, when the governor, Horace Austin, appointed three county commissioners, namely: Henry F. Sanford, K. N. Melby and S. S. Frogner.

In 1872, Peter N. Smith and Henry Secor, two lawyers from Otter Tail county, came down and induced the county commissioners to appoint a full set of officers, with Secor as auditor and Smith as county attorney. These officers evidently never held their positions legally, as they left no official record, and their presence here is known only through tradition.

When the fifteenth Legislature assembled in the second week of January, 1873, Timothy Heald and several others went to St. Paul and requested that the Legislature pass a new act for the organization of the county. This was accordingly done, and on February 28, 1873, the Legislature approved "An act to provide for the organization of Grant county," as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota: Section 1. That the county of Grant in this state be and the same is hereby declared to be an organized county, with all the rights, privileges and immunities of other organized counties within this state, and the county seat shall be located by the county commissioners hereafter to be elected as provided in this act.

"Section 2. On the day of the next annual town meeting after the

passage of this act, the legal voters of said county may meet at the several places where the last annual election was held in said county, and after choosing judges of election shall, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon, proceed to vote for three county commissioners, and after canvassing such vote said judges of election shall, within ten days thereafter, make a report of such canvass to the county auditor of Douglas county, to which said Grant county is attached for judicial purposes, who shall issue certificates of election to three having the highest number of votes; which commissioners shall within twenty days thereafter qualify and enter upon their duties, and who shall hold their offices until the next general election and until their successors are elected and qualified.

"Section 3. Immediately upon the qualification of said commissioners they shall proceed to locate the county seat of said county, and appoint qualified persons to fill all the county offices in said county, except clerk of the district court, and also to appoint two justices of the peace and two constables, which persons so appointed and having qualified shall hold their offices until the next annual town meeting, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

"Section 4. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

"Section 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage."

#### FIRST COMMISSIONERS ELECTED.

At an election held in the several election districts in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing act, Henry F. Sanford, K. N. Melby and S. S. Frogner were elected to the board of county commissioners of Grant county. The board held its first meeting on April 12, 1873, and as the minutes of the meeting are given in the records of the county commissioners in such lucid style, set down in the beautiful handwriting of Henry F. Sanford, they are here given in full, as follows:

"Meeting of the board of Grant county, held at the store of N. Q. Puntches, at Pomme de Terre, in said Grant county, April 12, 1873, in pursuance of a notice issued on the 31st day of March, A. D. 1873, notifying the public that on the 12th day of April, 1873, there would be a meeting of said commissioners, for the purpose of locating the county seat and appointing the officers of said county.

"Present all the members, namely: K. N. Melby, S. S. Frogner and



Henry F. Sanford. Henry F. Sanford was duly elected chairman. R. S. Talbot was duly appointed clerk of the board, pro tem.

"The board being duly organized the first business in order being the locating of the county seat: K. N. Melby moved to have the county seat located on the northwest quarter of section 24, township 130, range 42. Motion lost. Moved by S. S. Frogner that the county seat be located on section 8, township 129, range 42. S. S. Frogner and Henry F. Sanford voted in the affirmative; K. N. Melby in the negative. The motion was carried-and the county seat is therefore located on section 8, township 129, range 42, in said county.

"The following named persons were unanimously appointed to fill the county offices set opposite their names: R. S. Talbot, auditor; O. W. Olson, treasurer; N. Q. Puntches, attorney; Ole Larson, register of deeds; E. M. Heald, sheriff; John Ohlsson, surveyor; Ole Thompson, judge of probate; Hans Hanson, coroner; Josiah Smith, superintendent of schools; Ole A. Peterson and John Doherty, justices of the peace; H. P. Hansen and George Johnson, constables.

"The next business in order being the dividing the county into road and assessment districts, it was unanimously resolved that the county should be divided as follows: That each election district, as formerly laid out, in which elections have been held, shall be and are hereby declared to be road and assessment districts. Said districts to be numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4, corresponding to the numbering of such former election districts, and that an assessor and road overseer be appointed for each of said districts. The following named persons were unanimously appointed to fill the offices set opposite their names: District No. 1, J. G. Holt, assessor; Jacob Olson, road overseer. District No. 2, Even E. Bjerke, assessor; Per Erlandson, road overseer. District No. 3, E. A. Ziebarth, assessor; H. Ronell, road overseer. District No. 4, Joseph Smith, assessor; T. Hanson, road overseer.

"It was resolved that the amount of license for selling intoxicating liquors is hereby fixed at thirty dollars per annum, and that all persons dealing in intoxicating liquors in the county are hereby required to apply for a license to sell the same on or before the 1st day of May, next ensuing, under the penalty provided by law for selling such liquors without license.

"A petition was presented from the inhabitants of part of township 130, range 41, asking to have a school district established according to the boundaries mentioned therein. The petition was granted, and sections 4,

5 and 6, and the north half of sections 7, 8 and 9, in township 130, range 41, was set off and established as such school district, to be designated school district No. 1.

"A petition was presented from the inhabitants of election precinct No. 3, asking for the passage of a law restraining cattle from running at large in their election precinct. The following resolution was unanimously passed in relation thereto: That in the third election district or precinct of Grant county no cattle, horses, mules, hogs or sheep shall be allowed to run at large without a competent person to take charge of the same, and the owners of such stock shall be liable for all damages done by such stock to the crops or other property of the inhabitants, or any of them, in said third election precinct.

"R. S. Talbot was sworn in as county auditor."

The board then adjourned to meet at the house of Mr. Sanford, on Saturday, May 3, 1873, to receive the bonds of the appointed county officers and qualify them for office. At that meeting the commissioners accepted the bonds and qualified such officers as presented themselves. John Doherty not having qualified as justice of the peace, John Ohlsson was appointed to fill that office.

On May 24, 1873, the board met at Herman and established school districts Nos. 2 and 3. Mr. Heald having declined to qualify as sheriff, E. A. Ziebarth was appointed to fill that office.

#### COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED.

At a meeting of the board held on September 2, 1873, at the house of Henry F. Sanford, the commissioners proceeded to divide the county into three commissioner districts, as follows: District No. 1 to comprise township 130, of ranges 41, 42, 43 and 44. District No. 2 to comprise township 129, of ranges 41, 42, 43 and 44, and township 128, of range 41. District No. 3 to comprise township 128, of ranges 42, 43 and 44, and township 127, of ranges 41, 42, 43 and 44.

The board then established three new school districts, to be known as districts Nos. 4, 5 and 6. They also designated places for holding elections in the several precincts and appointed judges of election, as follows: No. 1 at Pomme de Terre; George W. Vaughan and Ole Peterson, judges. No. 2 at the house of Mr. Gudmunson, in township 128, range 41; O. W. Olson and Even E. Bjerke, judges. No. 3 at Herman; John Olson and E. A. Ziebarth, judges.

## SECOND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The second board of county commissioners held their first meeting on January 6, 1874, at Herman. The board was composed of George W. Vaughan, Coll McClellan and Louis T. Breen. One dollar was paid to Louis Baker for the use of a room in which to hold the meeting. O. W. Olson, who was acting as superintendent of schools, resigned, and Coll McClellan was appointed in his stead.

On March 2, 1874, the board met at the house of Henry F. Sanford. The following persons were appointed to the respective offices: E. M. Heald, sheriff; John Ohlsson, surveyor; Timothy Heald and K. N. Melby, justices of the peace in district No. 1; Joseph Pennock and John Houston, constables, and Ole Larson, assessor. In district No. 2 Andrew Olson and James Sethny were appointed justices; H. P. Hansen and Gilbert Munson, constables; T. H. Bartnes, assessor; Ole Munson, road overseer. In district No. 3 John Ohlsson and G. W. Frost were appointed justices; Charles Tancre and Erick Olson, constables; John Doherty, assessor; H. P. Ronell, road overseer.

At a meeting of the board held on April 1, 1875, it was resolved that no bills against Grant county should be allowed prior to March 1, 1873.

## FIRST COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

As related in the minutes of the board meeting held on April 12, 1873, Mr. Melby attempted to locate the county seat at Pomme de Terre, then a small trading post in the center of a considerable settlement in the north-eastern part of the county. Mr. Frogner wished to locate it at Herman, but yielded to the argument of Mr. Sanford that it should be located at a more central point. They accordingly voted to establish the county seat on section 8, township 129, range 42, and a part of the homestead of Knud O. Laastuen was secured for the purpose. At that time the village of Elbow Lake was not yet started, and the neighborhood was but sparsely settled. The location of the county seat, however, soon attracted business and professional men to this point and the village was established.

The homestead of Henry F. Sanford was situated just south of the lake on section 17, across from the location of the county seat. After the election held on November 3, 1874, Mr. Sanford's cabin became the office of the auditor and treasurer, the other officers maintaining their places of

business at their respective homes. The need of a suitable building for the county officers was soon realized, and on May 18, 1875, a petition signed by one hundred and three legal voters of the county was presented to the board of commissioners, asking that five hundred dollars be appropriated to build a court house at Elbow Lake. Hope was still entertained in some other parts of the county that the county seat might yet be located in their neighborhood, so a counter petition was presented to the board, signed by one hundred and fifty-nine legal voters, praying the county commissioners not to build a court house that year.

Several other unsuccessful efforts were made to induce the commissioners to put up a county building at Elbow Lake, but it was not until two years later, on December 8, 1877, that the board decided to build a court house at Elbow Lake and appropriated five hundred dollars for that purpose. On December 20, of that year, a contract was let to A. C. Earsley to erect a building twenty-four by thirty feet, for which he was to be paid five hundred dollars in county warrants, to bear interest at the rate of ten per cent. Later the plans for the finishing of the building were somewhat altered and enlarged, and H. H. Wilson, of Alexandria, was given a contract to complete the building for seven hundred and twenty-five dollars. This building was approved and occupied by the county officers on November 1, 1878.

The first county building stood on a lot just west of the present court house. It was a two-story structure, with four rooms and a hall on the first floor and one room on the second floor used as a court room. An outside stairway gave access to the upper story. This building served for the needs of the county offices until 1884, when it was remodelled and enlarged; the stairway was placed inside, and a small additional tract of ground purchased from Mr. Laastuen adjoining it on the north. In the meantime, however, there occurred an exciting contest for the county seat, which is well remembered by many of the older settlers still living in this county.

#### COUNTY SEAT CONTEST.

In 1880, the village of Elbow Lake, where the seat of government for Grant county had been established, was but a small cluster of houses, without a railroad and of no special commercial importance; while Herman was an incorporated village of several hundred population, with railway communications and numerous business houses. There is no doubt but Herman would have been the county seat of Grant county but for one

insurmountable objection—its location in the extreme southwestern corner of the county. Undeterred by this fact, the citizens of that vicinity renewed their efforts, and brought sufficient influence to bear to induce the Legislature, in 1881, to pass a special act moving the county seat to Herman, subject to ratification by the people at the following fall election.

An exciting campaign and election followed, at which 808 votes were counted, of which 439 were for Herman and 369 against. The voting strength of the county at that time was 872. According to the returns Herman had a majority of 70, and was proclaimed the county seat by the governor. Unwilling to accept defeat, the people of Elbow Lake and Pomme de Terre immediately took steps to contest this election in the courts. Timothy Heald and several others advanced money and spent time to gather evidence which would retain the county seat location at Elbow Lake. Notwithstanding the contest, private parties proceeded at once toward the erection of a court house at Herman, and upon its completion, and while the issue was pending settlement in the courts, citizens of Herman and their sympathizers made a raid on the county offices at Elbow Lake and removed all the records to Herman.

During the investigation which followed the people of Elbow Lake retained Knute Nelson and H. Jenkins, while L. W. Collins represented Herman. The Elbow Lake workers soon discovered that the vote from Erdahl township had not been returned, and that Logan township (in which Herman is located) had cast a bigger vote than it was ever known to have, and more than an examination of the poll books showed that it did have. A lawyer at Red Wing, named Boettcher, who had been attorney in a South Dakota county seat contest, gave Mr. Nelson an important clue and he sent to St. Paul for a detective, named Cleveland, to work up the clue. Evidence was secured that the Herman people had gone to Anoka and Minneapolis, just before election, and hired a number of laborers to work on the village streets. These men were voted and after election returned to their homes. It was also discovered that six minors and eight men who were not American citizens had voted. The revised figures were considered by the court and on August 19, 1882, judgment was rendered in favor of Elbow Lake.

Upon securing this decision, some of the partizans of the Elbow Lake neighborhood, still nursing a grievance for the hasty manner in which the county records had been removed to that village, organized a posse and descending on the town in the dead of night, secured the official records and brought them back to Elbow Lake. This mob was given some hasty train-

ing by the leader, who had a bugler to sound his signals, and all considered it a very serious matter at that time. In these later days, however, the survivors of that expedition enjoy many a good laugh in recollection of the trip. Time has served to efface any ill-feeling engendered during the contest and all factions are happy to have the county seat located at the most central village.

One of the most aggressive leaders in the campaign to retain the county seat at Elbow Lake was Timothy Heald, of Pomme de Terre, one of the well-known early settlers of the county. It was due to his initiative, more perhaps than to any other one man, that the contest was taken up and pressed to a successful conclusion. Later he was reimbursed for the money he had expended, as was also J. W. Reynolds, who served as an attorney in the case.

#### PRESENT COURT HOUSE.

The rapid development of Grant county during the early nineties, and the consequent increase in the county business, necessitated larger quarters than the county building at that time afforded. Many of the public records were in danger of destruction for want of fire-proof storage places, and rooms were needed for the county attorney and the judge of probate. In order to raise money for a new court house the county commissioners, in 1899, decided upon a plan which would relieve the county from any bond debt. They proposed to make a slight increase in the tax levy and keep the revenue from this source in a separate fund to be used for a new building. Succeeding boards all approved of this plan and in seven years over thirty-six thousand dollars was raised in this manner. In the fall of 1904, the commissioners advertised for plans for a new court house and, after careful inspection, those submitted by Bell & Detweiler, of Minneapolis, were selected.

The most desirable location for the new building was the slight knoll just east of the old court house, occupied by the residence of Knud O. Laastuen. After considerable negotiations this site was secured by the commissioners, mainly through the generosity of public spirited citizens who organized the "Elbow Lake Improvement Company," secured title to the tract and conveyed it to the county. In this manner the present beautiful site of five acres, on an eminence at the head of Central avenue and extending back to the shore of Worm lake, was obtained for the erection of the building of which Grant county may well be proud.

The contract for the construction of the building was let to the Prince

Construction Company, of Minneapolis, who agreed to erect the building of Portwing brown stone for \$60,202, including the heating and plumbing equipment. E. A. Durkee, a member of the company, was the superintendent of construction. Work was begun in the spring of 1905 and the finished building was inspected and accepted on April 6, 1906. The interior decorations were painted by Oden J. Oyen, of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Electric fixtures and lamps, metal furniture and office desks and chairs of the most modern style and construction were secured. E. J. Scofield, then serving as county attorney, was the first official to occupy an office in the new court house, moving into it on May 21, 1906. Sheriff Thompson and Clerk of Court Johnson occupied their offices in the new building on the succeeding day, and the other officers followed as soon as their rooms were completed. The new court house was formally dedicated with fitting exercises on July 23, 1906.

This building consists of three stories, and is equipped with the latest appliances in heating, lighting and ventilation. On the second floor are the offices of the auditor, treasurer, commissioners, register of deeds and clerk of the court. In the basement, which really is the first floor of the building, are the offices of the judge of probate, sheriff, superintendent of schools, highway engineer, agricultural agent and custodian. The third floor is occupied by the court room, county attorney and jury rooms. Ample fire-proof storage vaults are provided for the care of all county records. A beautiful lawn surrounds the building and a grove of small oaks serves as a background on the border of the nearby lake.

Grant county has never found it necessary to build a jail; one room in the court house fitted up with two small steel cells being all the equipment the county possesses for the detention of prisoners. Neither has the county a poor farm; the township officers looking after any dependents in their respective townships and non-residents being cared for through the proper county officials. The county has never had a bonded debt.

#### POPULATION OF GRANT COUNTY.

The first federal census in which any return was made from Grant county was that of 1870 when the county had a population of 340. The state census of 1875 gave the county 1,191. In 1880 there were 3,004; in 1885 there were 5,197; in 1890 there were 6,875; in 1895 there were 7,887; in 1900 there were 8,935; in 1905 there were 9,652, and in 1910 there were 9,114 people living in Grant county. In 1900 the foreign-born population

was represented as follows: From Norway, 1,590; from Sweden, 809; from Germany, 182; from Denmark, 43; from Canada, 42; from Ireland, 20; from England, 18; from Scotland, 15; from Bohemia, 4; from Russia, 2; from Finland, 2; from Holland, 1, and from Austria, 1. The following table shows the population of the various townships and villages for three federal census periods:

	1910.	1900.	1890.
Ashby village -----	334	279	231
Barrett village -----	278	237	----
Delaware township -----	293	307	224
Elbow Lake township -----	410	473	440
Elbow Lake village -----	776	625	267
Elk Lake township -----	470	476	416
Erdahl township -----	670	595	500
Gorton township -----	217	318	203
Herman village -----	604	550	322
Hoffman village -----	391	270	----
Land township -----	479	617	714
Lawrence township -----	281	273	120
Lien township -----	425	538	630
Logan township -----	246	214	126
Macsville township -----	286	253	241
Norcross village -----	177	----	----
North Ottawa township -----	322	321	237
Pelican Lake township -----	469	506	471
Pomme de Terre township -----	458	529	426
Roseville township -----	351	439	372
Sanford township -----	475	506	384
Stony Brook township -----	527	609	551
Wendell village -----	175	----	----
	9,114	8,935	6,875
Total -----			

#### NATURALIZATION STATISTICS.

The first person to apply for his "first papers" and make declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States before the clerk of Grant county; was H. A. Hillmond, from Germany, whose application is dated on September 4, 1883. Mr. Hillmond later represented Grant county in the Legis-



lature. The second applicant was Ole G. Jenstad, from Norway, who appeared on September 22, 1883. Mr. Jenstad is still a resident of the county, living near Barrett. The third applicant was Anders Olsson, from Norway, on September 22, 1883; the fourth was Nils Anderson, from Norway, on September 24, 1883, and the fifth was Lars Olsen Hjelle, from Norway, on September 24, 1883.

The first person to make final proof of citizenship and secure his "second papers" was Andrew Erlandson, from Sweden, who appeared before the clerk on September 4, 1883. The second was Nils Stenson, from Norway, on the same date. Halvor J. Bollum, Anders Mattson and Thomas Gillesby made final proof on September 24, 1883.

The total number of all who have applied for citizenship papers in Grant county is presented by years in the following table:

	<i>First Papers.</i>	<i>Second Papers.</i>		<i>First Papers.</i>	<i>Second Papers.</i>
1883-----	48	15	1900-----	41	79
1884-----	39	18	1901-----	48	23
1885-----	11	19	1902-----	35	34
1886-----	42	6	1903-----	20	8
1887-----	16	18	1904-----	30	25
1888-----	120	27	1905-----	39	8
1889-----	17	12	1906-----	16	11
1890-----	109	14	1907-----	14	1
1891-----	17	15	1908-----	28	1
1892-----	105	16	1909-----	18	7
1893-----	38	10	1910-----	14	6
1894-----	86	8	1911-----	19	16
1895-----	21	10	1912-----	8	2
1896-----	77	13	1913-----	3	11
1897-----	14	257	1914-----	18	8
1898-----	13	159	1915-----	19	9
1899-----	16	64			

#### COUNTY FINANCES.

At a meeting of the board of county commissioners held on September 20, 1875, the following levy of taxes was made for the ensuing year: General expenses, \$1,433; sinking fund, \$860; poor fund, \$140, and road and bridge

fund, \$572. These figures compared with the auditor's report of recent date give an idea of the growth of the county finances during the past forty years. Following is the trial balance from the general ledger of County Auditor Nelson, showing the condition of the various funds at the close of business on December 31, 1915:

	<i>Debits.</i>	<i>Credits.</i>
County treasurer -----	\$295,809.66	\$245,992.59
Warrants accounts -----	245,992.59	259,326.64
Taxes and penalties -----	155,146.95	158,815.64
Current school fund -----	12,599.17	12,736.67
County revenue -----	22,593.80	21,655.39
Road and bridge fund -----	25,173.67	26,039.70
Ditch funds -----	37,203.48	60,646.89
Redemption fund -----	2,387.17	2,504.32
School fund (districts) -----	75,321.55	78,664.52
Town, city and village -----	42,079.27	43,478.86
Incidental fund -----	392.58	641.81
State revenue and school -----	29,711.60	29,744.00
State lands and interest -----	8,969.10	9,074.85
State loans -----	6,846.45	10,531.77
Inheritance tax -----	477.46	447.46
Mortgage registry tax -----	1,638.60	2,007.14
Assurance -----	-----	4.85
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$962,313.10	\$962,313.10
Balance from these figures extended -----	-----	\$ 50,755.48

## CHAPTER V.

### OFFICIALS OF GRANT COUNTY.

When Grant county was permanently established by act of the Legislature in 1873 the first step in formal organization was the election of three commissioners, who appointed the first complete set of county officers. At that time Grant county was not far advanced from its state of primitive wilderness; settlers were few and far between, communication was difficult and business was mostly a matter of barter. It is largely due to the good judgment and public spirit of these first officers that social order was so quickly and firmly established in the formative period of this community. The board of county commissioners has always been one of the most important official bodies of the county government, and the early members of this board had especially difficult and far-reaching questions brought to them for decision.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The first board of county commissioners consisted of Henry F. Sanford, K. N. Melby and S. S. Frogner. Mr. Sanford's home was on section 17, township 129, range 42, just south of the present site of the village of Elbow Lake. Mr. Melby was a farmer in Pelican Lake township and became in time an extensive landholder there. Mr. Frogner kept the first store at Herman, in Logan township. More extended mention is made of these men in the chapter on early settlement. This first board of commissioners met at Pomme de Terre, at Mr. Sanford's cabin, at the house of Louis Baker in Herman, or other points in the county where the nature of the business to be considered necessitated their presence. For several years before the first court house was built the meetings of the commissioners were held at the home of Mr. Sanford. At a meeting of the board held on September 2, 1873, the county was divided into three commissioner districts. District No. 1 comprised what is now the townships of Lawrence, Stony Brook, Pomme de Terre and Pelican Lake. District No. 2 was composed of North Ottawa, Elbow Lake, Sanford, Erdahl and Elk Lake. District No. 3 included all of what is now Gorton, Delaware, Lien, Logan, Macsville, Roseville and Land townships. This arrangement prevailed until July 23,

1883, when a redistricting was rendered necessary according to law, as more than eight hundred votes had been cast at the last preceding election. The board therefore ordered and determined that the county should be divided into five commissioner districts, as follow: District No. 1, Pomme de Terre, Stony Brook and Lawrence townships; district No. 2, Pelican Lake, Erdahl and Elk Lake townships; district No. 3, Lien, Roseville and Land townships; district No. 4, Sanford, Elbow Lake, North Ottawa and Delaware townships; district No. 5, Logan, Gorton and Macsville townships. This re-districting took effect on January 1, 1884. A roster of the board of county commissioners since the county was established is as follows:

1873—Henry F. Sanford, K. N. Melby, S. S. Frogner.

1874—George W. Vaughn, Coll McClellan, Louis T. Breen.

1875—Coll McClellan, Louis T. Breen, Iver G. Holt.

1876—Iver G. Holt, E. A. Ziebarth, H. P. Hansen.

1877—H. P. Hansen, Iver G. Holt, John G. Peterson.

1878—H. P. Hansen, John G. Peterson, Ole Johnson.

1879-83—Ole Johnson, John G. Peterson, Gilbert Gilbertson.

1884—H. P. Hansen, N. B. Ufford, Even E. Bjerke, Ole Johnson, L. L. Tobiason.

1885-86—H. P. Hansen, N. B. Ufford, Even E. Bjerke, L. L. Tobiason, John C. Johnson.

1887—H. P. Hansen, Even E. Bjerke, John C. Johnson, Frank McNabb, Gilbert T. Hoff.

1888—H. P. Hansen, Even E. Bjerke, Frank McNabb, Gilbert T. Hoff, A. E. Dybdal.

1889-90—H. P. Hansen, Frank McNabb, Gilbert T. Hoff, A. E. Dybdal, Sven Auslund.

1891-92—H. P. Hansen, Frank McNabb, A. E. Dybdal, Sven Auslund, Sam Olson.

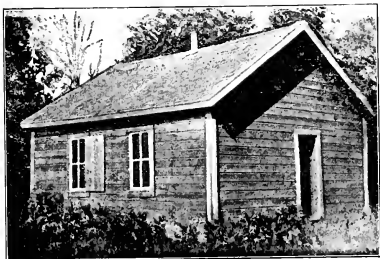
1893-94—H. P. Hansen, Frank McNabb, A. E. Dybdal, Sam Olson, M. F. Munson.

1895—Henry Hendrickson, Frank McNabb, A. E. Dybdal, Knut K. Fuglie, John O. Torgerson.

1896—Henry Hendrickson, A. E. Dybdal, John O. Torgerson, Knut K. Fuglie, W. T. Ziebarth.

1897-98—Henry Hendrickson, Knut K. Fuglie, John O. Torgerson, A. E. Dybdal, Frank A. Ekberg.

1899-1900—Henry Hendrickson, Knut K. Fuglie, John O. Torgerson, Frank A. Ekberg, Warren Polar.



FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN GRANT COUNTY, TOWN OF ELK LAKE.  
Originally Built of Logs and Weatherboarded.



POMME DE TERRE LAKE, NEAR ELBOW LAKE.



1901-02—Edward Mobraaten, Knut K. Fuglie, R. Johnson, John O. Torgerson, W. T. Ziebarth.

1903-04—Edward Mobraaten, Knut K. Fuglie, R. Johnson, Louis Fagerberg, W. T. Ziebarth.

1905-06—Ole L. Kaasa, Knut K. Fuglie, Anton Helland, Louis Fagerberg, W. T. Ziebarth.

1907-08—M. L. Adams, E. F. Malmgren, Anton Helland, Louis Fagerberg, O. W. Jones.

1909-10—M. L. Adams, E. F. Malmgren, Anton Helland, Louis Fagerberg, O. W. Jones.

1911-12—M. L. Adams, E. F. Malmgren, Anton Helland, M. C. Aanerud, O. W. Jones.

1913-14—M. L. Adams, E. F. Malmgren, N. J. Endreson, M. C. Aanerud, O. W. Jones.

1915-16—M. L. Adams, O. C. Thornson, N. J. Endreson, M. C. Aanerud, O. W. Jones.

#### AUDITORS.

The first auditor of Grant county was R. S. Talbot, who was appointed by the county commissioners on April 12, 1873, and was subsequently elected to that office and served one year. Mr. Talbot lived in Logan township, but during the early part of his term went about the different settlements in the county with all the official records in his pockets. On September 3, 1873, his salary was fixed by the board at three hundred dollars—then the highest salary in the county. Henry F. Sanford, who succeeded Mr. Talbot as auditor, was a wonderfully fine penman, and his records as auditor and clerk of the county board are models of neatness.

A list of the auditors of Grant county, with the years of their service, is as follows: R. S. Talbot, 1873-75; Henry F. Sanford, 1875-78; H. A. Langlie, 1878-80; John Ohlsson, 1880-87; Henry F. Sanford, 1887-91; T. E. Dybdal, 1891-99; P. H. Clague, 1899-1903; J. S. Arneson, 1903-07; O. E. Wold, 1907-15; C. M. Nelson, 1915. Term expires in 1919.

#### TREASURERS.

During the forty-three years that Grant county has been organized there have been but four county treasurers. Ole W. Olson was appointed treasurer at the first meeting of the county board. He was a farmer of Elk

Lake township, and it is said that he kept the county's cash and securities in an unlocked box in his cabin. In 1875 Treasurer Olson presented a bill for office rent for fifteen dollars but the commissioners allowed him only ten. In 1882 a bank at Herman, conducted by C. F. Washburn, offered to pay four per cent per annum on monthly balances for county funds deposited there. A considerable deposit was made there, but in 1883 the bank became insolvent and the county brought action against the bank to recover the money. While the case was pending, W. D. Washburn, an uncle of the banker involved, paid the county the amount due, some twenty-eight hundred dollars, and the case never came to trial. The county has never lost a dollar through any of its depositories.

The county treasurers have been as follows: Ole W. Olson, 1873-82; Ole O. Canestorp, 1882-89; Lars Lynne, 1889-1911; E. A. Dybdal, 1911, present term expires in 1919.

#### REGISTER OF DEEDS.

The first register of deeds of Grant county was Ole Larson, who at first maintained his office at his house on his farm in Pelican Lake township. Mr. Larson had had some business experience and started the early records in a careful and systematic manner.

A list of the registers of deeds is as follows: Ole Larson, 1873-77; John Ohlsson, 1877-80; James E. Williams, 1880-82; Frank Forstein, 1882-87; John K. Lee, 1887-95; A. H. Ring, 1895-97; H. J. Bollum, 1897-1903; Frank Heald, 1903, present term expires in 1919.

#### SHERIFFS.

It was with some difficulty that the county board induced any one to accept the office of sheriff on the organization of the county. The duties of that office were very light and the pay correspondingly small. E. M. Heald was the first man appointed and served with frequent resignations for several years. In 1876 H. P. Hansen was elected but refused to qualify. Then Ole O. Canestorp was appointed but declined the office, and it was offered to Jacob Talseth with the same result. Then E. A. Ziebarth was appointed, and since that time the sheriff has been regularly elected.

The sheriffs of Grant county have been as follow: E. M. Heald, 1873-76; E. A. Ziebarth, 1876-77; Ole D. Bartness, 1877-79; Hans P.



Hansen, 1879-83; J. T. Lindem, 1883-91; E. N. Nash, 1891-1902; W. B. Caldwell, 1902-03; Alfred Thompson, 1903-11; Oscar H. Hanson, 1911, present term expires in 1919.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

At their first meeting the commissioners appointed N. Q. Puntches as county attorney. Mr. Puntches was then keeping a store at Pomme de Terre. He was a shrewd business man, but was not a lawyer, and it is said that his ignorance of the law sometimes led him into amusing and embarrassing situations. On January 4, 1876, G. A. J. Overton was employed by the board to give them legal advice during that session. On April 4, 1877, Knute Nelson was employed as county attorney, to be paid one hundred and fifty dollars for his services that year. As nearly as can be determined from the records of the county commissioners, E. S. Rolfe was the first resident attorney who held the office, beginning in 1878 for a salary of one hundred dollars for whatever service the board might require. This amount was raised to two hundred dollars the next year.

The county attorneys have been as follow: N. Q. Puntches, 1873-75; duties attended to by some one employed by the commissioners, 1875-78; E. S. Rolfe, 1878-81; J. W. Reynolds, 1881-83; C. M. Stevens, 1883-87; George Ketcham, 1887-91; E. J. Scofield, 1891-95; Michael Casey, 1895-99; E. J. Scofield, 1899-1909; Nels J. Bothne, 1909-13; R. J. Stromme, 1913, present term expires in 1919.

#### JUDGES OF PROBATE.

Ole Thompson Ring was the first judge of the probate court for grant county, appointed by the commissioners on April 12, 1873. He was a farmer in Elk Lake township and attended to the duties of his office at his residence. The next incumbent in this position, Ole O. Canestorp, made it his practice to come to the court house in Elbow Lake on the first Monday in each month to care for whatever business had accumulated. J. S. Arneson served by appointment.

A list of the judges of probate is here given, as follow: Ole T. Ring, 1873-78; Ole O. Canestorp, 1878-82; Andrew Erlandson, 1882-87; Louis O. Foss, 1887-97; A. O. Ofsthun, 1897-1901; J. S. Arneson, 1901-03; W. H. Goetzinger, 1903, present term expires in 1917.

## SURVEYORS.

The first county surveyor was John Ohlsson, appointed by the commissioners in 1873. At that time Mr. Ohlsson lived in Maseville township. He had been a sea captain before immigrating to America, and had received a very thorough school in navigation and surveying.

The county surveyors have been as follow: John Ohlsson, 1873-78; Per Erlandson, 1878-82; Hugh Spence, 1882, resigned after a few months; Per Erlandson, 1882-87; H. J. Bollum, 1887-97; M. H. Palmer, 1897-99; C. G. Gustafson, 1899-1905; Per Erlandson, 1905-11; H. J. Bollum, 1911, present term expires in 1919.

## CORONERS.

Hans Hanson, the first coroner of Grant county, was a farmer living in Stony Brook township. Neither was the second coroner, L. M. Phinney, a physician. Grant county, however, began earlier than some other counties to elect a physician to the office of coroner.

A complete list of those who have held this office is as follows: Hans Hanson, 1873-77; L. M. Phinney, 1877-80; Dr. James M. Tucker, 1880-83; Dr. William D. Holden, 1883-85; L. M. Phinney, 1885-93; C. W. Bigarel, 1893-97; Dr. P. G. Cowing, 1897-99; Dr. C. E. Caine, 1899, resigned; Dr. A. D. Larson, 1899-1903; Dr. J. Q. Sackett, 1903-05; Dr. C. B. Heimark, 1905-06; Dr. F. W. Powers, 1906-07; Dr. W. R. Hand, 1907-09; Dr. J. M. Thayer, 1909-11; Dr. F. W. Powers, 1911-13; Dr. John T. Leland, 1913, present term expires in 1919.

## CLERKS OF THE COURT.

Prior to 1883 Grant county was attached to Douglas county for judicial purposes and the clerk of the district court at Alexandria performed whatever services were necessary. The clerks who thus attended to the duties for Grant county were James Purden, W. E. Chidester and H. K. White. In March, 1883, J. E. Williams was appointed as the first resident clerk of the district court for Grant county.

The list of clerks of the court is as follow: J. E. Williams, 1883-87; Lars J. Hague, 1887-97; P. P. Larson, 1897-1901; L. C. Johnson, 1901, present term expires in 1917.

## COURT COMMISSIONERS.

As provided in the state constitution the court commissioner has judicial power and jurisdiction not exceeding the power and jurisdiction of a judge of the district court. The first court commissioner in Grant county was Hale H. Cook, who was appointed in 1883. Mr. Cook had immigrated from England and was a farmer in Pomme de Terre township. The second court commissioner, A. C. Belyea, while not a lawyer, knew considerable about law as he had worked in a lawyer's office in Herman.

The court commissioners have been as follow: Hale H. Cook, 1883-87; A. C. Belyea, 1887-91; Thomas Casey, 1891-95; G. T. Hagen, 1895-99; Henry Sampson, 1899, present term expires in 1919.

## SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS.

At the first meeting of the board of county commissioners they appointed Josiah Smith as superintendent of schools. There is no record that Mr. Smith ever qualified for the office or served as superintendent. On January 6, 1874, the commissioners accepted the resignation of O. W. Olson, superintendent of schools, and allowed him fifty dollars for his services, though there is no previous mention of his appointment. When Mr. Olson resigned Coll McClellan was appointed and served two years. During the early years the salary of the superintendent was too small to induce anyone to devote all his time to the office and there were frequent resignations and appointments. It was not until 1882, when Mr. Hodgson was superintendent, that the board agreed to pay five hundred dollars if he would devote all his time to office during the school term.

The superintendents have been as follow: O. W. Olson, 1873-74; Coll McClellan, 1874-76; John W. Gould, 1876-77; Thomas C. Hodgson, 1877-78; H. G. Lillemon, 1878-79; E. S. Rolfe, 1879-80; Thomas C. Hodgson, 1880-89; J. A. Abrahamson, 1889-91; Mrs. John O. Sauby, 1891-93; W. H. Townsend, 1893-95; Knut T. Dahlen, 1895-1901; George L. Woodworth, 1901-07; R. J. Stromme, 1907-13; Blanche L. Brennin, 1913, present term expires in 1919.

## GRANT COUNTY IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Under the apportionment of 1871 the state was divided into forty-one senatorial districts, and Grant county was assigned to the thirty-ninth, along

with Douglas, Pope, Stevens, Big Stone and Lake counties. This district was entitled to one senator and two representatives. At the ensuing sessions Grant county has been represented as follows:

Fourteenth Legislature—1872. Ole Peterson was in the senate, F. B. Van Hoesen and G. W. Rockwell were in the house.

Fifteenth Legislature—1873. J. G. Whittemore was in the senate; Warren Adley and Henry Foss were in the house.

Sixteenth Legislature—1874. J. G. Whittemore was in the senate; Warren Adley and Henry Foss were in the senate.

Seventeenth Legislature—1875. Knute Nelson was in the senate; Martin Stow and J. G. Whittemore were in the house.

Eighteenth Legislature—1876. Knute Nelson was in the senate; Martin Stowe and J. D. Good were in the house.

Nineteenth Legislature—1877. Knute Nelson was in the senate; Michael A. Wollan and Ole Amundson were in the house.

Twentieth Legislature—1878. Knute Nelson was in the senate; John B. Cowing and H. W. Stone were in the house.

Twenty-first Legislature—1879. A. A. Brown was in the senate; John B. Cowing and Ole N. Barsness were in the house.

Twenty-second Legislature—1881. L. K. Aaker was in the senate; C. F. Washburn and F. B. Van Hoesen were in the house.

#### APPORTIONMENT OF 1881.

Under the apportionment of 1881 the state was divided into forty-seven senatorial districts, and Grant county was assigned to the forty-second, along with Big Stone, Stevens and Traverse. This district was entitled to one senator and one representative.

Twenty-third Legislature—1883. C. F. Washburn was in the senate; H. H. Wells was in the house.

Twenty-fourth Legislature—1885. H. H. Wells was in the senate; George I. Becker was in the house.

Twenty-fifth Legislature—1887. D. W. Hixon was in the senate; R. A. Costello was in the house.

Twenty-sixth Legislature—1889. D. W. Hixon was in the senate; Amasa S. Crossfield was in the house.

## APPORTIONMENT OF 1889.

Under the apportionment of 1889 the state was divided into fifty-four senatorial districts, and Grant county was assigned to the forty-ninth, along with Big Stone, Stevens and Traverse. This district was entitled to one senator and two representatives.

Twenty-seventh Legislature—1891. Ole O. Canestorp was in the senate; Alfred Setterlund and H. C. Lyman were in the house.

Twenty-eighth Legislature—1893. Ole O. Canestorp was in the senate; Andrew Peterson and D. P. O'Neill were in the house.

Twenty-ninth Legislature—1895. Edwin J. Jones was in the senate; J. M. Finney and Louis O. Foss were in the house.

Thirteenth Legislature—1897. Edwin J. Jones was in the senate; Louis O. Foss and J. M. Finney were in the house.

## APPORTIONMENT OF 1897.

Under the apportionment of 1897 the state was divided into sixty-three senatorial districts, and Grant county was assigned to the fifty-seventh district, along with the Traverse and Stevens. This district was entitled to one senator and two representatives.

Thirty-first Legislature—1899. Edwin J. Jones was in the senate; Louis O. Foss and Jacob T. Schain were in the house.

Thirty-second Legislature—1901. Edwin J. Jones was in the senate; Henry K. Nelson and Herman Hillmond were in the house.

Thirty-third Legislature—1903. Jacob T. Schain was in the senate; H. Ward Stone and A. D. Larson were in the house.

Thirty-fourth Legislature—1905. Jacob T. Schain was in the senate; H. Ward Stone and A. D. Larson were in the house.

Thirty-fifth Legislature—1907. Ole O. Canestorp was in the senate; Lewis C. Spooner and William C. Bicknell were in the house.

Thirty-sixth Legislature—1909. Ole O. Canestorp was in the senate; Lewis C. Spooner and William C. Bicknell were in the house.

Thirty-seventh Legislature—1911. Edward Rustad was in the senate; L. C. Spooner and J. E. Peterson were in the house.

Thirty-eighth Legislature—1913. Edward Rustad was in the senate; L. C. Spooner and Carl P. Carlson were in the house.

## APPORTIONMENT OF 1913.

Under the apportionment of 1913 the state was divided into sixty-seven senatorial districts, and Grant county was assigned to the forty-eighth, along with Stevens, Traverse and Big Stone. This district was entitled to one senator from the district and one representative from each county.

Thirty-ninth Legislature—1915. Edward Rustad was in the senate; Ole A. Pikop (Grant county), Lewis C. Spooner, Sam Y. Gordon and J. H. Erickson were in the house.

## CHAPTER VI.

### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

Grant county is subdivided into sixteen civil townships, which coincide in each case with the sixteen congressional townships embraced in the county. The requirements for township organization are prescribed by law and depend principally upon the number of inhabitants and legal voters residing in the township desiring to be established. Some of the townships in Grant county were not organized until some time after they had acquired a sufficient number of electors, but they had a satisfactory government by being attached to other townships or were content with the election precinct representation. The first township to be organized was Lien, in 1874, and the last was North Ottawa, in 1882.

#### LIEN TOWNSHIP.

On July 28, 1874, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners by Ole D. Bartness, signed by sixteen legal voters of congressional township 128, range 42, praying that the township be organized and named "Franklin." This petition was signed by Ole D. Bartness, John G. Peterson, Halvor J. Eide, Mons A. Hesjedahl, Per Erlandson, P. A. Moller, Olof Cederberg, William Erlandson, M. Anderson, O. Melberg, Nils Person, K. O. Bukke, Tolef Nelson, Ole E. Lien and M. L. Vig. The petition was granted, but the state auditor informed the commissioners that there already was a township named "Franklin," and it became necessary to select some other name. The name "Anderson" was suggested, in honor of one of the early settlers of the township, but a greater number seemed to favor the name "Lien," in honor of Ole E. Lien, who located here in 1867 or 1868, so the township was given that name.

The first election in Lien township was held on March 9, 1875, when the following officers were elected: Ole D. Bartness, clerk; M. Anderson, treasurer; K. O. Bukke, assessor; A. Holen and O. Mostad, justices; O. Burt and E. Anderson, constables; John G. Peterson, P. A. Moller and Ole E. Lien, supervisors.

The officers of Lien township in 1916 are as follows: Helmer Lar-

son, clerk; E. J. Newman, treasurer; J. J. Leraas, assessor; Erick E. Huset, Iver Stannes and Swen Mattson, supervisors.

#### LOGAN TOWNSHIP.

Logan township was organized on July 29, 1874, when a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners by Louis T. Breen, signed by a majority of the legal voters in congressional township 127, range 44, praying that the township be organized and named "Herman." The petition was signed by Louis T. Breen, A. C. Earsley, P. A. Lamarche, Andrias Larson, G. Johnson, H. Prydz, H. W. Simons, William J. Brown, L. Baker, Louis Taneru, Ole Taneru, C. Pullman, P. Clague, E. A. Ziebarth and O. Westin. The petition was granted, but upon learning that the name "Herman" had been applied to another township in the state the commissioners chose the name "Logan," in honor of Gen. John A. Logan.

The township of Logan failed to hold a meeting and elect officers as ordered by the board, so on January 5, 1876, the county commissioners appointed the following officers: Hans Prydz, clerk; E. A. Ziebarth, treasurer; John Ohlsson, assessor; William Brown and John Galvin, justices; John Johnson and Charles Taneru, constables; E. A. Ziebarth, overseer of highways; E. A. Ziebarth, S. S. Frogner and John Ohlsson, supervisors.

The officers of Logan township in 1916 are as follow: H. N. Erfert, clerk; E. J. Drexler, treasurer; G. H. Mumm, assessor; Louis Lentfer, John Davis and M. Steger, supervisors.

#### ELK LAKE TOWNSHIP.

On January 4, 1876, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 128, range 41, requesting that the township be organized and named "Elk Lake." The petition was granted, and the name given was that of a lake in the township. The original petition cannot be found among the township records in the auditor's office, but it is known that some of the signers were: Ole Gudmunson, Halvor Anderson, William Olson, Even E. Bjerke, Ole Anderson, B. Benson, Ole T. Ring, Sam Olson, Kittel Johnson, James Sethney, A. Hubred and Bernt Swenson.

The first election was held at the school house in Elk Lake township on March 14, 1876, when the following officers were elected: Sam Olson, clerk; Anton Hubred, treasurer; C. Pederson, assessor; James Sethney and



August Ostenson, justices; Syvert Ellingson and Hans Ostenson, constables; Ole Thompson, pound master; Ole Anderson and Bernt Swenson, road overseers; Peder P. Gran, Ole Torstenson and Iver Johnson, supervisors.

The officers in Elk Lake township in 1916 are as follow: O. M. Hubred, clerk; O. W. Olson, treasurer; E. M. Thompson, assessor; Elling Ellingson, O. J. Bjerke and A. H. Anderson, supervisors.

#### PELICAN LAKE TOWNSHIP.

On January 4, 1876, a petition was presented to the county board by Iver G. Holt, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 130, range 41, asking that the township be organized and named "Pelican Lake." The petition was granted, and the township named for a lake which covers some seven sections within its boundaries, which lake was noted for the large flocks of pelicans found there in the early days. Some of those who signed the petition were: Joseph A. Pennock, Iver G. Holt, K. N. Melby, Ole Gulickson, Charles Phinney, L. M. Phinney, John Newman, Thomas Gulickson, Peter Sorkness, Martin Jacobson, Jacob Halstead, John Stene, Hans Kjørven and Gunder Wold.

The first election in Pelican Lake township was held on March 14, 1876, when the following officers were elected: Charles Phinney, clerk; John Stene, treasurer; Joseph A. Pennock, assessor; John Houston and Lewis Tobiason, justices; Jacob Halstead and Iver A. Holt, constables; Peter Peterson, road overseer; L. M. Phinney, K. N. Melby and John Newman, supervisors.

The officers in Pelican Lake township in 1916 are as follows: Andrew Olson, clerk; E. K. Heisberg, treasurer; Charles Mickelson, assessor; W. F. Wohlers, C. J. Stene and Anton Sumstad, supervisors.

#### ELBOW LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Elbow Lake township was organized on April 3, 1877, when a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of township 129, range 43, praying that the township be organized and named "Elbow Lake." The petition was granted, and the township named for a lake nearby. Some of those who signed the petition were: J. N. Sanford, Ole O. Canestorp, H. P. Hansen, Erick Norgaard, Andrew Norgaard, Ole H. Sand, Torger Ostenson, Tiedeman H. Burtness, Anders O. Pikop and A. I. Haugen. At the time of organization San-

ford and North Ottawa township were attached to Elbow Lake township.

The first township election was held on April 20, 1877, at the house of Ole O. Canestorp, when the following officers were elected: Ole O. Canestorp, clerk; Ole H. Sand, treasurer; H. P. Hansen, road overseer; Henry F. Sanford, justice; Helge H. Ramstad, constable; Ole O. Canestorp, assessor; J. N. Sanford, Even Jorgenson and T. H. Burtness, supervisors.

The officers in Elbow Lake township in 1916 are as follow: Albert O. Halverson, clerk; A. I. Haugen, treasurer and assessor; John H. Ferguson, Torger Mobraaten and Olaus A. Pikop, supervisors.

#### POMME DE TERRE TOWNSHIP.

On July 17, 1877, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 130, range 42, praying that the township be organized and named "Pomme de Terre." The petition was granted, and the township was named for a lake nearby, which title is a French phrase meaning "fruit of the earth." The signers of the petition were: Ole Johnson Lene, Ole Sornson, J. E. Rolfson, Nels B. Brakke, Timothy Heald, O. Williams, Thomas E. Midbon, Aaron Heald, Halvor O. Midbon, H. A. Langlie, Swend Olson, Lage Johnson, C. W. Briggs, George W. Vaughan, John S. Vaughan, John Scott, Jens Adriansen and N. Q. Puntches.

At the first regular election, held on March 12, 1878, the following officers were elected: H. A. Langlie, clerk; Lage Johnson, treasurer; Aaron Heald, assessor; J. E. Rolfson and Ole Johnson, justices; Halvor Mikkelsen and Halvor Olson, constables; Russell Briggs and Halvor Mikkelsen, overseers of highways; Iver Rolfson, Russell Briggs and John S. Vaughan, supervisors.

The officers of Pomme de Terre township in 1916 are as follow: G. C. Paulson, clerk; Jacob Woessner, treasurer; G. G. Woldtwdt, assessor; H. E. Hellickson, William Woessner and T. G. Thompson, supervisors.

#### ERDAHL TOWNSHIP.

Erdahl township was organized on July 30, 1877, when a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 129, range 41, praying that the township be organized and named "Erdahl." The petition was granted, and the township named in remembrance of a district in Norway, from which

some of the early settlers had come. The petition was signed by Gilbert Gilbertson, Mikkel O. Lien, Ole Nilson, Martin O. Boe, Ole A. Boe, Peder Alvstad, Thore Jensen, H. D. Downen, Erik Nilson, Carl Nilson, Nils A. Lee, Jacob Olson, Nils Olsen and Knut A. Lien.

The commissioners ordered that the first meeting should be held on August 18, 1877, at the school house in district No. 6. The list of officers elected cannot now be found, but it is known that Gilbert Gilbertson was the first clerk.

The officers of Erdahl township in 1916 are as follows: A. V. Malmgren, clerk; A. O. Bah, treasurer; Gilbert Hanson, assessor; Martin N. Lee, J. P. Frykman and Otto Kuchenbecker, supervisors.

#### STONY BROOK TOWNSHIP.

On July 30, 1877, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners by H. G. Lillemon, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 130, range 43, asking that the township be organized and named "Stony Brook." The petition was granted. Those who signed the petition were: Knut Olson, Jens Erickson, Peder Gulbranson, Tosten K. Dahlen, Kittel A. Sattru, Reier G. Baasen, Hans P. Heijer, C. O. Kolle, Christian Johnson, Anders Kjørven, H. G. Lillemon, Nils N. Brevig, Sr., Nils N. Brevig, Jr., Martinus Larson, Engebret Knudtson, John K. Folken and Ole Knudtson.

The first election in Stony Brook township was held on March 12, 1878, when the following officers were elected: H. G. Lillemon, clerk; H. H. Haavig, treasurer and assessor; H. G. Lillemon and H. Albertson, justices; C. O. Kolle and Nils N. Brevig, constables; S. S. Skinnemoen, road overseer and pound master; H. Albertson, Tosten K. Dahlen and P. Gulbranson, supervisors.

The officers of Stony Brook township in 1916 are as follow: H. T. Haavig, clerk; H. K. Vigen, treasurer; I. E. Kolle, assessor; Ole C. Rustand, Ole Asleson and Gilbert J. Pletan, supervisors.

#### LAND TOWNSHIP.

Land township was organized on March 6, 1878, when a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners by Erik Olson, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 127, range 41, asking that the township be organized and named "Land." The petition

was granted, and the township named for the town of Land, Wisconsin, from when some of the early settlers had come. Some of the signers of the petition were: Erik Olson, Lars O. Studlien, Ole Erikson, Sven Auslund, John F. Linden, Hans Helland, A. D. Auslund, and Christian Pederson.

The first township meeting was held at the house of Lars O. Studlien, on March 26, 1878. The meeting was called to order by Sven Auslund and Erik Olson was chosen moderator, when the following officers were elected: Anton L. Studlien, clerk; John L. Studlien, treasurer; John T. Linden, assessor; Sven Auslund and Hans Helland, justices; Ole Clarquist and G. P. Eklof, constables; Ole Erikson and A. D. Auslund, road overseers; Erik Olson, Christian Pederson and A. D. Auslund, supervisors.

The officers of Land township in 1916 are as follows: Peter Randin, clerk; John Johnson, treasurer; Theodore Lindquist, assessor; Tom Joranger, J. C. Urblatch and Paul Westberg, supervisors.

#### ROSEVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Roseville township was organized on July 24, 1878, when a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners by L. H. Patchen, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 127, range 42, asking that the township be organized and named "Roseville." The petition was granted. This petition, which had been circulated for several months through the township, bore the following signatures: Joe Sherer, Theodore Shauer, John Brennin, John P. Nolander, Charles A. Haskins, Charles Werk, Ludvik Korner, S. N. Lerum, John T. Lindem, Ole Halvorson, H. O. Hanson, John H. Kroke, Peter F. McCollor, Roderick O'Dowd, L. H. Patchen, C. W. Gifford, H. J. Bollum, Ferd Clark, Henry Bundy, Albert Boerner, John Buckman, William Boerner, Henry Boerner, Peter Samuel, J. H. Deveney, August Endreson and Hans Endreson.

The first township meeting was held at the house of John T. Lindem, on August 14, 1878, when the following officers were elected: John T. Lindem, clerk; H. J. Bollum, treasurer; Theodore Shauer, assessor; C. W. Gifford and Albert Boerner, justices; Syver Erickson and H. O. Hanson, constables; John Boerner and Carl Anderson, road overseers; L. H. Patchen, August Endreson and Henry Boerner, supervisors.

The officers of Roseville township in 1916 are as follows: Alfred Nelson, clerk; Willard Kreidler, treasurer; A. T. Lindem, assessor; Herman Podratz, John I. Larson and John H. Olson, supervisors.

## MACSVILLE TOWNSHIP.

On September 23, 1878, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 127, range 43, praying that the township be organized and named "Macsville." The petition was granted, and it is thought that Francis McNabb and John McQuillan had something to do in suggesting the name; they were both early settlers of the township. Some of the signers of the petition were: John Sannom, G. P. Ronell, Francis McNabb, J. W. Perry, Hans Christianson and John McQuillan.

The first meeting was held at the house of John Gustafson, on October 12, 1878, when the following officers were elected: John McQuillan, clerk; H. H. Schram, treasurer; J. W. Perry, assessor; H. H. Schram and John McQuillan, justices; John Sannom and Gustaf Johnson, constables; Hans Christianson and J. W. Perry, pound masters; G. P. Ronell, road overseer; Francis McNabb, H. P. Ronell and Hans Christianson, supervisors.

The officers of Macsville township in 1916 are as follow: P. T. Will, clerk; William T. Tretten, treasurer; Tom Haley, assessor; George J. Reuss, W. W. Niemackl and A. H. Blume, supervisors.

## GORTON TOWNSHIP.

Gorton township was organized on July 21, 1879, when a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 128, range 44, praying that the township be organized and named "Gorton." The petition was granted. The signers of the petition were: E. H. Johnson, Frank Forstein, Ole O. Hillestad, Kolben Gabrielson, Christ C. Ness, Knut Hoginson, Ole Olson, Baak Iverson, Ellep Ellson, Agrim Baarson, Lars Knudson, Abner Crawford, Samuel H. Wright, Gullik S. Moen, Ole Lee, Knud Oland and Ole Olson.

The first township meeting was held at the old depot at Gorton station, on August 25, 1879, but the record of the officers elected has not been preserved.

The officers of Gorton township in 1916 are as follow: James A. Cobb, clerk; C. C. Ness, treasurer; C. H. Christophel, assessor; Louis Klason, Knute Haugen, and William Steinhagen, supervisors.

## DELAWARE TOWNSHIP.

On October 6, 1879, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 128, range 43, praying that the township be organized and named "Delaware." The petition was granted. When the petition was being circulated there were five names considered by the people and each had their sponsors, so it was put to a vote with the understanding that the name having the highest number of votes should be included in the petition to the county board. The ballot resulted in placing the names in the following order: Delaware was first, Highland Park, second; Granite Lake, third; Spring Grove, fourth, and Laconia, fifth. So the township came to be called Delaware, which name was chosen by people from that state.

The petition was signed by James Moses, A. Erlandson, A. Selander, O. Lundberg, Hans Channel, John E. Hanson, H. C. Prescott, Jacob Erlandson, J. N. Casper, Louis Melin, John Lundberg, John Helsene, Nels Helsene, A. J. Cates, J. P. Shoberg and Thomas C. Hodgson.

The officers of Delaware township in 1916 are as follows: C. A. Anderson, clerk; Ole E. Nelson, treasurer; Edward Rolien, assessor; Louis Hanson, W. H. Tegtmeier, and L. J. Derby, supervisors.

## LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP.

On March 29, 1880, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 130, range 44, asking that the township be organized and named "Lawrence." The petition was granted. In case the name "Lawrence" could not be used the petitioners asked that the township be called "Chester." On the original petition in the county auditor's office are the following names: L. H. Fowler, C. W. Stickney, F. P. Symonds, H. Shaw, R. H. Fenner, D. P. Carpenter, William Carpenter, J. S. Bean, A. Fisher, E. East, S. Fisher, John Shaw, M. L. Adams, G. H. Adams, J. C. Marple, James W. Ash, N. S. Denton, J. C. Titus, F. J. Titus, Joseph G. Marple and Theodore Connell.

The first township meeting was held at the house of Joseph Bean, on April 17, 1880, when L. H. Fowler was elected clerk, and H. L. Marple was elected treasurer.

The officers of Lawrence township in 1916 are as follows: G. A. Shuck,

clerk; George L. Thiel, treasurer; Howard Weaver, assessor; F. H. Symonds, A. G. Kube and F. A. Klinger, supervisors.

#### SANFORD TOWNSHIP.

On July 24, 1882, a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 129, range 42, praying that the township be organized as a civil unit. The petition was granted, and as no name was included in the petition the commissioners decided to name the township "Sanford," in honor of Henry F. Sanford, the first settler in the township and in his day one of the most influential men in the community. The petition for organization was signed by Ole O. Blagsvedt, K. C. Walvick, Oloff Otterson, Henry Gunderson, Tosten Ostensen, Osten Jansen, C. S. Dahl, Ole Hanson, Hans Olson, Gunder Hanson, Ole Larson, Erik Olson, Nils Olson, Hans Hanson, Jens Peterson Lee and Henry F. Sanford.

The first meeting was held on August 9, 1882, at the house of Knud O. Laastuen, but no list of the officers is preserved in the records.

The officers of Sanford township in 1916 are as follows: Andrew Johnson, clerk; Eldor Edstrom, treasurer; Ole H. Larson, assessor; Peter Johnson, Engebret Syverson and Ole Fjeld, supervisors.

#### NORTH OTTAWA TOWNSHIP.

North Ottawa township was organized on July 24, 1882, when a petition was presented to the board of county commissioners, signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 129, range 44, asking that the township be organized and named "Ottawa." The petition was granted, but the commissioners were informed by the state auditor that there was another township of that name, so it was changed to "North Ottawa." The residents of the township had first written the name "Richland" in the petition, but a short time before it was presented it was changed to "Ottawa" by some of the settlers who had come from Ottawa, Illinois.

The original petition was signed by twenty-six men, as follows: A. H. Bullis, James M. Tucker, Anders A. Falla, Thomas H. Toombs, J. S. Ireland, George Allen, Peter Schuster, Nicholas Schuster, Nicholas Thies, John Matchenske, John Schuster, Henry Fay, Gustaf Hanson, Steen Steensen, W. A. Bullis, John Tripp David Tripp, Gustaf Johnson, Charles

Johnson, William Tripp, George Tripp, L. C. Engelson, Ole A. Amundson, C. Nielson Veng, Hans Monson and C. Christianson.

The first township meeting was held at the house of Thomas H. Toombs, on August 7, 1882. The board of township supervisors elected at that meeting consisted of Thomas H. Toombs, chairman, John Tripp and Nicholas Thies.

The officers of North Ottawa township in 1916 are as follows: Ole K. Rustand, clerk; And. Rustand, treasurer; C. M. Johnson, assessor; Nicholas Thies, John Sieben and H. E. Lindsey, supervisors.



## CHAPTER VII.

### DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The story of the origin of the soils of Grant county, the manner of their construction, their structure and texture, has already been carefully set out in the chapter on geology. In that same chapter mention is also made of the location, drainage and native vegetation of this county; therefore it is not necessary to repeat these facts in detail in this connection. It is the happy blending of all these essential factors for crop production that has made Grant county a noted agricultural region. Situated on a divide at the head waters of two great drainage systems; at an altitude averaging twelve hundred feet; having an average annual rainfall of twenty-four inches, and a growing season of usually over one hundred and thirty days, Grant county possesses ideal conditions for plant and animal growth.

When the first settlers came to Grant county the broad prairies were unbroken by any tree or shrub. They bore a profusion of native grasses, made bright in places by numerous wild flowers. Along the streams and near the lakes were found small groves of trees, consisting principally of oak, maple, ash, elm, birch and cottonwood. The pioneers found these lakes and streams teeming with fish—pickerel, pike, bass and perch; and on the plains and in the groves an abundance of game. Great flocks of geese and ducks were common; cranes, prairie chickens, grouse, deer and rabbits were secured with little difficulty. An ample living was right at hand, and a ready means of barter and trade was found in the pelts of the foxes, badgers, mink and muskrats which were trapped or shot in great numbers. The natural resources of this region, and the beauty of the virgin country, with its exhilarating air and bright sunshine, were no doubt pleasing to the early comers, and they felt assured that here was a country that would abundantly reward their labor.

### GETTING STARTED ON THE PIONEER FARM.

The pioneers who settled in this county were accustomed to farm life under frontier conditions. Many of them had already been through just such

an experience as awaited them here, on a claim in Wisconsin, Iowa or southern Minnesota. Some few lived by hunting and trapping for a time, but the majority knew of the difficulties which confronted them and set to work as speedily as their means would permit to develop their new homes. The first concern of the settler was to erect a shelter for his family, usually the log cabin of one or two rooms, or out on the prairie built of such lumber as could be brought in from the nearest mill. A sufficient protection for the teams or oxen could be made from poles covered with grass. Small patches of ground were planted to vegetables for home use, and until markets were available within reasonable distance no grain was raised for shipment. The virgin prairie sod was difficult to break with the tools of those days and it was several years after settlement begun that any considerable area was planted. Once broken up, however, the soil was easily worked and abundant yields were secured. Oxen could subsist entirely on the native grasses and wild hay formed the chief support of the few teams of horses in the early days. Many of the first settlers went to St. Cloud, Alexandria, Morris or to Fergus Falls for flour, but it was not long until mills were established near enough to get grinding done from home-grown grain.

Wheat at once took the lead as a cereal crop, though oats, barley and rye were also planted. In spite of the fact that the native grasses offered such splendid pasturage for stock, laws were passed at an early day to prohibit stock from running at large unattended by a herder, for fear of damage to unfenced fields. Only such stock was kept as was needed for home consumption and farm work as it was many years after the first settlement that any regular shipments of stock were made.

#### SOME EARLY DIFFICULTIES.

A menace which the early settler soon learned to dread was the danger of prairie fire. These fires might be started by accident or by design, or sometimes by lightning, and come sweeping over the plain consuming everything in its path. It was the usual custom when establishing a new home to plow several furrows at some distance about the house and outbuildings, and this would sometimes suffice to turn the flames aside, but in many cases houses and crops were burnt and a few people lost their lives. Old settlers say it was a wonderful spectacle to see a fire that had gotten a good start sweep across the prairie with the speed of the fastest horse.

As early as 1875 the county commissioners took action for the relief of settlers who had lost their crops from danger by hail. In that year

Christopher Peterson, Peder Gran and Halvor Larson were granted extended time for paying their taxes on that account.

Predatory animals were a source of considerable loss to the early settlers and for some time bounties were paid for wolves and gophers. The years 1876 and 1878 will long be remembered as the "grasshopper" years. At that time these insects devoured many acres of crops. They did considerable damage at other times, but never returned in such great numbers.

The lack of roads was a great handicap to the early farmers of Grant county, and it was several years before passable roads were built connecting the first settlements with mills and markets. A great part of the hauling was done after the ground had frozen in the winter time and sleighs could be used.

#### EVOLUTION OF FARM MACHINERY.

The first crops harvested in this county were cut with a cradle and flailed out on the frozen ground. In this manner Jens Peterson Lee cared for twenty acres of wheat which he planted in 1871. The self-rake reaper was soon introduced, followed by the "hand" binder, on which two men stood and bound the grain by hand as it came over the elevator. This was succeeded by the "wire" binder and later by the "self" binder of the present day.

Almost as wonderful an improvement has been made in the plows, cultivators and threshing machines in use in this region. In fact, all the various machines required by modern farming are the results of practical use and demonstration by succeeding generations of farmers.

#### TREE PLANTING.

Many of the early settlers on the prairie began at once to set out trees about their farmstead, to add to the attractiveness of the place and serve as a wind break from the winter storms. Some of the land in this county was taken up under the "timber claim act," which was an act passed by Congress to encourage tree planting on the plains. These various efforts resulted in the thousands of beautiful groves which now adorn the farms of Grant county, serving not only as a protection but being of material benefit in the way of fuel and lumber.

#### DIVERSIFIED FARMING.

For many years wheat was the leading crop in Grant county, but diminishing yields made it evident that dependence could no longer be placed on

that one crop. Perhaps the height of the wheat yield was reached in 1895, after which diversified cropping began to be introduced, which system was given additional impetus by the serious "rust" loss of 1903. Larger acreages were planted to oats, rye, barley, flax, potatoes, corn and clover, and the first steps taken towards a crop rotation which would include some legume for the improvement of the soil. Flax was found to grow well one year on new breaking, but was subject to wilt if replanted on the same ground. Corn had been grown in this part of the state for many years and the acreage was rapidly increased as the acreage of wheat grew smaller.

In recent years the advantages of stock raising have become more and more apparent, and the superior natural advantages of Grant county for this type of farming have caused its rapid adoption. Fine herds of pure-bred stock are now to be found on many farms.

Originally many acres in this county were in need of artificial drainage and thousands of dollars have been spent by the officials in putting in proper ditches. The rich, flat land in the western part of the county especially suffered in a wet season, and a comprehensive system of drainage is now being installed.

#### STATISTICS OF PRODUCTION.

According to the federal census of 1910 Grant county in 1909 produced crops valued at \$2,232,674. In that year the value of all farm property was \$13,482,322. Hay and forage was produced on 43,545 acres to the amount of 56,513 tons. The amount of grains produced is shown in the following table:

	Corn.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rye.
Acres,	9,386	47,593	54,207	25,232	254
Bushels,	272,798	1,542,716	923,778	573,654	4,156

While there are as yet no commercial orchards in Grant county, it has been demonstrated that fine fruit can be grown here. Within the last few years many hardy apple, crab, plum and cherry trees have been set out and are doing well.

#### MODERN FARM CONDITIONS.

Conditions of rural life have so vastly improved since the first settlers entered this county that it is hard to realize that it has been but little over forty years since the pioneers started to change this then wilderness into productive farms. The splendid results of their efforts are seen today through-

out the county, in the thousands of well improved farms and modern farm homes, equipped with everything that makes for comfort and convenience. The scientific training given in the schools, proper crop rotations, improved seed and machinery, purebred stock, co-operative buying and selling of stock and better marketing facilities, are some of the factors now in operation which will maintain these farms at their present high standard and make possible a permanently profitable system of agriculture in Grant county.

It is estimated that there are now in use in Grant county about five hundred and forty automobiles. Over three hundred of these are owned by farmers. They have ceased to be a luxury and are now almost a necessity. The automobile has had a marked effect on rural life. It has increased community interest and afforded a relief from monotony; aided in education by wider contact; provided means of easier and cheaper marketing; helped in the building of good roads, and proven of emergency value.

Every village in Grant county now has a "rest room," which women and children from the country may make use of while waiting for one another to do their shopping, or visit there with friends. These rooms have proven a great accommodation especially in stormy weather.

#### COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT.

Grant county employs a trained agricultural advisor, whose duty it is to co-operate with the farmers in working out and putting into operation plans calculated to improve the business of farming. His activities are supervised in a measure and assisted by the state agricultural college and the United States department of agriculture, and the Grant County Farm Bureau. The present county agent is A. L. Norling, who has been here since November, 1912. The work of the agent is comprised in part in the following lines of effort: Organizing clubs of boys for contests in corn growing and stock raising; organizing clubs of girls in bread-making contests; assisting in outlining programs for Farmers Clubs meetings; and initiating definite projects for farm work in improved seed, crop rotations, purebred stock, feeding experiments, disease control and sanitation, farm accounts and farm surveys to determine profit.

#### FARMERS CLUBS.

Acting under the suggestion of the department of agricultural extension of the state university, many Farmers Clubs have been formed in this

section of the state. In Grant county there are now sixteen. The purpose of these clubs is educational, social and financial. They are composed of a number of families residing in a neighborhood who meet together once a month or oftener at the various farm homes. A program consisting of literary or musical entertainment, talks on the business of farming or such topics as may be chosen, is given by members or some one invited for the occasion. A lunch is generally served. The work of these clubs is proving of great benefit to the different communities. The names of the clubs and the secretary of each are as follow:

Progressive Farmers Club. Oscar Erlandson, Elbow Lake.

North Ottawa Farmers Club. Ella Ricks, Norcross.

Lawrence Farmers Club. Ernest E. Marple, Wendell.

Farmers Betterment Club. Ole Skinnemoen, Wendell.

Viking Farmers Club. Alfred Wicklund, Elbow Lake.

Elberling Farmers Club. W. F. Wohlers, Ashby.

Central Farmers Club. Adolph Kaasa, Elbow Lake.

Corndale Farmers Club. Glen Cole, Norcross.

Willowdale Farmers Club. Mabel Haugen, Elbow Lake.

Booster Farmers Club. Olga Bengtson, Herman.

Erdahl Farmers Club. O. G. Reina, Erdahl.

Mustinka Farmers Club. Mr. Wagner, Elbow Lake.

Land Farmers Club. George Lindquist, Hoffman.

Lincoln Farmers Club. Marie Blixrud, Barrett.

Lien Farmers Club. David Newman, Barrett.

Delaware Farmers Club. M. C. Aancrud, Elbow Lake.

#### RECORDED FARM NAMES.

In 1909 the state Legislature passed an act under which the owner of a farm may have a farm name recorded and secure exclusive right to that name in the county where he resides. Up to the present time sixteen farm names have been recorded with the register of deeds of Grant county, as follow:

"Clover Leaf Farm." Owned by W. H. Goetzinger. Recorded December 23, 1910. Located on sections 21 and 28, township 129, range 42.

"Fairview." Owned by J. L. Bugbee. Recorded February 11, 1911. Located on section 11, township 130, range 44.

"Sunnyside." Owned by F. P. Symonds. Recorded February 23, 1911. Located on section 2, township 130, range 44.

"Maple Grove." Owned by C. D. Anderson and Thilda C. Anderson. Recorded October 17, 1913. Located on section 6, township 130, range 41.

"Meadow Lawn." Owned by Adolph Borgen. Recorded December 3, 1913. Located on section 16, township 128, range 41.

"Oak Grove." Owned by O. M. Hubred. Recorded January 2, 1914. Located on sections 16, 20 and 21, township 128, range 41.

"Woodland Farm." Owned by Charley J. Anderson and Anna M. Anderson. Recorded May 27, 1914. Located on section 8, township 128, range 41.

"Lawrence Center Stock Farm." Owned by S. S. Wyand. Recorded June 10, 1914. Located on section 15, township 130, range 44.

"Evergreen Farm." Owned by W. F. Wohlers. Recorded April 5, 1915. Located on section 20, township 130, range 41.

"Maple Dale." Owned by Peter Flodin and Inger Flodin. Recorded June 17, 1915. Located on section 13, township 130, range 44.

"Green Valley Place." Owned by Willet G. Parsons and Hattie Mae Parsons. Recorded March 15, 1916. Located on section 13, township 129, range 43.

"Pleasant View." Owned by R. P. Sugden and Olive Sugden. Recorded April 14, 1916. Located on section 18, township 127, range 43.

"Meadow Brook." Owned by Soren T. Endreson. Recorded May 12, 1916. Located on section 23, township 127, range 42.

"North Star." Owned by Julius H. Mau and Minnie H. Mau. Recorded June 21, 1916. Located on section 11, township 128, range 42.

"Oak Wood." Owned by Errol J. McDónald and Marjorie McDonald. Recorded July 11, 1916. Located on sections 16 and 17, township 129, range 42.

"Riverside." Owned by John Stock. Recorded July 24, 1916. Located on section 36, township 127, range 41.

#### GRANT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

The Grant County Agricultural Association filed articles of incorporation on December 2, 1909. Its general purpose is to aid and develop the agricultural resources of the county, to promote agricultural, horticultural and mechanical experiments, and tests of various seeds, grains, vegetables, fruits and grasses, and to hold annual fairs in this county. It also aims to aid in the introduction and breeding of purebred live stock and to encourage the training of good horses.

To attain these objects the association acquired a tract of land within the village of Herman. The first officers were: O. W. Jones, president; J. Ray Wells, vice-president; Oscar Arneson, secretary; A. D. Larson, treasurer. Directors: W. T. Ziebarth, John T. Lindem, Herman Hillmond, W. H. Goetzinger, Orland Fallon, Charles Cater and F. A. Ekberg.

The association holds an annual fair and races at Herman, and has very successful meetings.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION.

The first routes of travel established in the area which now comprises Grant county were the trails of the native Indians who inhabited this region. This particular locality was a favorable hunting ground for the redmen, and as they moved frequently about the country they established certain well defined paths leading from one camping ground to another. As this was a part of the ground where the Chippewas and the Sioux had frequently bloody encounters, these trails were often traveled by war parties of one or another tribe. While these trails wound along lakes and streams, through the forests and over the broad prairies in apparently aimless fashion, they took the grades with surprising accuracy and subsequent careful surveying has shown that in some places they were the best and shortest routes between certain points.

It was not until 1859 that the first road built by white men penetrated this region. In that year the old stage road from St. Cloud to Ft. Abercrombie was completed, crossing the northern part of Grant county, through what is now Pelican Lake, Pomme de Terre and Stony Brook townships. A way station was built at what later became the village of Pomme de Terre, and it was on this road, on section 18, in Pelican Lake township, that government troops erected a stockade in 1862. Stage coaches made regular trips over this road, carrying passengers to Ft. Abercrombie, where connections were made with boats on the Red River of the North. Frequent mail service was maintained, one of the early mail carriers being a Mr. Evans, for whom the town of Evansville, in Douglas county, was named. Some of the early settlers in Grant county earned money to purchase their first teams and tools by hauling government supplies over this road to frontier garrisons located at points farther west and north. The cumbersome Red River cart of the half-breed traders and trappers from Pembina creaked noisily along this early route, laden with furs to be exchanged at St. Paul for provisions and ammunition.

## ROUTES OF EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In the early sixties the tide of emigration was flowing slowly but steadily towards this county, and a few adventurous men had already "prospected" through here, learning what a desirable country it was. The old stage road would no doubt have carried many an incoming settler, had it not been for the opening of the Civil War, which checked development in this region, and the Indian outbreak of 1862, which made settlement hereabout impossible until the country was cleared of that savage foe. When the war between the states was at an end and the hostile bands of Indians had been removed to distant points, the first real settlers of Grant county began to arrive.

A number of the settlers in the northern part of the county came in over the stage road and located along it or in that neighborhood. Other of the pioneers traveled to Alexandria by teams and then came over the trails directly westward on foot, settling in the eastern and central parts of the county. Many of the early settlers in the southern and southeastern parts of the county came in from the south, on the trails which skirted the edge of the prairie; and as the first railroad to approach this region was completed to Morris in 1870, it was natural that the incoming settlers should come by rail to that point and then drive up from the south. When Grant county was organized in 1873 it is estimated that there were about eight hundred people here. One of their greatest needs was the establishment of roads, and the county board took immediate action in the matter.

## LAYING OUT THE EARLY WAGON ROADS.

At the first meeting of the board of county commissioners, held on April 12, 1873, after locating the county seat and appointing the county officers, the board ordered that each election district should be a road district, and appointed an overseer for each of the four districts thus established. That same summer the first bridge was built in Grant county. The board met at Pomme de Terre on July 23, 1873, to receive proposals for building a bridge across the Pomme de Terre river on section 24, township 130, range 42. A plan of a bridge was submitted by Per Erlandson, also one by Joseph Olson and Timothy Heald. Mr. Heald agreed to build the bridge for five hundred dollars, and have it finished by November 1, 1873. His bid was accepted.

On July 28, 1874, a petition was presented to the county board by Even

E. Bjerke, signed by twenty-four legal voters of the territory to be affected, requesting that a road be laid out from the southeast quarter of section 12, township 128, range 41, in a certain specified indirect line to Herman, on section 13, township 127, range 44. This would give the settlers in Elk Lake township a fairly direct road to the railway at Herman. At the same meeting a petition was presented by Ole Monson, signed by a number of legal voters in Pelican Lake and Erdahl townships, requesting that a road be laid out from a point on the stage road near the foot of Pelican lake, south along the section line through Erdahl township. Also a petition was presented by Jacob Olson, signed by legal voters of Erdahl and Sanford townships, requesting that a road be laid out from Elbow Lake to the east county line, there to connect with a road from Evansville, Douglas county. At this meeting the board decided to build the second bridge to be built in the county, which was to be located across the Pomme de Terre river on section 12, township 128, range 42. The contract was let to Christopher E. Berg, who agreed to build a good substantial bridge for two hundred dollars.

On January 6, 1874, a petition was presented to the county board from thirty-three legal voters, asking the board to have a road laid out through the eastern part of Elk Lake and Land townships, to connect with a road from Morris, in Stevens county. A petition was presented asking that a road be laid out from the home of Ole Thompson, on section 15, township 128, range 41, to run east to the county line and connect with a road from Alexandria. This would be a continuation of the road from Herman to Elk Lake township. On September 10, 1874, a petition was presented requesting that a road be laid out connecting Barrett and Herman on a somewhat different route from the location mentioned in a preceding petition.

On May 29, 1875, a petition was presented to the county board, signed by fifty-two legal voters of the territory to be affected, asking that a road be laid out as follows: Commencing at the corner of Fifth street and Hamburg avenue, in the village of Herman, to run in as direct a line as practicable to the village of Pomme de Terre. H. P. Hansen and Ole Canestorp were appointed as a committee to meet at the house of Knud O. Laastuen and locate this road.

The recital of these petitions is here given at some length, as it serves to show where the largest settlements were in the county at that time, the largest communities naturally demanding the first roads. Some of these cross-country roads were actually laid out and built, but it was not long

until the practice was established of laying out the roads as nearly as practicable on the section lines and the later petitions were framed accordingly.

In addition to the early roads laid out by the county there were a number of trails over the prairie which in time became plainly marked roads, and some of them were developed by the state. Frequent mention is made in the commissioners record of the state road from Herman to Fergus Falls and the state road from Pomme de Terre to Fergus Falls, also a state road from Herman to Big Stone Lake.

It was not many years after the county was settled that nearly every section line was laid out as a road, and under county and township administration these roads were built and kept in repair. Considering the materials at hand the "dirt" roads of Grant county compare very favorably with any in the county.

#### STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION.

The system of county control of its roads and bridges prevailed until 1913, when a more economical and efficient system was introduced under what is called the state highway commission. The present resources of this commission consist of a tax of one mill on each dollar of valuation, which, together with the interest on the internal improvement land fund and other resources, is annually distributed among the different counties in amounts based on area, valuation, amount of their appropriation for roads and bridges, mileage of state and other roads and topographical conditions. The manner in which a county can avail itself of the state aid is by act of the county board in establishing a state road or bridge. After construction the commission will refund a certain portion of the cost. This proportion depends upon various conditions, and in Grant county amounts to seventy per cent. Under this system there has been expended in Grant county during the past year approximately fifteen thousand dollars, of which eighty per cent. was for construction and twenty per cent. for maintenance.

The first resident engineer in Grant county under the workings of the state highway commission was R. E. Kreuger, who started work in 1913 and remained three years. In March, 1916, he was succeeded by W. E. Burgess, who is now highway engineer for Grant county, assisted by Philip Jacobson, draughtsman. At present there are four routes that have been designated as state roads and are under varying degrees of improvement. State road No. 1 is the road east from Elbow Lake through Erdahl to the eastern county line. State road No. 2 is the road south from Elbow Lake to the northwest corner of Roseville township, and north from Elbow Lake to the northern county

line. State road No. 3 is the road through the southern part of Lawrence and Stony Brook townships, from road No. 2 to the western county line. State road No. 4 is the road which crosses the southern tier of townships, connecting Herman and Hoffman.

#### RAILROADS IN GRANT COUNTY.

The first railroad to enter Grant county was built by the St. Paul and Pacific Railway Company in 1871, across the southwestern corner of the county. The towns of Herman and Norcross were quickly laid out on this road. The coming of this railroad served to hasten the settlement of the county, provided a nearer market for produce and gave employment to many who later became residents here. The road is now a part of the Great Northern system. In 1879 a railroad was built by the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway Company across the northeastern corner of the county. It also is now a part of the Great Northern system. The town of Ashby was laid out on this road in 1880. Another railroad which is a part of the Great Northern system crosses the north central part of the county. It was built in 1887.

The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad, commonly known as the "Soo-Pacific," was built through Grant county in 1887. In common with the other main lines of road in this section of the state it follows a northwesterly course, this direction being determined by the efforts to tap the richest districts of the northwest.

Excellent passenger and freight service is maintained on these roads, and some of the most palatial trains in the country now cross Grant county, affording a wonderful contrast to the ox-teams which conveyed some of the first settlers.

## CHAPTER IX.

### SCHOOLS OF GRANT COUNTY.

No better indication of the high ideals of the pioneers who settled this county could be desired than the fact that their first concern, after establishing their homes, was to secure schools for their children. The first school house was built in Elk Lake township, in 1872, before the county was formally organized. This was a log building and other schools were soon started in various parts of the county in private homes or in a claim shanty or dug-out. As soon as the county was organized, in 1873, a number of petitions were presented to the county commissioners requesting that school districts be established in the principal settlements. These petitions were granted and some eight or ten districts were established, but the numbering and the boundaries of the districts became so confused in the records that on April 1, 1875, the county board re-numbered them and established the schools in eleven districts. District No. 1 was all of Elk Lake township and the east half of Lien. District No. 2 was all of Land and Roseville townships. District No. 3 was all of Logan and Macsville townships. District No. 4 was the west half of Lien and the east part of Delaware townships. District No. 5 was the east part of Elbow Lake and all of Sanford townships. District No. 6 was all of Erdahl township. District No. 7 was the northwest part of Pelican Lake township. District No. 8 was the northeast and central part of Pelican Lake township. District No. 9 was the southwest part of Pelican Lake township. District No. 10 was the west part of Elbow Lake township. District No. 11 was all of Pomme de Terre, Stony Brook and Lawrence townships. It should be understood that these townships were not organized at the time, but the use of the names in this connection is less confusing than to give the legal description of the districts by section, township and range.

Thus every part of the county was supplied with meager school facilities except what is now Gorton and North Ottawa townships, which were not settled until a little later. Soon after these districts were established school district No. 12 was formed in the township of Stony Brook. This numbering has been maintained in the respective locations though all the districts have since then been subdivided as additional schools were needed.

## SKETCH BY ONE OF THE PIONEERS.

The early county superintendents of schools were not in every case school teachers. Some were farmers and some were business men, and at that time no uniform system of reports was made to the state officials, so no records of the early schools are to be found in the archives of the county. The early superintendents devoted only a part of their time to the duties of the office, and it was not until 1882, when Thomas C. Hodgson was county superintendent of schools, that the office was placed on a salary basis, the commissioners agreeing to pay Mr. Hodgson five hundred dollars for his services during the school term. Mr. Hodgson was an able instructor and an excellent organizer and under his guidance the schools made rapid progress. When the new court house was dedicated, in 1906, Mr. Hodgson wrote an historical sketch of the county to be placed in the corner-stone. Included in this sketch was a brief review of the early schools and a description of conditions at that time, as follows:

"The first common school district organized in the county was undoubtedly in Elk Lake, still known as No. 1. The date of organization is not given in the records, but in the files in the auditor's office there is a notice of officers elected in April, 1873. It first comprised the whole township. It was the only district to draw its apportionment in 1873. The second district to be organized (the first one mentioned in the commissioner's record) is the same district known as No. 7, in the northwest part of Pelican Lake township. This district built a log school house in 1874 and held school that year.

"In 1874 five schools were held and drew their apportionment, but the records are so confused that it cannot be known which districts they were, except that those above were among them. Many of the schools were held in private houses, in very small rooms; some were held in cabins and dug-outs after their inhabitants had moved into better buildings. Among the difficulties of teaching in the early days was the fact that most of the children were unable to speak English. They had to learn the language as well as the rudiments of learning. Schools were held only for a short term and when the year had rolled round the pupils had forgotten most of what they had learned the year before. It was like climbing two steps of a ladder and falling back one. Of the educational qualifications of the teachers generally in the early days not very much can be said, but it can truthfully be stated that they nearly always met the requirements of the

times. They did honest work, put up with hard fare, and accepted low wages. Of those early-day pupils too, it may be said that they have served their day and generation fully as acceptably as those who came after them."

#### SOME OF THE EARLY SCHOOL HOUSES.

The first school house in Grant county, already alluded to, was built by the settlers in Elk Lake township at their own expense and largely by their own labor. That neighborhood had one of the largest of the early settlements and in the summer of 1872 the project of building a school was talked of. In the fall a meeting was held and all present agreed to furnish logs and labor. Those who took part were Halvor Anderson, Ole Anderson, A. Benson, Even Bjerke, Syver Ellingson, Peder Gran, Ole Gudmunson, A. Hubred, Iver Johnson, Kittel Johnson, O. W. Olson, Sam Olson, Tore Olson, Ole Ring, Jens Sethney, Bernt Swenson, Ole Torstenson and perhaps one or two others. Logs were cut and hauled by ox-teams to the site selected, and the walls of the building were erected in the late fall of 1872. The roof was put on and the building finished in the early spring of 1873. It was eighteen by twenty-four feet in size. School was held that year and the school immediately drew state apportionment. The first teacher in this school was Mrs. Martha Sethney, long a resident of Elk Lake township. At a later date this building was sided with boards over the log frame, the roof was reshingled and the interior remodeled. The first school in Land township was held in an old machine shed on the farm of Martin Studlien about 1874. Christene Nash was the first teacher. This school became district school No. 2. District schools Nos. 3 and 4 also held sessions in 1874, in Logan and Lien township, respectively. The school which became district school No. 5 was started in 1874 on section 7, Sanford township, in an old log house formerly used by Ole Fletcher. Alice Hill was the first teacher and at the first term there were four pupils; Sophia Peterson, Olive Christianson and two children of Knud O. Laastuen. The first school in Pelican Lake township was started in 1874 or 1875 in a little log house owned by Ole Wold, on section 10, a short distance southwest of the present site of Ashby village. This school was taught by Sallie Johnson. The first school in Stony Brook township was held in the little log cabin which had been erected for church services in 1872. The school was started about 1874 or 1875. This school was taught by Hans H. Haavig, who had been a teacher in Norway and was well educated. He was also a fine singer and led the singing in the church.



This school became district school No. 12, which was the only school in Stony Brook township for several years after the organization.

#### PIONEER SCHOOL CONDITIONS.

All the early schools of course had very meager equipment. Very few children had a complete set of text books, in fact, there were not sufficient books to establish regular courses. There were no maps, charts or globes, and only a few home-made blackboards. Reading, spelling, writing and numbers were the principal subjects taught. In some of the early schools it was the custom to study aloud, and when two or more children were using the same book the result was not always harmonious. This custom soon became obsolete. As the county developed log school houses were replaced by frame structures and in a few cases brick buildings were erected.

#### TEACHERS OF 1896.

In 1890 the number of school districts had increased to forty-eight. In 1896 there were fifty-five districts. The teachers in that year were: Amanda Ash, Rena Asleson, Carrie Barnes, Mary Borchert, Florence Caldwell, Sarah M. Ellsworth, Gustaf Gilbertson, Anna L. Godward, Elizabeth Godward, Isabella Groven, Hannah Gudmunson, Nora Grim, Thea C. Dahlen, Lizzie Dahlen, Hattie Davidson, Ida M. Dewey, Alpha Fladeland, Frank Heald, Kate Hodgson, Mrs. Emma Heald, Isabella Hodgson, Annie Hollen, Estella Houston, Julia D. Johnson, Maggie Johnson, Jennie Johnson, Martha C. Johnson, Augusta Johnson, Amanda Lake, Emily Little, Alice Little, Mrs. Thea Nash, Martin Mikkelson, Emily Nelson, Louise Nelson, Julia M. Osen, Julia Pederson, Mrs. Warren Polar, A. M. Pennock, Henry Peterson, Mae Preston, Blanche Prescott, Gertrude Schiefer, August Sethmey, Mary Smith, Olive Stanley, Clara P. Stave, Tena H. Tollefson, Tina O. Tollefson, Charley Thoreson, George L. Woodworth, Bertha Scofield, H. W. Shroyer and Mrs. H. W. Shroyer.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The real development of the modern school system begun with introduction of grades. The graded school afforded a scientific basis upon which to work. At an early date the requirements for teaching were increased and facilities were secured to aid in instruction. Free text-books were

introduced, and all schools were equipped with maps, globes and dictionaries. Longer terms were held and buildings were remodeled or built with greater regard to lighting, heating and ventilation.

Numerous laws were passed by the state Legislature to aid in securing better schools. In 1877 an act was approved allowing women to vote on all school matters. In 1887 a state law required instruction on physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effect of stimulants and narcotics upon the human system. In 1885 the state agreed to pay half the cost of libraries for the schools. Acts were also passed arranging for the state department of education to grant certificates to teachers; and to extend state aid to schools of a certain standing.

#### AIMS OF THE MODERN SCHOOL.

In 1906 there were sixty-four school districts in Grant county and in 1916 there are sixty-nine. These schools are distributed over the county in such a manner as to make it most convenient for all children to attend. The school of the present day is a wonderful improvement over the pioneer school in equipment and scientific methods. The aim of the modern school is to afford not only mental training, but supply serviceable knowledge as well. To this end courses are given in the use of tools, agriculture, domestic science and commercial branches. Local and state fair contests and boys and girls clubs add to the interest of school work.

Teachers' institutes, reading circles and libraries now help to enlarge the scope of instruction, and parent-teacher clubs bring home and school nearer together. When a school has attained a certain high standing in regard to length of term, qualifications of teacher, condition of building and equipment, library and school grounds, it is entitled to state aid to the extent of one hundred and fifty dollars each term. Fifty-five schools in Grant county are now receiving this state aid.

#### TEACHERS FOR 1916.

The total enrollment in the schools for the year 1915 was 889 pupils in the high and graded schools, and 1,503 pupils in the rural and semi-graded schools. There were thirty-nine teachers in the high and graded schools, and seventy in the rural and semi-graded schools. The teachers in the various districts for 1916 are as follow: District No. 1, Clara Sanders; No. 2, Irene Flynn; No. 3, E. B. Anderson, superintendent of Herman high

school; No. 4, Stella Erickson; No. 5, L. H. Brinks, superintendent of Elbow Lake high school; No. 6, Augusta Johnson; No. 7, Annie Wilson; No. 8, G. A. Fjeldstad, superintendent of Ashby high school; No. 9, Thora Dybdal; No. 10, M. J. McDonald; No. 11, Pearl Holman; No. 12, Nellie Ellingson; No. 13, Sena Bah; No. 14, Gladys Sauby; No. 15, Olive Thompson; No. 16, Alice Newman; No. 17, Alma Hanson; No. 18, Mary Smith; No. 19, Alma M. Louthan; No. 20, Ida M. Johnson; No. 21, Margaret Cavanaugh; No. 22, Ephra Ackerman; No. 23, Ida Kassa; No. 24, Charlotta Johnson; No. 25, Mildred Palin; No. 26, Blanche Schöonover; No. 27, Lilly Johnson; No. 28, Alma Bengston; No. 29, Sigrid Fjoslien; No. 30, Lilly Dybdal; No. 31, Josephine Groheler and Lulu Christophel; No. 32, Betsy Hanson; No. 33, Mabel Hall, superintendent of Barrett school; No. 34, Clara Klug, superintendent of Wendell school; No. 35, Eda Thompson; No. 36, Agnes Manskau; No. 37, Martha Mecklenberg; No. 38, Genevieve Doely; No. 39, Hilda Dahler; No. 40, Amber Hastie; No. 41, Annie Johnson; No. 42, J. A. Cook, Hoffman school; No. 43, Ella Holt; No. 44, Eldora Lund; No. 45, Stella Adams; No. 46, Dotty D. Nye; No. 47, Olive Huseth; No. 48, Latania Ackerson; No. 49, Hilda Melby; No. 50, Nellie Brown; No. 51, Dessie Ziebarth; No. 52, Margaret Hoff; No. 53, Hilda Haugen; No. 54, Ulda Dybdal; No. 55, Fannie Iverson; No. 56, no school; No. 57, Anna Dahler; No. 58, Ella Ness; No. 59, Grace Sheppard; No. 60, Hulda Bengtson; No. 61, Lydia Enderle; No. 62, Cecelia Berquist; No. 63, Ida Martinson; No. 64, Ida Sellseth; No. 65, Clara Earsley; No. 66, Mabel Haugen; No. 67, Jennie Vik; No. 68, Eudora LaGrange; No. 69, Bada Chambers.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS.

In the following list are given the names of the school district officers for 1916-17, with the township in which the school is located. The first named is the clerk, the second is the director and the third is the treasurer.

No. 1, Elk Lake township—R. E. Olson, O. B. Peterson, O. W. Olson.

No. 2, Land township—T. Joranger, A. R. Bjelland, P. O. Nordin.

No. 3, Herman village—A. H. Morken, A. W. Wells, E. E. Peck.

No. 4, Lien township—Otto Nelson, Andy Block, H. A. Larson.

No. 5, Elbow Lake village—Tos. E. Dybdal, E. Sauby, W. E. Landeene.

No. 6, Erdahl township—Olous O. Bah, J. T. Johnson, Ole A. Dahlen.

No. 7, Pelican Lake township—Anton O. Sumstad, Charles Nelson, Julius Elberling.

No. 8, Ashby village—L. J. Hauge, E. K. Teisberg, A. M. Randall.

No. 9, Pelican Lake township—C. E. Schow, Joseph Balgard, Bodel Anderson.

No. 10, Elbow Lake township—A. Haakenson, A. I. Haugen, Elef Gren.

No. 11, Pomme de Terre township—George M. Johnson, H. L. Olson, Fred Schwarck.

No. 12, Stony Brook township—O. E. Lillemon, Ole Asleson, Nils Skinnemoen.

No. 13, Erdahl township—J. E. Olson, Martin N. Lee, H. O. Rustad.

No. 14, Lien township—J. B. Blixrud, John Sandberg, Mons A. Ronhovde.

No. 15, Pomme de Terre township—H. O. Johnson, Peter Brandvold, Henry Tollefson.

No. 16, Roseville township—F. D. Clark, U. F. McCollor, Aug. Holm.

No. 17, Elbow Lake township—A. O. Halvorson, Lars H. Berg, J. H. Ferguson.

No. 18, Gorton township—A. H. Richards, C. H. Christophel, John Gronwold.

No. 19, Delaware township—C. E. Ellison, A. DeVries, Wm. Hedlund.

No. 20, Roseville township—A. T. Lindem, Jens Lerum, Albert Lindstrom.

No. 21, Macsville township—Theo. Ritzschke, W. H. Brown, Frank Oachs.

No. 22, Sanford township—C. J. Nibbie, B. E. Engen, Ole H. Larson.

No. 23, Roseville township—James R. Borrill, Fred Zimer, W. H. Kridler.

No. 24, Elbow Lake township—H. C. Kersten, G. Johnson, L. L. Brewster.

No. 25, Lien township—C. O. Strand, Ed. Rulien, William Coleman.

No. 26, Delaware township—C. A. Anderson, Christ Christensen, Erick Helsene.

No. 27, North Ottawa township—Mrs. George Larson, Nick Koltes, John Sieben.

No. 28, Lawrence township—Fred Weigand, Geo. Weigand, H. Weaver.

No. 29, Stony Brook township—O. K. Lysne, T. T. Cordal, S. S. Wangsnes.

No. 30, Elbow Lake township—T. C. Johnson, K. O. Sand, H. K. Vigen.

No. 31, Norcross village—B. Torgersrud, George Houps, J. A. Loughlan.

No. 32, Elk Lane township—O. M. Huberd, Thomas Otterson, J. Sethney.

No. 33, Barrett village—E. N. Ellingson, A. F. Peterson, August Miller.

No. 34, Wendell village—John E. Raines, H. T. Haavig, L. C. Bergan.

No. 35, Elk Lake township—C. J. Anderson, Ole Melin, A. M. Anderson.

No. 36, Lawrence township—J. H. Summers, J. W. Thiel, J. F. Styer.

No. 37, Pomme de Terre township—Alfred H. Woessner, Louis Island, William Woessner.

No. 38, Sanford township—I. M. Westermoe, Louis Pederson, Ole A. Olson.

No. 39, Elbow Lake township—Olous A. Pikop, Knut A. Pikop, Alick Ormbrick.

No. 40, North Ottawa township—Oscar Amundson, John Ricks, Andrew Rustand.

No. 41, Land township—Swan Auslund, Abner Erickson, Theodore Lindquist.

No. 42, Hoffman village—H. L. Englund, P. P. Hedenstrom, Eric Sletten.

No. 43, Erdahl township—J. J. Taylor, E. Conroy, A. J. Betland.

No. 44, Erdahl township—A. G. Enberg, Hans Johnson, J. P. Anderson.

No. 45, Lawrence township—Mrs. V. A. Bugbee, F. J. Miller, A. G. Kube.

No. 46, Logan township—Louis L. Lentferr, William Boeckholt, H. N. Erfert.

No. 47, Elk Lake township—F. A. Peterson, P. H. Nelson, A. J. Peterson.

No. 48, Sanford township—Herman Ledum, Pete Ekelien, Engbert Syverson.

No. 49, Land township—Anton Amundson, Alfred Hagen, Thosten Haatvedt.

No. 50, North Ottawa township—W. W. Cushman, Jake Besler, Roy L. Brown.

No. 51, Delaware township—B. D. Brewster, John Buhr, Austin Vaa.

No. 52, Elk Lake township—J. T. Halvorson, Pete Peterson, Alfred Lund.

No. 53, Lien township—E. J. Newman, Knut Waugh, John J. Leraas.

No. 54, Elbow Lake township—Sven Jorgens, Knut Fjoslien, G. C. Paulson.

No. 55, Pomme de Terre township—Mike Thompson, M. Haroldson, T. A. Hagen.

No. 56, Delaware township—Albert Passer, Dan Kloos, Emil Nelson.

No. 57, Sanford township—Lewis T. Fagerberg, Herman Huset, Bernhard Westrom.

No. 58, Erdahl village—O. G. Reine, C. A. Bergren, H. T. Harrison.

No. 59, Roseville township—Conrad Blixrud, N. P. Peterson, Herman Podratz.

No. 60, Lien township—J. H. Clark, Hans Moen, Bennie Ostenson.

No. 61, Lawrence township—R. C. Tompson, M. A. Baker, G. A. Shuck.

No. 62, Macsville township—Mrs. C. J. Bacon, A. H. Blume, Theodore Johnson.

No. 63, Pomme de Terre township—Jacob Haberer, Andrew Woesner, Pete Martinson.

No. 64, Gorton township—Edwin J. Awe, Louis Steger, William Jones.

No. 65, Delaware township—John Beck, R. F. Rarer, Knute Haugen.

No. 66, North Ottawa township—O. K. Rustand, John Kelly, Charles Gorden.

No. 67, Lien township—Martin Leraas, Niles P. Setterlund, Oskar Erickson.

No. 68, Gorton township—R. H. Martin, Oscar Hillestad, William Steinhagen.

No. 69, Macsville township—F. A. Ekberg, William Tretten, H. B. Johnson.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The following financial statement is taken from the report of the county superintendent of schools, for the year ending July 31, 1916:

<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>High and Graded School Districts.</i>	<i>Rural and Semi- Graded School Districts.</i>
Cash on hand at beginning of year-----	\$ 6,756.97	\$15,789.55
Received from apportionment-----	5,095.17	9,155.27
Received from special tax-----	21,080.75	20,894.60
Received from local one-mill tax-----	1,176.15	4,827.82
Received from special state aid-----	9,184.00	4,578.37
Received from bonds and other sources	18,621.15	1,993.11
 Total -----	 \$61,914.19	 \$57,238.72

<i>Disbursements.</i>		
Paid for teachers' wages and board----	\$26,327.46	\$27,373.13
Paid for fuel and school supplies-----	3,743.42	3,961.42
Paid for repairs and improving grounds	2,215.64	1,646.89
Paid for new school houses and sites---	14,453.29	20.00
Paid for bonds and interest-----	85.47	710.25
Paid for library books-----	196.95	644.86
Paid for text-books-----	889.88	766.24
Paid for apparatus -----	469.70	237.74
Paid for transportation of pupils-----	67.41	-----
Paid for all other purposes-----	3,963.52	3,748.16
Cash on hand at end of year-----	9,503.45	18,150.03
 Total -----	 \$61,914.19	 \$57,238.72
Amount of outstanding orders----	\$607.48	\$82.95

## CHAPTER X.

### CHURCHES OF GRANT COUNTY.

There is no better recommendation for a country than the fact that it is well supplied with churches of various denominations. The fact that such a circumstance exists in Grant county makes this locality a coveted place of settlement. Although there are many churches and many different denominations in the county the history of their organization is very incomplete and the requests for information have been very meagerly answered.

#### SYNOD LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

In 1871 and 1872 the Rev. Louis Carlson held services in many parts of the county. He organized several congregations, among them being those of Elk Lake, Lien, Elbow Lake, Erdahl and Herman. This valiant missionary did valuable service for four years, and then became a missionary to Australia. After a few years he returned from Australia and again took up his work in this field. He removed to California and died there. Means with which to build churches in the early days were limited, and the meetings had to be held in small private dwellings and later in school houses. According to tradition perhaps the first religious service in the county was a Swedish meeting held in Land township in the dug-out belonging to Gust Shalmark. This meeting was presided over by Rev. Mageney, a traveling missionary.

The congregation at Aastad was the first to build a church edifice. The congregation was organized in 1872, and the following year began preparation for a church building. It was of logs, twenty-six by thirty-six feet and ten feet high, with four small windows on a side. The expense was three hundred dollars, logs furnished free. The church was completed in 1875 and served its purpose until 1889 when it was replaced by a modern frame building. In 1881 a large and beautiful church was erected at Herman at a cost of over five thousand dollars. It was for a long time the finest piece of architecture in the county and one of the nicest churches in the western part of the state. In 1883 churches were built in Lien and Elbow Lake townships. In 1875, Rev. G. Erdahl began his labor in this county. He



held meetings in all parts of the county and lived to see many prosperous congregations organized.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Elbow Lake township was organized on October 12, 1873, by the Rev. Louis Carlson, who served as pastor from 1873 until 1875. He was followed by Rev. G. M. Erdahl who served until 1900. Rev. O. G. Juul was the next pastor and served until 1915. At that time Rev. E. Wulfsberg became the pastor. In 1889 the congregation built a modern edifice which they continue to use as a place of worship. The present membership is about two hundred.

The Pomme de Terre Lake Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church was organized on December 5, 1873, by the Rev. Louis Carlson. The pastors of this congregation have been the same as those for the Elbow Lake Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church mentioned above. A modern frame church building was erected in 1899. The present membership is one hundred and ten.

The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church of the village of Elbow Lake was organized in 1900 by the Rev. O. G. Juul, with the following charter members: L. J. Hauge, H. J. Bollum, P. P. Larson, Christian Haarstad, K. T. Dahlen, Lars Lynne, O. L. Larson, H. W. Olson. The first meeting was held in the residence of John K. Lee. Services were held in school house for some time and then in the Swedish church for two years. Rev. G. M. Erdahl preached here many years. Reverend Juul served as pastor until 1915 and was followed by Rev. E. Wulfsberg who is the present pastor. As the church congregation grew and prospered a handsome church building was erected in 1907. The present membership is one hundred and seventy-five.

The Stony Brook Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, located at Wendell, was organized in 1905 by the Rev. O. G. Juul, who served as pastor until 1915. He was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. E. Wulfsberg. In due season a modern church building was erected at a cost of four thousand dollars. The present membership is one hundred and fifteen.

Other congregations of the same denomination were organized in Elk Lake, on May 6, 1872; Lien, in 1873, and Gorton, in 1877.

The Synod Lutheran church of Norcross was one of the congregations organized by Rev. Erdahl. When the charge was divided the congregation was assigned to Reverend Juul who labored there until 1915 and was succeeded by Rev. Holum. Although the congregation is not large it is very active and exercises a potent influence in the community. A nice little church was built a few years ago that is now entirely paid for.

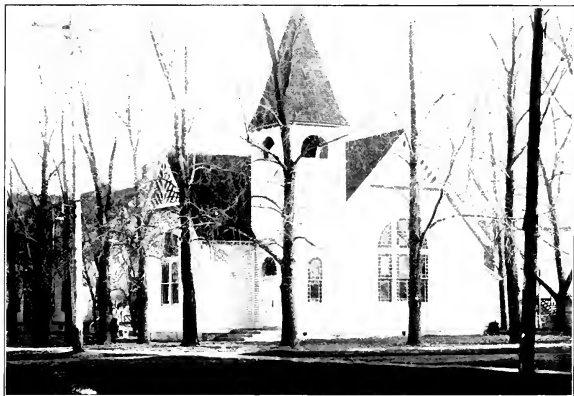
## REV. GULLIK M. ERDAHL.

Rev. Gullik M. Erdahl was born in Hardanger, Norway, on October 5, 1840, and seven years later emigrated to America with his parents and settled in Madison, Wisconsin. He studied in the high school of that city for some time and then entered Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1866. In order that he might better prepare himself for the ministry, he continued his research at the Concordia Seminary, at St. Louis, from which school he was graduated in 1869. He pursued his studies in the University of Michigan the following year and in 1871 entered the state of Kansas as a missionary and remained there one year. He then removed to Omaha, Nebraska, where he organized several congregations and also one at Soldier Valley, in Monona county, Iowa. In 1875 he received a call from the congregations of Grant county, including those of Lincoln, Immanuel, Elbow Lake, Pomme de Terre and Hjerdal. He served these congregations until 1900 at which time the circuit was divided. Rev. O. G. Juul was assigned to the congregation in the northern part of the county and Reverend Erdahl retained the Lincoln and Immanuel congregations.

Thus for forty-four years Reverend Erdahl was a teacher and preacher of the gospel; for thirty-nine years he served the same congregations. It was a record of labor in the service of the Master that is most creditable. It covers an experience that none but one who has dedicated his life to the advancement of Christ's kingdom would choose to select. He came out on the western frontier in the early days, not that he might better his own condition but for the sake of the Gospel and humanity. His choice evidenced a steadfastness, a nobility of purpose that is characteristic of few. He met his own trials and privations, sorrows and worries. He forgot self and shared the adversities and sorrows of his people, he comforted them with words of cheer and bade them take courage when despondency threatened. He pointed out the way of righteousness and carried the Savior's message of love and forgiveness. As a minister he arose above denominationalism; he carried a message of reason, of acceptance of Christ and the Savior of mankind. He died at his home near Barrett on March 25, 1914.

## SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Fridhem church, located five miles southeast of Barrett in the town of Lien, was organized in December, 1877. Among the charter members were, P. A. Moller, Erick Johnson, Olaf



HERMAN CHURCHES.



Cederberg, Wilhelm Erlandson, John G. Peterson. The first pastor was Rev. L. J. Kronberg. This congregation was reorganized in 1885 and incorporated the same year at the home of Mons Anderson. At that time Rev. J. Lundberg was the pastor. The present pastor is the Rev. Oscar O. Gustafson of Elbow Lake. The church property is valued at three thousand five hundred dollars and the present membership is one hundred and nineteen.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethel church of Herman was organized in 1880 by the Rev. J. Lundberg. Among the members instrumental in the organization were, C. A. Smith, John A. Willd, Isaak Ekberg and Andrew Selander. The congregation has a church and grounds valued at three thousand dollars. The present pastor is Rev. Oscar Gustafson, and the membership is eighty-two.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Elbow Lake was organized and incorporated in 1887, the pastor at that time being the Rev. J. Lundberg. Among the men who were responsible for the organization of the church at this point were: Nels Hakanson, Nels Anderson, Nels Olson and Rev. J. Lundberg. In the beginning, services were held in various places and often in the town hall, but as the congregation grew in strength and numbers a handsome church building was erected at a cost of about three thousand dollars. Among the pastors have been Reverend Nordstrom, Reverend Olson and Rev. M. W. Gustafson. The pastor at the present time is Rev. Oscar O. Gustafson, who is a college man of unusual talents and liberal ideas. The present membership is one hundred and thirty-two.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Hoffman is one of the three church organizations that has originated from the mother church of Wenersborg in the town of Solem, Douglas county. The church congregation was not incorporated until 1901 but was organized several years before. In 1900 a beautiful and modern building was erected, costing about four thousand five hundred dollars. The congregation is unusually strong as is evidenced by the present membership, there being two hundred and forty-seven. Among the early pastors was Rev. Nordstrom, who conducted services at many points in the county. Rev. Rudolph Vollquist was pastor of the congregation for several years and was succeeded by Rev. P. P. Hedenstrom, who has been the regular pastor for the past eight years.

#### NORWEGIAN UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Norwegian United Lutheran congregation of Elbow Lake held their first service in 1875, the meeting being conducted by the Rev. J. A. Berg. He was a traveling missionary and preached here only occasionally.

He served the religious needs of the people for about two years and was succeeded by Rev. I. Tharaldson, who two years later established congregations in Elk Lake township and Bethana. Shortly afterward, Reverend Tharaldson removed to Grand Forks, and he was succeeded by Rev. Gustaf Oftedal and he in turn by Rev. Ole Ogen, of Morris, Rev. N. Hierman and A. Wold. In 1886, Rev. P. T. Peterson, of Minneapolis, received a call and being ordained the same year, took up the work. Following him was Rev. S. A. Johnson, then Rev. L. E. Kleppe, and the present pastor, Rev. H. M. Thoresen.

#### THE HJARDAL CONGREGATION.

The Hjardal congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran church was organized on April 8, 1881, under the name of the Norske Evangeliske Lutherske Menighed of Ten Mile Lake, under the direction of the Rev. T. Wetleson, those participating in the organization and present at the initial meeting of the same having been Ole Johnson, K. O. Sanby, Aslak Tollefson, Roar Halvorson, Ole Sorenson, Nils B. Brekke, Tobias O. Sanby, Olaus Ostenson, Halvor Mikkelson and Andreas Erickson. The first pastor, the Rev. T. Witleson, served the congregation until in September, 1886, when he was succeeded by the Rev. A. J. Hulting, who served until 1891 and under whose pastorate, in 1887, the name of the congregation was changed to that which it now bears, Hjardal. It was also during Mr. Hulting's pastorate that the church was erected, in 1889, the congregation previous to that time having held its meetings in the school house in district No. 15. The Rev. P. T. Petterson was called to succeed the Reverend Hulting and he served until in December, 1899, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Aaron Johnson, who was succeeded on November 11, 1903, by the Rev. L. E. Kleppe, who resigned in July, 1906, and was succeeded by the Rev. H. M. Thorson, the present pastor, under whose pastorate progress is reported in all departments of the work of the church, the present membership of which is about forty-three.

The Norcross Evangelical Lutheran church was organized in 1878 under the ministrations of the Rev. G. Erdahl, who served as the first pastor of the same and was succeeded in turn by the Rev. O. G. Juul, the Rev. T. A. Hoff and the Rev. J. O. Holum, the latter of whom is the present efficient pastor of the congregation. The congregation numbers a membership of seventy and worships in a substantial frame building. The various departments of the work of the church are well organized and a Ladies Aid

Society and a Young Ladies Club contribute very materially to the cause of the church.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In the summer of 1886, Rev. A. C. Pettitt, of Fergus Falls, began to hold services at Elbow Lake, and after several months of persistent labor, he succeeded in organizing a Presbyterian church on October 23, 1886. The meeting was held at the home of J. N. Sanford, Rev. A. C. Pettitt presiding and Reverend Winchester preaching the sermon. After the sermon the following named persons were received as the charter members of the organization: Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marple, and Mrs. Nancy E. VanNess. Messrs. Sanford and Marple were chosen as elders but the former declined to act as ruling elder. Mr. Marple was duly installed, having been previously ordained in the church of Western. Rev. Pettitt continued his labors among the people at Elbow Lake until April, 1887, when he accepted a call from the churches of Maine and Maplewood, Minnesota. The church was then without a pastor for several months, until Rev. W. T. McAltoner came to the field. Owing to his wife's illness he was obliged to leave ere he got rightly into the work. The little flock being left without a shepherd, became discouraged and somewhat indifferent so that for a time it seemed almost advisable to abandon the field. However, on December 9, 1888, Harold Thorson gave Rev. James Godward, of Evansville, a pressing invitation to preach for the people at Elbow Lake on the following Sabbath. The invitation was accepted and a large attentive audience assembled to hear the preached word, and strange as it may seem to old and thoroughly organized congregations, Rev. Godward was engaged by the leading business and professional men of the town to preach every alternate Sabbath for one year, and there was not a Presbyterian among them. The salary agreed upon was increased one hundred dollars the first year. Reverend Godward served the spiritual needs of the people until his death, May 14, 1913. R. G. Rieman, a student pastor, filled the pulpit during the summer of the same year. In November, 1913, Rev. A. T. Huber accepted the call of the congregation and is the present pastor. He also has charge of the church at Ashby. The membership of the local congregation is one hundred and eight.

The present church building was erected in 1897 at a cost of two thousand seven hundred dollars. Improvements have since been made thus making the building quite ample to meet the needs of the congregation.

The Ashby Presbyterian church was organized on December 9, 1888,

by Rev. A. C. Elmer and Rev. James Godward, with the following charter members: E. Marden and wife, William Porter and wife, Dr. William McKenzie and wife, D. R. Davidson and wife, M. A. Burbank and wife, A. D. Dewey and wife, Mrs. H. K. Fisk, George Huggett. Rev. James Godward was the first pastor and served ten years, from 1888 to 1898. Rev. J. W. Hood succeeded Reverend Godward and served the congregation one year. Rev. A. T. Ploetz became the pastor in 1900 and served one year. Rev. W. H. Leggett was pastor from 1901 to 1907. He was followed by Rev. D. O. Bean, who served about one year. From 1908 to 1911 the church had no regular pastor. In 1912 Rev. John Mark accepted the call of the congregation and was the pastor for about two years. Since that time Rev. A. T. Huber, of Elbow Lake, has been the pastor. The present membership numbers seventeen. The congregation uses the church building formerly owned by the Methodist congregation.

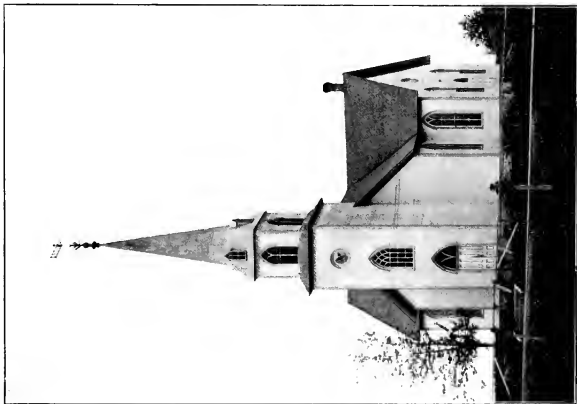
#### REV. JAMES GODWARD.

The Rev. James Godward was born in Sheffield, England, May 29, 1845, and in 1849 came to this country with his parents who settled in the vicinity of Youngstown, Ohio. His mother died when he was quite young and he was brought up under the guidance and direction of his elder brother. He spent his boyhood days in Ohio, and until he was eighteen years of age worked in the coal mines. During the Civil War he enlisted in the service of his country and became a member of a volunteer regiment from Ohio. He served in the war about a year and returning home at the end of the war resumed his work in the coal fields. During the time he was working in the coal fields he was educating himself. After working hours he recited to students and teachers of Westminster College, located at New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

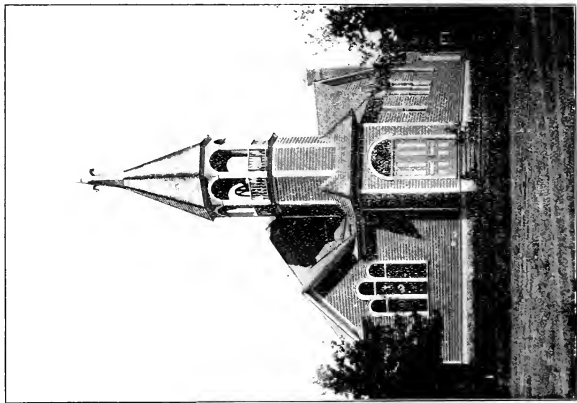
In December, 1865, James Godward was married to Jean Binnie, a Highland Scotch girl of unusual talents and wisdom. Soon after his marriage he became a member of the Neshannock church, a so-called country church, but one having an average attendance of one thousand and an approximate membership of two thousand people. This church has the distinction of sending out more missionaries than any other church of this denomination. To say that Reverend Godward was as great as any of these would not be an exaggeration. For many years he was an active elder in the church and a leader in Sunday school and temperance work. He remained in New Wilmington several years and then moved to Albany,







UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELBOW LAKE.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ELBOW LAKE.



SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH. ELBOW LAKE.



NORWEGIAN SYNOD CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, ELBOW LAKE.



Ohio, and organized the Concord church, of which he was an elder and superintendent of the Sabbath school. After a few years he went back to New Wilmington and there was chosen as an elder in the church. From New Wilmington he removed to Mt. Jackson where he was chosen as an elder and superintendent of the Sabbath school. He remained at Mt. Jackson for several years and then returned to Albany and worked in the church there. During all this time he was studying and preparing himself for the service of God.

He decided to enter the mission field and came west in the early part of 1887, and was ordained at Moorhead, Minnesota, in March of the same year. He decided to locate at Evansville, Minnesota, and there he organized a congregation and built a church building. He also organized a church at Ashby about the same time and in the years of 1887 and 1888 preached at the places already mentioned and also at Dalton. In 1888 he ceased preaching at Dalton and annexed the congregation of Elbow Lake to his circuit. In 1893 he built the church parsonage at Elbow Lake and from this point as a center conducted services at different times at Ashby, Barrett, Hoffman, Kensington, Wendell, Lawrence and Western in addition to Elbow Lake and Evansville. Under his pastorship the church building in Elbow Lake was constructed in 1897.

Reverend Godward was a man universally loved and respected. The golden rule was his precept in dealing with his fellow men and in his every walk of life he practiced the religion he preached. He enjoyed a popularity that was only limited by acquaintance and not an enemy did he have. He visited the sick, comforted the sorrowing and helped the needy. It was given to few men to yield such an influence of good—an influence that will continue to live and bear fruit. Reverend Godward's health began to decline a year before his death. He was requested to give up his work but he insisted that his services were needed. His last sermon was preached in Elbow Lake on Sunday morning, April 20, 1913. A few days afterward his illness became so acute that he was confined to his bed. He died on the morning of May 14, 1913.

The First Presbyterian church of Wendell was organized on April 10, 1904, by Rev. James Godward. The charter members were as follow: Miss Ida Stickney, Miss Della Barker, Mrs. W. U. Williams, Mrs. Hattie Masters, Mrs. Laura C. Stickney, Miss Emma Stickney, Ole Saison, Mrs. Ole Saison, Mrs. Mary Steine and Miss Gertrude Steine.

The first pastor was Rev. James Godward, who was succeeded by

Rev. F. O. Bastrom and Rev. William Anderson. The present pastor is Rev. H. T. Sackett. The church now has a membership of sixteen. In November, 1912, the congregation bought the Methodist church building at Hereford and moved it to Wendell, where it is still in use. The pastor of the Wendell church conducts services in Lawrence and Western.

#### LAWRENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The first religious service held in the town of Lawrence was in the home of Joseph C. Marple, father of H. L. Marple, in the winter of 1893, Rev. John Irwin conducting the service. The first Sabbath school was organized in the school house of district No. 28 by J. C. Marple in the spring of 1884, with John Marple as superintendent and Rev. George Johnson of Western Presbyterian church preaching. Services were held each Sunday afternoon during the summer and similar services were held during the summers of 1885 and 1886. On December 18, 1886, a meeting was called under the direction of Rev. A. C. Pettitt, and the Presbyterian church of Lawrence was organized with a membership of twenty-two members, namely: Jacob M. Reeser, Harriet R. Reeser, George H. Adams, Daniel L. Tucker, Harriet Tucker, John Shaw, Mary E. Shaw, Delany Shaw, George H. Shaw, Mattie J. Shaw, John Sellie, Theodore Cowdell, Mrs. Mary M. Ash, Kilborn B. Lovejoy, Mr. S. P. Lorell, Mrs. Sophia Lorell, Wilmar J. Reeser, Lillie C. Reeser, Ida A. Reeser, Clarence G. Wentworth, George E. Wentworth and Stella Anderson. Jacob M. Reeser was elected elder and continued to hold the office through life.

Sabbath school and preaching services were held in the summer months by different ministers. Rev. James Godward especially looked after the interest of the church up to the year 1900. The church was incorporated under the laws of the state in the spring of 1901, under the direction of Rev. C. M. Junkin. Five acres of land having been donated, the congregation proceeded to build a church edifice that same summer, and the same was dedicated on December 1, 1901, Rev. R. N. Adams, synodical superintendent; Rev. James Godward, of Elbow Lake, and Rev. C. M. Junkin, pastor, being present. The building cost about one thousand eight hundred dollars, the Presbyterian board of church erection supplying five hundred dollars. The board of home missions assisted in support of the pastor up to the summer of 1902 when, in conjunction with the Western church, the churches became self-supporting. From that time on there has been regular service under different pastors, with many changes of membership, members moving away

and others moving in; but never has there failed to be those who supported and enjoyed it, and rejoiced in the fact that a House of God had been established in the town of Lawrence.

In the current year (1916) the membership is fifty-two, with a Sunday school of over one hundred. Only two of the charter members, the elder, J. M. Reeser, and his daughter are still in attendance. Since its organization, the following pastors have served the Presbyterian church of Lawrence: 1884, Rev. George Johnson; 1886, Rev. A. C. Pettitt; 1894 to 1900, Rev. James Godward; Reverends Stewart, Stevens and McInnis were student supplies; Rev. S. Ferguson, pastor-at-large; Rev. Matthewson, pastor-at-large; Reverend McAltoner; 1900-02, Rev. C. M. Junkin; 1902-03, Rev. I. G. Smith; Rev. W. F. Finch, pastor-at-large; 1903-07, Rev. James Wray, Reverend Shibli and students; 1910, Rev. T. C. Hodgeson; 1913-15, Rev. William Anderson; 1915-16, Rev. H. T. Sockett; Rev. S. Sharpless, pastor-at-large.

#### METHODIST CHURCHES.

The first Methodist church in Grant county was organized in Herman in 1879 by the Rev. J. B. Starkey. The church began its existence with a membership of ten members, but has grown to such an extent that the organization is one of the strongest in this section of the country. The auxiliaries in connection with the church are the Ladies' Aid Society, of which Mrs. Dunn is president; the Sunday school and the Queen Esther Circle. The pastors who have served the congregation since the beginning include the following: Rev. H. B. Crandall, Rev. S. M. Harm, Rev. C. W. Larson, Rev. W. J. Hunter, Rev. M. O. McNiff, Rev. P. P. Ingalls, Rev. Frank Fisher, Rev. D. S. Smith, Rev. George West, Rev. S. G. Briggs, Rev. E. C. Teachout, Rev. C. E. Davenport, Rev. E. H. Nickolson, Rev. W. Peckard, Rev. H. A. Barton, Rev. Thomas E. Archer, Rev. Elijah Haley, Rev. R. Murray, Rev. Joseph E. Watson, Rev. William Love, Rev. L. D. King, Rev. J. Wesley Scott, Rev. J. J. Trask, Rev. C. I. Mason, Rev. L. W. Bartholow, and the present pastor, Rev. R. Levin.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Norcross was organized several years after the one at Herman and was incorporated in 1901. For some time services were held in the village school house but as the congregation grew in strength and numbers a neat little church was erected. Besides holding regular services here the pastor also conducts regular meetings in a school house in the township of Delaware.

In 1888 or 1889 a Methodist congregation was organized at Hereford.

The little congregation prospered and in due season erected a neat little church building. Church services were held with regularity for a few years. Rev. Smith preached to the congregation for several years. Among the leading members of the congregation were L. L. Brewster, Josias McGee, Kelley B. Lovejoy, Rebekah Ireland, George Shaw and Thomas H. Toombs.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH AT ST. OLAF.

The first Catholic gathering in Elbow Lake and vicinity was held at the home of J. A. Dols on June 8, 1912. The first Sunday service was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tos. E. Dybdal on May 7, 1914, with Father James Walcher, of Tintah, presiding. Services are now conducted quite frequently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dybdal by Father Matthew Hoffman, of Tintah. Sunday school is conducted each Sunday by Mrs. Tos. E. Dybdal and although the gathering is small the interest manifested is encouraging to those of the faith.

The congregation received its name from the fact that Harold Thorson, although not a Catholic, has kindly donated a beautiful lot as a site for the prospective church building and it was he who so liberally endowed St. Olaf College. A great deal of support has been received from non-Catholics, a fact that is very encouraging to the supporters of this faith. Two thousand five hundred dollars have already been subscribed toward the erection of an edifice and it is the fond hope of every member to have the structure in the course of construction within a year.

#### THE PARISHES OF ST. CHARLES AND ST. MARY.

The Catholic church of St. Charles at Herman was organized during the summer of 1913 by the Rev. Father Charles L. Grunenwald and during that same summer was incorporated under the laws of the state of Minnesota with the following board of directors: The Rt. Rev. James Trobec, D. D., bishop of St. Cloud; the Rt. Rev. Mgr. F. J. Nagl, vicar general; the Rev. Charles L. Grunenwald, pastor in charge, and J. J. Olson and Edward Drexler, lay members. The Rev. Charles L. Grunenwald, who had labored so effectively for the success of the parish, was appointed the first pastor of St. Charles, attending the same from Donnelly, and upon his removal to St. Cloud to become editor of the diocesan paper, the present pastor, the Rev. B. H. Wessling, was appointed at the end of November, 1915. At present there are about twenty-two families connected with St. Charles parish, numbering



about sixty souls, and progress is reported in all departments of the work of the church.

The church of St. Mary at Norcross was organized in the year 1906 by the Rev. Father James Walcher, of Tintah, his successor being the Rev. Father Matthew Hoffman. Then Norcross was made a mission of the parish at Donnelly and the Rev. Father Charles L. Grunewald was appointed pastor, he being succeeded by the Rev. B. H. Wessling, of Donnelly, the present rector, and pastor also of the church of St. Charles at Herman.

#### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH AT HERMAN.

In the year 1905 a small company of believers in the doctrines of the Seventh-Day Adventist church in and about Herman was organized into a church company by Elder W. W. Ruble, now in the educational work of that communion, and Elder A. C. Gilbert, now president of the Canadian conference of the Seventh-Day Adventists. The congregation was organized after a six-weeks series of lectures and started out with an initial membership of twenty, which number was increased to thirty-one by 1907. The work of this small company prospered and a few more members have been added since. Some of these members have moved away and joined other churches, while "some have been laid to rest, awaiting the Lord's soon coming; when all the Faithful shall be called from their dusty beds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess., iv: 15-17), the living righteous to be changed (1 Cor., xv: 51-54); all to go to Heaven, where Christ is (John xiv: 1-3) to reign with Him one thousand years (Rev. xx: 4)." The present membership of the Seventh-Day Adventist church at Herman is twenty, with two waiting to join. The offerings for the first, second and third quarters of 1916 amounted to \$480.33; that is, including the tithes, besides the contributions for home missionary work. As one devout member of this faith puts it: "Every member of this denomination is an ambassador of God and has a work to do; to help warn the world of the coming of the Day of God, just before Christ comes in the clouds of Heaven."

#### OTHER CHURCH INCORPORATIONS.

There are several organizations in the county whose incorporation is recorded with the register of deeds, some of which are not now active. Among the incorporations are the Land Norsk Evangelical Lutheran Menighed church of Hoffman; the Bethel Norsk Evangelical Lutheran Menighed

church at Erdahl; the Bethesda Menighed church of Barrett; the First Baptist church of Herman, one of the early churches in the community; the Christian Reform church of America of Norcross; the Evangelical Lutheran Saint Paul's church of Herman; the Bethany Lutheran congregation in the township of Lien; the Salem Lutheran church of Barrett; the Catholic church of St. Charles of Herman; the Catholic church of St. Mary of Norcross; the German Evangelical Lutheran Zions Congregation in the town of Roseville; the German Evangelical Lutheran Christ church of Pomme de Terre; the German Reformed church southwest of Herman. The Church of God at Hereford has an active organization and a neat frame building.

## CHAPTER XI.

### NEWSPAPERS OF GRANT COUNTY.

The newspapers of Grant county compare very favorably with those of any other distinctly rural community. A number of journalistic efforts have appeared in the county in the past years, flourished for a time and passed out of existence. There are now five weekly papers published in Grant county.

#### GRANT COUNTY REVIEW.

The *Grant County Review* was established in 1900, at Herman, by J. S. Arneson and Oscar Arneson. The Arneson Brothers conducted the paper until 1911, when they sold out to Ronald Morrison, who had charge of the paper for about three months. The present proprietor, E. M. Chesebrough, assumed the management of the *Review* on November 1, 1911, and has built up a very good paper. It is a six-column, six-page weekly paper, and is noted for the thoroughness in which it covers the local field. The *Review* is independent in politics. The office is well equipped for both news and commercial job work.

The *Herman Enterprise* was established at Herman in May, 1887, by E. W. Randall, publisher, and F. J. Skinner, editor. It was an eight-column, four-page paper. It was later purchased by J. W. Reynolds, who sold out to K. C. Ness, who in turn sold to Nellie Jacobs. Miss Jacobs continued to publish this paper until it was discontinued in 1908. She was noted for the vigorous manner in which she handled local matters. Miss Jacobs married N. J. Bothne and they now live at New Rockford, North Dakota.

Perhaps the first paper in the county was the *Herman Banner*, published at Herman, about 1878. This newspaper is said to have been owned by a Mr. Kindred and edited by A. C. Belyea, later owner of the *Herald*.

#### GRANT COUNTY HERALD.

The *Grant County Herald* was established at Herman, about 1881, when that village was the metropolis of Grant county, by W. C. Whiteman. Mr. Whiteman conducted the paper for several years and then sold to A. DeLacey

Wood, who in turn sold to A. C. Belyea. Mr. Belyea moved the paper to the village of Elbow Lake in 1887, and continued as its publisher until his death, in 1895, when W. H. Goetzinger became the proprietor. Mr. Goetzinger conducted the paper until 1914, since which time it has been owned by the Herald Printing Company.

The *Elbow Lake Tribune* was established in 1886 by J. S. Arneson. In 1899 the *Tribune* absorbed the *Barrett Lake Breeze*, which had been published for some three years at Barrett. At the time of consolidation the *Tribune* was enlarged from a five-column, four-page paper, to seven columns, four pages. A few years later the paper was discontinued.

#### ASHBY POST.

The *Ashby Post* was established on November 1, 1901, by William Penner, who sold out on April 22, 1910, to Alfred J. Dahl. Mr. Dahl continued as publisher until April 22, 1913, when he transferred his interests to L. R. Rathbun, the present proprietor.

The *Post* has a circulation of five hundred and fifty, and is published every Friday. It is a six-column folio. The type is hand set, and the office is equipped with newspaper and job presses.

The *Grant County Farmer* was published at Ashby about 1890, by A. S. King. In 1897 this paper was taken over by J. S. Arneson, who conducted it a few years, when it was discontinued.

#### WENDELL TRIBUNE.

The *Wendell Tribune* was established on August 14, 1914, by A. R. McManus, formerly principal of the Wendell public schools. When founded the paper had two hundred and seventy subscribers and now has five hundred. It is a five-column, eight-page paper, and is well supported by local advertising from the wide-awake Wendell merchants.

The *Tribune* office is well supplied with up-to-date type faces and all the necessary facilities for commercial job work. The paper circulates in Grant county and the southern part of Otter Tail county.

The *Wendell Sun* was published for about eight months at Wendell, by J. Harvey Cousins, in 1913, when it was discontinued. Mr. Cousins also started the *Barrett Tribune* about the same time, and after a brief existence it also ceased.

## HOFFMAN TIMES.

The *Hoffman Times* was established on May 25, 1916, by W. N. Bronson. It is a six-column, eight-page paper. The *Times* office has an "Ideal" news press and a ten by fifteen inch job press, also a good supply of type.

The *Hoffman Independent* was conducted at Hoffman by Casper Nohner, from the spring of 1912 to the fall of 1914, when it was discontinued.

## CHAPTER XII.

### THE BENCH AND BAR.

From the time of its permanent organization, in 1873, until 1883, Grant county was a part of Douglas county for judicial purposes, and district court cases from this county were tried at Alexandria. In 1883 the state Legislature gave Grant county a court of its own and made it a part of the seventh judicial district, which was comprised of Benton, Douglas, Grant, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns and Todd counties. The judges who presided over this court while Grant county was a part of the seventh judicial district were L. W. Collins and L. L. Baxter. Judge Collins later became a member of the state supreme court.

In 1887 Grant county became a part of the sixteenth judicial district, then composed of Big Stone, Grant, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties, to which Pope county was added later, and these counties constitute the present sixteenth judicial district. The judges have been: Calvin L. Brown, who served from 1887 to 1898, when he was elected to the state supreme court of which he is now chief justice; F. J. Steidl, who served from 1898 to 1901, and S. A. Flaherty, who was elected in 1900 and is still presiding as judge of this district.

### ATTORNEYS.

E. S. Rolfe was the first attorney to take up residence in Grant county. He opened a law office at Herman in the early seventies and at once took an active part in county affairs. Mr. Rolfe was county superintendent of schools from 1879 to 1880 and was county attorney from 1878 to 1881. He moved away from Herman in 1882.

Joseph W. Reynolds located in Herman in 1879 and was one of the leading early lawyers. Mr. Reynolds was county attorney from 1881 to 1883. He is now practicing law in Duluth.

Charles M. Stevens, who also located at Herman, was county attorney from 1883 to 1885. He moved from Grant county to Minneapolis, and later went to Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he is still in the practice.

W. H. Townsend, a native of Michigan and a graduate of the law

school at Ann Arbor, located at Herman in 1887. He was county superintendent of schools from 1893 to 1895. Mr. Townsend died at Flint, Michigan, in 1900.

A Mr. Rothrick engaged in the practice of law at Herman, in 1882, in partnership with J. W. Reynolds. About 1888 he moved to Little Falls, this state.

George Ketcham opened a law office at Herman in 1882. He was county attorney from 1885 to 1891. Mr. Ketcham died at Herman in 1899.

Arthur B. Childress moved from Northfield to Herman in 1897, engaged in the practice there for two years, then came to Elbow Lake, and after conducting an office here for one year moved back to Northfield, where he is now judge of the fifth judicial district.

Guy B. Caldwell located in Herman about 1895. After practicing there three years he removed to St. Paul.

F. C. Anderson opened a law office in Herman in 1905, and is still located there.

Nels J. Bothne located in Herman in 1906, and after residing there one year moved to Elbow Lake. Mr. Bothne was county attorney from 1909 to 1913. Soon after leaving this office he moved to New Rockford, North Dakota.

A. S. King came to Ashby in 1882 and after residing there until 1900 moved to Lake Park, Becker county, where he is still engaged in the practice.

Michael Casey and Thomas Casey, brothers, natives of Wisconsin, opened an office for the practice of law at Elbow Lake in 1887. Michael Casey served as county attorney from 1895 to 1899. In 1899 he moved to Bloomington, Wisconsin, where he is engaged in the practice. Thomas Casey was court commissioner for Grant county from 1891 to 1895. He is still engaged in practice at Elbow Lake.

Oscar M. Torrison located at Elbow Lake in 1887, and lived here until 1890, then moved to Chicago, where he is now one of the judges of the circuit court.

E. J. Scofield came to Elbow Lake from Houston county in 1889, and was in partnership with Mr. Torrison for one year. Mr. Scofield served as county attorney from 1891 to 1895 and from 1899 to 1909. He is still engaged in practice here.

Andrew O. Ofsthun located at Elbow Lake in 1891. In 1896 he was elected judge of probate and was serving in that office when he was accidentally killed at Pomme de Terre lake in 1901.

R. J. Stromme began the practice of law at Elbow Lake in 1903. Mr. Stromme was county superintendent of schools from 1907 to 1913, and since 1913 has been county attorney.

Knut T. Dahlen came to Elbow Lake in 1900, and opened an office for the practice of law. Mr. Dahlen was county superintendent of schools from 1895 to 1901. In 1912 he moved to Minneapolis, where he now is assistant county attorney.

James S. Scribner located in Elbow Lake in 1900, and one year later moved to Walker, where he is engaged in the practice.

#### STORY OF THE FIRST COURT SESSION.

At the dedication of the new court house, in 1906, a letter was read from Judge L. W. Collins, who presided at the first session of the district court held in Grant county, in 1883. This letter is of interest, as it gives an insight into the conditions which confronted the early lawyers in Grant county. Judge Collins wrote as follows:

"I held the first term of court in your county at Elbow Lake in 1883 in the old court house, a small building erected for public purposes. There was but one hotel, kept by Mr. Laastuen, and, if I remember right, no store at all in your place. I am told that the hotel I speak of was on the ground now occupied by the new court house—a beautiful site for a public building.

"Things were very crude in those days. I remember that an appeal was made to me to transfer the court to either Herman or Ashby, because there were no proper facilities in Elbow Lake. I thought that those who had business might be discommoded, and stated, upon opening the court, that if any complaints were to be made, I would listen to them at that time, and, if there was no well founded reason for transferring the court to some other town, it would be held here. I heard no complaints and we went on with the business.

"The lawyers were all taken care of by the then county auditor, Mr. Sanford, who lived about a mile away, across a small lake. Farmers took jurors, litigants and witnesses to their houses in the neighborhood. The hotel proprietor and his good wife did exceedingly well with the crowds that were thrust upon them, and, upon the whole, it was not an unpleasant condition of things.

"I held, as district judge, one or two terms later, when the town had commenced to grow and could boast of a store and three or four dwelling houses. I look back upon those days and the friends I met there with a good deal of satisfaction."



## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

If one could form a mental conception of the physician of the early days and his surroundings, it would present a picture in sharp contrast to the conditions faced by the physicians of the present day. In early times there was probably one physician within a radius of twenty-five or thirty miles, and his only road was the Indian trail or the few lines of the stage coach. His chief means of conveyance was the faithful horse which he rode, and his entire line of supplies and instruments was carried in small saddle bags strapped to the saddle. Rivers had to be crossed in time of flood, blinding snow storms faced, and when he left home on a round of visits he knew not when he would return. Contrast these conditions with those which prevail in this day of excellent roads, telephones, automobiles and improved medical science, and one can readily appreciate the sacrifices and hardships that the early doctors endured. Doubtless none of the professions have undergone the changes of that of the medical profession, and probably none other has risen to such a high point of efficiency.

#### HERMAN PHYSICIANS.

The first man to enter Grant county as a practicing physician was Dr. William F. Holden, who located at Herman early in the fall of 1882. After practicing there a number of years he removed to Winona, this state, where he engaged in the drug business. Doctor Holden was followed by Dr. C. O. Paquin, who was graduated from the medical department of Iowa State University in 1872. In January, 1883, Dr. W. R. Hand came to Herman and opened an office for the practice of medicine. Doctor Hand was graduated from the Cincinnati College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1877 and began the practice of his profession at Scranton, Pennsylvania, and remained there until his removal to Herman, as stated. In 1896 Doctor Hand sold his practice to Dr. A. D. Larson, and after spending one winter in New York Post-Graduate Medical School, located in Elbow Lake.

In 1896 John Quincy Sackett, a man who had little or no technical training in the medical profession, located at Herman. He started work as

a horse doctor, but being a man of unusual natural ability, with sound judgment and a winning personality, he gradually turned his attention to medicine and established an extensive practice. "Doctor" Sackett died at Herman in 1907.

Among the later physicians who located at Herman were Doctor McCann, Doctor Cottan and Doctor Waite, who after brief terms of residence here moved to other fields. Dr. B. L. Brigham, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, practiced here for a few years. Dr. James H. Bowers is another physician known to have been in Herman, but his residence was of such short duration that little is known of him.

At the present time there are three physicians practicing in Herman. Dr. A. D. Larson came here in 1894 and in 1896 took over the practice of Doctor Hand. Dr. T. M. Thayer, who was graduated from a New York medical college in 1900, and was assistant physician at the Fergus Falls state hospital for six years, located in Herman in 1908. Doctor Thayer was coroner of Grant county from 1909 to 1911. Doctor Larson was coroner from 1899 to 1903. Dr. J. T. Leland, who was graduated from the Chicago Homeopathic College, opened an office in Herman in 1905. Doctor Leland has been county coroner since 1913.

#### ELBOW LAKE PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Fred A. Robinson was the first physician to begin the practice of medicine at Elbow Lake. He was graduated from the Minnesota Hospital College in 1887 and immediately located in Elbow Lake. Doctor Robinson was accidentally killed while out hunting in 1889.

Dr. Norman W. Chance was one of the pioneer physicians of Elbow Lake, locating in the village in October, 1888. He was born in Wood county, Ohio, and received his elementary education there. After graduating from Rush Medical College, at Chicago, he came to Minnesota and began the practice of his profession in Elbow Lake. Subsequently he took two post-graduate courses, one at the Chicago Polyclinic and the other at Johns Hopkins University, at Baltimore. Doctor Chance moved to Little Falls, this state, where he died on July 3, 1916.

Dr. C. E. Caine was the third physician to take up the practice of medicine in Elbow Lake. Doctor Caine was graduated from the medical department of the Minnesota State University in 1896, and at once opened an office in Elbow Lake. He practiced here for several years and then removed to Morris, this state, where he now resides.

The next physician to locate in the village was Dr. W. R. Hand, who removed here from Herman, in 1896, and has since practiced in Elbow Lake. Doctor Hand has maintained an office in Grant county longer than any other physician now engaged in the practice here.

Dr. C. B. Heimark came to Elbow Lake about 1904 and stayed one year. Later he resided for about a year at Wendell, and then moved to Ackley, where he died in 1910.

Dr. Robert B. Hixson, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, located in Elbow Lake about 1900, but remained only a short time.

Among the practicing physicians in Elbow Lake at the present time is Dr. E. A. T. Reeve, who was graduated from Hamline University in 1899 and located here a short time afterward, where he soon established a paying practice.

Dr. F. L. Kling is also engaged in the practice in Elbow Lake at the present time. Doctor Kling is a graduate of Hamline University, with the class of 1903. After practicing in Alexandria for several years Doctor Kling located in Elbow Lake in 1913.

Dr. Per Oyen set up an office at Elbow Lake about 1910, and was here two years, moving to Fessenden, North Dakota, where he now resides. Another physician who located in the village and practiced here several years was Dr. Jacob L. Hoffman. He came here in 1909 and in 1911 moved to Henning, Otter Tail county, this state.

#### ASHBY PHYSICIANS.

One of the pioneer physicians of Grant county was Dr. E. J. Johnson, of Ashby. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan with the class of 1870, and a man especially learned in his profession. He practiced here for several years at an early day. Another physician who at one time practiced in the village of Ashby was Dr. Ole M. Loosins, who was educated in Norway and came to this country to practice medicine. He did not remain here long, but removed to another location.

Dr. P. G. Cowing located at Ashby in 1892. About 1910 he removed to Montana, but in 1916 returned to Minnesota and located at Evansville.

Dr. A. Mason Randall came to Ashby in 1910, where he is still engaged in the practice of medicine.

## WENDELL PHYSICIANS.

Dr. C. D. Kolset located at Wendell about 1900, where he engaged in the practice of medicine until 1912, when he moved to Brooten, this state.

Dr. Peter Rothnem located at Wendell about 1914, and is still engaged in the practice there. One of the pioneer physicians of the Wendell neighborhood, who was for a long time located near Hereford station, was Dr. J. M. Tucker. He was a graduate of the medical department of Land University, Canada, and died in this county several years ago.

## BARRETT PHYSICIANS.

Dr. F. W. Powers, who was graduated from Hamline University, in 1899, and was formerly engaged in the practice of medicine at Rockford, this state, located at Barrett in 1902. Doctor Powers maintains a hospital at Barrett and is known as one of the leading physicians of the county.

Dr. Carl F. Anzman located at Barrett in 1914 and at once opened an office for the practice of medicine. Dr. Eugene W. Young was one of the early day physicians at Barrett, but removed to another location.

## HOFFMAN PHYSICIANS.

Doctor Spurr located at Hoffman in 1893, and after practicing medicine there two or three years, removed to St. Paul, where he is now practicing dentistry.

Dr. F. E. Griswold opened an office at Hoffman in 1898, and is still engaged in the practice of medicine there.

Dr. Amy Sjolaas, who recently located at Hoffman, is the only woman physician in the county, and is the youngest in point of service.

## GRANT COUNTY DENTISTS.

Dr. A. C. Ageru was the first dentist to locate in Herman; later he moved to California. Dr. Frank R. Haley began the practice of dentistry in Herman in 1908, but soon moved to another location. Dr. L. W. Prescott located in Herman in 1915, but soon afterward moved to Alexandria. Doctor Ferguson opened an office for the practice of dentistry at Herman in 1916.

Dr. C. H. Godward was the first and only dentist in Elbow Lake until the coming of Dr. O. Sauby in the summer of 1915.

## VETERINARY SURGEONS.

A. H. Bullis, a man of talent but having no particular technical training, did all the veterinary work in the county at a very early day. He was an old-fashioned "hoss doctor" and was very successful considering his equipment.

Dr. M. H. Smith, a trained veterinary, whose abrupt manner of speech caused him to be regarded as rather eccentric, located at Elbow Lake in 1890. He died here in May, 1907.

Dr. L. Smedley is a veterinary surgeon located at Herman, where he has been practicing since 1913.

Dr. John R. Nelson came to Elbow Lake in 1908, where he is still engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### BANKS OF GRANT COUNTY.

In the early days of the settlement of Grant county it was only natural that interest rates on loans secured from private parties should be quite high. Values were not then established and credit was not secure. Even after the first banks, which were private concerns, were started, it was customary to charge from ten to thirty per cent for short time loans. Farmers in this county can now secure all the money they need for legitimate improvement at six per cent. In 1889 there were two banks in the county with combined deposits of about \$100,000; there are now fourteen banks with deposits of something over \$2,000,000. Of the financial institutions in Grant county, three are national banks and eleven are state banks. Following is a brief history of each in the order of their organization:

#### GRANT COUNTY STATE BANK OF HERMAN.

The first bank in Grant county was started at Herman in 1878 as a private institution under the name of C. F. Washburn & Company. After a few years of disastrous experience it ceased to exist in 1883. That same year saw the establishment of the oldest bank in Grant county, the Grant County Bank of Herman, which was started on August 23, 1883. The first officers were: R. P. Wells, president; H. H. Wells, vice-president; E. W. Snyder, cashier; A. W. Wells, assistant cashier. The directors, in addition to the officers, were L. E. Pearce and W. J. Monroe. The bank begun under a state charter with a capital stock of \$25,000. In 1886 it was discontinued as a state bank and became a private bank with a capital of \$10,000. On January 29, 1906, it again became a state bank under the name of Grant County State Bank of Herman, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The present officers are: Chris Johnson, president; J. P. Wells, vice-president; A. W. Wells, cashier; R. J. Johnson, assistant cashier. Directors: Chris Johnson, J. P. Wells, A. W. Wells, R. J. Johnson and W. H. Cooley. The bank occupies a two-story brick building valued at \$10,000.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$25,000; surplus and undivided

profits, \$10,500; total deposits, \$225,000; loans and discounts, \$225,000; cash assets, \$24,899.

#### BANK OF ELBOW LAKE.

The Bank of Elbow Lake was established in 1886 by Harold Thorson, who had been engaged in the banking business in Northfield, Minnesota. The original capital stock was \$35,000. The first officers were: Harold Thorson, president; A. D. Davidson, vice-president; Henry Sampson, cashier. The directors were: Harold Thorson, A. D. Davidson, John Christenson, C. H. Raiter, E. J. Scofield, W. W. Smith and Henry Sampson. The present officers are: Henry Sampson, president; Ole O. Canestorp, vice-president; M. A. Lukken, cashier. Directors: Henry Sampson, M. A. Lukken, Harold Thorson, Knut Fjoslin and Ole O. Canestorp.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$50,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$13,108; total deposits, \$289,492.23; loans and discounts, \$298,839.25; cash assets, \$30,301.23.

#### FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ELBOW LAKE.

The First National Bank of Elbow Lake was established in August, 1891, with a capital stock of \$50,000, by J. U. Barnes, H. A. Barnes, N. M. Barnes and Thomas R. Marston, of Minneapolis, and W. K. Barnes and William Moses, of Alexandria. The first officers were: W. K. Barnes, president; William Moses, vice-president; Thomas R. Marston, cashier. A two-story brick building was erected in 1892 which was enlarged and improved in 1914. The first charter expired in 1911 and was then renewed until 1931. W. K. Barnes served as president from 1891 until 1911, and since that date as vice-president. W. E. Landeene started with the bank as bookkeeper at the time of organization, was elected assistant cashier in 1894, cashier in 1895, and president in 1911. Lars Lynne, who has been cashier since 1911, was treasurer of Grant county for twenty years. The present officers of the bank are: W. E. Landeene, president; W. K. Barnes, vice-president; Lars Lynne, cashier. The directors are: W. E. Landeene, W. K. Barnes, Lars Lynne, E. J. Scofield and W. H. Goetzinger.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$50,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$19,426.03; total deposits, \$217,915.72; loans and discounts, \$216,392.58; cash assets, \$23,052.

## STATE BANK OF HOFFMAN.

The State Bank of Hoffman was incorporated on September 1, 1899, with a capital stock of \$10,000. The first officers were: D. A. McLarty, president; N. E. Rulien, vice-president; William Schellbach, cashier. The present officers are: N. E. Rulien, president; D. A. McLarty, vice-president; William Schellbach, cashier; H. W. Lundin, assistant cashier.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$10,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$10,541.31; total deposits, \$231,068.25; loans and discounts, \$209,657.11; cash assets, \$35,385.16.

## FIRST STATE BANK OF ASHBY.

The First State Bank of Ashby was organized in July, 1900, with the following officers: C. D. Wright, president; E. A. Jewett, vice-president; J. L. Everts, cashier. The majority of the stockholders are farmers and all the stock is owned by local people. The present officers are: E. J. Scofield, president; E. K. Teisberg, vice-president; L. J. Hauge, cashier.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$25,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$5,100; total deposits, \$192,000; loans and discounts, \$183,000; cash assets, \$31,000.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HERMAN.

The Peoples Bank of Herman was organized in September, 1901, by Ernest E. Peck and Rodney Hill. This institution was reorganized on January 4, 1906, as the First National Bank of Herman, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The first officers were: Rodney Hill, president; C. B. Kloos, vice-president; Ernest E. Peck, cashier; A. L. Nelson, assistant cashier. W. T. Ziebarth, director, with the officers. In January, 1907, A. D. Larson took the place of W. T. Ziebarth as director, and in January, 1909, G. H. Munn succeeded C. B. Kloos as vice-president. Rodney Hill died in 1909 and in January, 1910, P. W. Barton was elected to fill Mr. Hill's position as president. In 1910 E. C. Eaton took the place of A. L. Nelson as assistant cashier, and Fred Hidde was added to the board of directors. In the fall of 1912 P. W. Barton died and A. D. Larson became president and E. D.



Rodgers was made a director. The present officers are: A. D. Larson, president; G. H. Mumm, vice-president; Ernest E. Peck, cashier; E. C. Eaton, assistant cashier; Ray Lentz, assistant cashier. Fred Hidde and E. D. Rogers, directors, with officers.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$25,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$10,032.53; total deposits, \$232,648.93; loans and discounts, \$223,977.02; cash assets, \$23,000.

#### FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WENDELL.

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Wendell was organized in 1903, with the following officers: Edward Mobraaten, president; Martinus Larson, vice-president; S. Skinnemoen, Jr., vice-president; Carl A. Prestrud, cashier. The capital stock was \$12,000. On September 2, 1916, this institution became the First National Bank of Wendell, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The present officers are: Edward Mobraaten, president; Martinus Larson, vice-president; S. Skinnemoen, Jr., vice-president; Carl A. Prestrud, cashier; Hjalmar Larson, assistant cashier. Directors: The officers and Erick H. Bergerud, C. H. Bergerud, G. T. Rund, A. E. Soliah and Ole O. Sand. The bank has a fine new brick building, costing about \$12,000.

The principal items from the statement of the state bank at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$12,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$6,000; total deposits, \$180,000; loans and discounts, \$180,000; cash assets, \$17,000.

#### STATE BANK OF NORCROSS.

The Bank of Norcross, a private institution, was established in 1905. In 1908 this was incorporated as a state bank, under the name State Bank of Norcross. The present officers are: Andrew Lund, president; Ole Sellesteth, vice-president; Alfred Lund, cashier. The officers and Lars Larson form the board of directors.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$10,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$11,500; total deposits, \$85,000; loans and discounts, \$93,000; cash assets, \$7,500.

## CITIZENS STATE BANK OF BARRETT.

The Citizens State Bank of Barrett was organized in July, 1908, with a capital stock of \$10,000. The first officers were: H. Thorson, president; E. F. Malmgren, vice-president; H. Sampson, vice-president; Oliver Gorder, cashier. The present officers are: H. Thorson, president; Tollef Nelson, vice-president; A. L. Leraas, cashier.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$10,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$5,000; total deposits, \$207,189.19; loans and discounts, \$200,000; cash assets, \$13,613.33.

## FARMERS STATE BANK OF HOFFMAN.

The Farmers State Bank of Hoffman was organized on March 21, 1911, with a capital stock of \$12,000. The first officers were: P. O. Unumb, president; Charles B. Kloos, vice-president; Frank Buscher, cashier. The present officers are: P. O. Unumb, president; Charles B. Kloos, vice-president; G. A. Lofgren, cashier; Ole Lindstrom, assistant cashier.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$12,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$1,682.22; total deposits, \$116,436.01; loans and discounts, \$105,955.61; cash assets, \$17,056.93.

## FARMERS STATE BANK OF ASHBY.

The Farmers State Bank of Ashby was established on June 1, 1914, with a capital stock of \$10,000. The first officers were: I. O. Manger, president; C. A. Bakke, vice-president; Severt Aaseng, cashier. George Brito and Eleanora Manger, directors. The present officers are: O. A. Wilson, president; C. A. Bakke, vice-president; Severt Aaseng, cashier. J. B. Iverson and I. O. Manger, directors.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$10,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$2,000; total deposits, \$4,800; loans and discounts, \$4,400; cash assets, \$8,000.

## FIRST STATE BANK OF ERDAHL.

The First State Bank of Erdahl was organized on November 12, 1915. They occupy a modern brick building, equipped with all new furniture and burglar-proof safe. The present officers are: Charles Bradford, president; Ole A. Thompson, vice-president; H. O. Wagner, cashier; M. J. Wagner, assistant cashier. Directors: Charles Bradford, Ole A. Thompson, H. O. Wagner, C. E. White and G. K. Westboe.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$12,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$3,353.45; total deposits, \$32,976.80; loans and discounts, \$37,545.06; cash assets, \$6,433.50.

## FARMERS STATE BANK OF BARRETT.

The Farmers State Bank of Barrett was organized on May 15, 1916, with a capital stock of \$10,000. The present officers are: F. W. Powers, president; Helmer Larson, vice-president; H. I. Wilson, cashier; Alfred Peterson, assistant cashier.

The principal items from the statement at the close of business on June 30, 1916, are as follows: Capital stock, \$10,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$2,000; total deposits, \$11,415.03; loans and discounts, \$13,935.17; cash assets, \$5,904.51.

## WENDELL STATE BANK.

The Wendell State Bank was organized on July 1, 1916, with a capital stock of \$12,000. They are erecting a modern brick building, which will be equipped with up-to-date furniture, and will open for business as soon as the new banking house is completed. The building will cost \$5,000. The officers of the bank are: Austin Boe, president; Martin Bergerud, vice-president; John S. Skinnemoen, cashier. The directors, besides the officers, are: Albert Thorstad, John Thorsen, Andrew Haugen, Ole Skinnemoen and Gustaf Foss.

## CHAPTER XV.

### MILITARY ANNALS.

The events which occurred in Grant county during the Indian troubles of 1862 have been mentioned in the chapter dealing with the story of the outbreak. As Grant county was not organized until some time after the Civil War there were no organized companies sent from this region. Among the early settlers, however, there were many who had seen service during the war between the states, and also a number who had participated in the campaigns against the Indians.

#### ASHBY POST.

In the fall of 1889 a number of the Civil War veterans of Grant county organized a post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Ashby, which flourished for many years and finally, on account of death and removal of so many of the comrades, was disbanded in 1903. This post was named W. W. Preston Post No. 185, Department of Minnesota, in honor of W. W. Preston, a member of the Third Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry, long a resident of this neighborhood. The first officers were: K. N. Olson, commander; Frank Wahldieck, adjutant; R. Beardsley, quartermaster and chaplain.

The membership of the post consisted of the following: K. N. Olson, Twenty-second Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry; Frank Wahldieck, Tenth Regulars; R. Beardsley, Fourth Wisconsin; A. D. Dewey, Twenty-second Wisconsin; S. G. Beebe, Fourth Wisconsin; M. M. Small, Bracketts' Battalion; Joseph Pennock, Sixteenth Illinois; Thomas Olson, Tenth Minnesota Battery; James Godward, Ohio Infantry; Ole O. Ike, Tenth Iowa; Thomas Rohann, Tenth Minnesota; Ole Sauby, First Minnesota; Jens Peterson Lee, Tenth Minnesota; James H. Bowman, Fourteenth Wisconsin; C. E. Sandin, First Minnesota; August O. Melby, Fifteenth Wisconsin; E. C. Schow, Fifteenth Wisconsin; Henry Brown, Illinois Infantry; James O. Richardson, First Minnesota; K. N. Melby, Twenty-second Wisconsin; H. G. Lillemon, Sixteenth Iowa.

There were other veterans who belonged to this post but their names can not now be recalled, and the records are not available. The following mem-

bers had served as commander of the post: K. N. Olson, S. J. Beebe, R. Beardsley and A. D. Dewey. At the time of mustering out the officers were as follow: A. D. Dewey, commander; R. Beardsley, quartermaster and adjutant; James Godward, chaplain.

#### HERMAN POST.

Andrew J. Hubbard Post No. 115, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Herman in the early eighties. A. C. Earsley was commander and D. L. Lattin was adjutant. On May 19, 1887, the Herman *Enterprise* had a report of the post meeting, as follows:

"The Grand Army of the Republic post met in Herman on Tuesday. All officers were present with but one exception. Thirty members were reported in good standing and three applications for membership were acted upon favorably. The report of the treasurer showed that there is thirty dollars on hand. It was decided to attend the Sauk Center encampment on June 8 in a body, and General Barrett, P. F. McCollar, S. G. Kriedler and A. C. Earsley were appointed a committee to make arrangements for such attendance. It was also decided to hold memorial services on Decoration Day, May 30, 1887. The post will be held in the Methodist Episcopal church at three o'clock, p. m. A. C. Earsley, D. W. Hixson and R. P. Wells were appointed a committee to make general arrangements for Decoration Day, and A. C. Earsley, G. Smith and D. W. Hixson were appointed a committee on music. James Robinson was appointed officer of the day. All old soldiers and all true and loyal citizens are invited to join in the exercises of the day."

The post became reduced in members on account of death and removals until there were not enough left to continue the work and the post was disbanded in 1910.

Many of the early settlers who were prominent in the organization and government of Grant county were veterans of the Civil and Indian Wars. Among them may be mentioned the following: Henry F. Sanford, a member of Hatch's Independent Battalion of Cavalry; Ole E. Lien, of the Tenth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry; Ole Larson Sunvold, also a member of the Tenth Regiment; H. P. Hansen, of the Fifty-second Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry; and R. P. Wells, of the Fourth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.

So far as can be ascertained no residents of Grant county took part in the Spanish-American War in 1898-99, though several who had formerly lived here enlisted at other points.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

The instinct for companionship, common to all men, has found expression in Grant county as elsewhere, in the formation of numerous fraternal and benevolent societies. Several of the lodges which at one time flourished in the county have passed out of existence, but so far as can be ascertained mention is here made of all the orders now active in Grant county.

#### ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

Park Region Lodge No. 227, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized at Elbow Lake on April 24, 1898. Among the charter members were John T. Lindem, Harold Thorson, J. D. Boyd, F. H. Prodger, O. J. Rued, E. J. Scofield and H. W. Barker. The first elective officers were as follow: J. D. Boyd, worshipful master; F. H. Prodger, senior warden; Harold Thorson, junior warden; John T. Lindem, secretary; O. J. Rued, treasurer; E. J. Scofield, senior deacon, and H. W. Barker, junior deacon.

The present officers of Park Region lodge are as follow: C. H. Godward, worshipful master; R. D. Hand, senior warden; Arthur Smith, junior warden; M. A. Lukken, secretary; Dr. W. R. Hand, treasurer; Frank Stanley, senior deacon; O. C. Jacobson, junior deacon; C. E. Stickney, senior steward, and Don Boyd, junior steward. The present membership numbers sixty-seven.

#### PRESCOTT LODGE NO. 162.

Prescott Lodge No. 162, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized at Herman on January 14, 1885. The first officers were: Ezra W. Snyder, worshipful master; R. P. Wells, senior warden; Nathan B. Ufford, junior warden.

The lodge now has a membership of sixty-eight, and the following are the officers for 1916: J. W. Fay, worshipful master; J. R. Wells, senior warden; J. H. Caswell, junior warden; John T. Lindem, secretary; A. W. Wells, treasurer; T. M. Thayer, senior deacon; G. R. Underwood, junior deacon; W. E. Moses, senior steward; R. J. Johnson, junior steward, and Archie Earsley, tyler.

## ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

Rufus Chapter No. 144, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized in Elbow Lake on November 19, 1900. The charter members were as follow: Isabel Hodgson, G. P. Woodworth, Elizabeth Goetzing, E. H. Cornell, J. P. Anderson, Kathryn Hodgson, Effie Godward, Mary Skogmo, Lillian Cornell, Jennie Hand, W. R. Hand, W. H. Goetzing, E. J. Scofield, Mrs. E. J. Scofield, G. C. Hodgson, Mrs. Ida May Woodworth, Emery McKane, Peter J. Runberg, Francis M. Barker and Harold Thorson. Among the first officers elected were: Lillian M. Cornell, worthy matron; W. H. Goetzing, worthy patron; Elizabeth Goetzing, associate matron.

This chapter was the second of the order to be organized in the county, the first being at Herman. In order that a chapter might be organized at Elbow Lake, W. H. Goetzing and wife, Lillian Cornell, Kathryn Hodgson and E. H. Cornell were first initiated in the lodge at Herman. In a short time the chapter was organized at Elbow Lake. The order meets the first and third Monday nights of each month in the hall above the Bank of Elbow Lake.

The present officers are as follow: Mrs. Elizabeth Goetzing, worthy matron; Dr. C. H. Godward, worthy patron; Mrs. Susie Nelson, secretary; Mrs. Anna Scofield, associate matron; Mrs. May Christianson, conductress; Mrs. Emma Alberts, associate conductress; Mrs. Frankie Palin, treasurer; Francis W. Stanley, sentinel; Mrs. Pearl Landeene, warder; Frances Alberts, Ruth; Mrs. Anna G. Hinkley, Ada; Jensine Sanders, Esther; Nina G. Willd, Martha; Mrs. Emma Shoemaker, Electa. The chapter now has a membership of twenty-seven.

## GOLDEN RULE CHAPTER NO. 39.

Golden Rule Chapter No. 39, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized at Herman on August 8, 1891. The charter members were as follow: Mesdames Lottie J. Swartout, M. J. Snyder, Amelia Winger, Kate Konchal, Lottie Wells, Eurette Noel, E. E. Prescott, R. M. Prescott, C. W. Prescott, Minnie Ketcham, Ruth Northrop; and the Misses Sylvia Aurland, Marion Wells, Jennie Snyder, Ella G. Richards; and Messrs. R. P. Wells, W. H. Townsend, Joseph Burns, C. O. Winger, George A. Hartwell and E. W. Snyder. The first elective officers were: Mrs. M. W. Ketcham, worthy matron; R. P. Wells, worthy patron; Helen S. Hixson, assistant matron; Marion Wells, secretary; Amelia Winger, treasurer; C. W. Prescott, con-

ductor: M. J. Snyder, assistant conductor. The chapter holds its meetings in the Odd Fellows hall.

The present officers are: Belva Wells, worthy matron; S. S. Laandt, worthy patron; Birdie Chesebrough, assistant matron; Isabel M. Goodell, secretary; Bertha E. Peck, treasurer; Nina S. Wells, conductress; Louise Schober, assistant conductress. The chapter now has a membership of seventy.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Elbow Lake Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, was organized on September 27, 1892. The following were charter members: Michael Casey, John B. Skogmo, E. N. Nash, Norman W. Chance, A. C. Belyea, Barney L. Bull, L. C. Perry, Ole L. Lundberg, C. H. Gasman, Andrew O. Ofsthun, Leonard E. Randall, John A. Wedum, E. J. Scofield, Abram S. King, C. J. Knutson, John P. Hedberg, John G. Peterson, Ole K. Lee and Herman Hillmond.

The present officers are as follow: W. H. Goetzinger, chancellor commander; F. W. Stanley, vice-chancellor; H. H. Barker, prelate; C. M. Nelson, keeper of records and seal; L. T. Silk, master at arms; Jacob Triese, master of work; Guy Thompson, inside guard; George Hanson, outer guard; C. T. Carlson, master of finance; A. W. Fargerland, master of exchequer.

Section No. 3204, Endowment Rank of the Knights of Pythias, was established at Elbow Lake on July 2, 1896, with the following charter members: Michael Casey, John B. Skogmo, N. B. Lien, W. E. Landeene, Peter Peterson, Herman Hillmond, Joseph Pennock and E. H. Cornell.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Harmony Lodge No. 230, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized at Herman on January 13, 1896. The following were among the charter members: A. D. Larson, John W. Crabtree, John Bomback, M. J. Fearer and Louis Anderson. On the 17th of the same month the lodge was duly instituted and officers installed by Grand Master Mark E. Clay. The first officers were: A. D. Larson, noble grand; M. J. Fearer, vice-grand; J. W. Crabtree, recording secretary; Louis Anderson, treasurer. The first meetings were held in a lodge room over the Grant County Bank and later in rooms in what was then the Commercial Hotel. The membership rapidly increased and in eight years after formation (1904) the present two-story commodious building was acquired.



Today the lodge numbers one hundred and three active and enthusiastic members. The property is practically paid for and the lodge is in a flourishing condition.

This lodge numbers twenty-five past grands, all of whom are now active members of the lodge with the exception of Past Grand George Kriedler, who died in January, 1916. The present officers are: C. F. Nelson, noble grand; W. A. Pracht, vice-grand; W. G. McRoberts, recording secretary; E. E. Peck, financial secretary; E. C. Eton, treasurer.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Herman Camp No. 3311, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized at Herman on October 29, 1895. The charter members were: John Burkhart, Albert Boerner, John W. Crabtree, M. J. Fearer, Mons Hanson, J. D. Houston, Ole G. Jenstad, A. D. Larson, K. C. Ness, W. W. Niemackl, B. H. Phinney, C. H. Phinney, H. C. Prescott, R. F. Rarer, Charles H. Schellbagh, H. P. Webb, Leo N. Westberg, Albert S. Webb and George F. Houston. The first officers were: J. W. Crabtree, venerable consul; H. P. Webb, worthy advisor; M. J. Fearer, banker; K. C. Ness, clerk; O. G. Jenstad, escort; L. N. Westberg, watchman; J. D. Houston, sentry; A. D. Larson, physician. In 1911 the camp erected a new brick lodge hall at a cost of seven thousand five hundred dollars.

The present officers are: E. M. Chesebrough, venerable consul; B. F. Davis, worthy advisor; W. L. Smedley, banker; E. C. Eaton, clerk; George Davis, escort; George R. Underwood, watchman; A. C. Earsley, sentry; J. T. Leland and T. M. Thayer, physicians. The camp has a membership at present of two hundred and five.

There is a lodge of the Royal Neighbors, auxiliary to the Modern Woodmen, at Herman. The officers for 1916 are: Gertrude Record, oracle; Rose Davis, vice-oracle; Flora Jones, past oracle; Grace Cater, receiver; Rekka Morken, recorder; Ida Otting, inner sentinel; Emily Johnson, outer sentinel; Emma Gruetzmacher, chancellor; Minnie Jones, marshal; Emma Gruetzmacher, manager.

#### BARRETT CAMP NO. 3360.

Barrett Camp No. 3360, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on November 2, 1898. Among the charter members were: M. B. Ellingson, M. P. Thune, A. H. Peterson, Ole Anderson, P. J. Berg, Ole Moe, W.

N. Wilson, P. P. Larson, G. P. Ellingson, L. A. Schwantz, H. O. Jelund, A. E. Hegne, Thomas Hogarth and I. Groger. The first officers were: M. B. Ellingson, venerable consul; P. P. Larson, worthy advisor; Ole Moe, banker; M. P. Thune, clerk; A. H. Peterson, escort; H. O. Jelund, watchman; Thomas Hogarth, sentry; Ole Anderson, L. A. Schwantz and G. P. Ellingson, managers.

The present officers are as follow: J. R. Stockdill, venerable consul; A. W. Borgen, worthy advisor; A. Samuelson, banker; F. E. Nelson, clerk.

#### ELBOW LAKE CAMP NO. 9577.

Elbow Lake Camp No. 9577, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized at Elbow Lake on May 2, 1901. Among the charter members were: Adolf Anderson, John P. Anderson, Ole C. Christoferson, Hugh H. Coleman, W. H. Goetzinger, Helmer O. Hanson, Levy H. Hanson, Ole Hanson, Jens P. Johnson, Nels E. Landeene, R. J. Lehman and E. N. Nash.

Hyacinth Camp No. 3362, Royal Neighbors, was instituted at Elbow Lake on March 31, 1903, with the following charter members: Emily Johnson, Betsy Jacobson, Ella Sauby, Margaret Cosh, Helena Brandvold, Josephine Ofsthun, Anjelin Johnson, Lena Olson, Hulda Brackin, Bertha Hanson, Ragna Anderson, Alvina Ackerson, Camilla Stahl, Filda Arneson, Carrie Prescott, Elvira Sauby, Anna Johnson, Gertrude Bartness, Victor E. Erlandson, Earnest H. Erlandson, Ole C. Jacobson, L. C. Johnson and Dr. E. T. Reeve.

The present officers of Hyacinth camp are as follow: Mrs. Emily Johnson, oracle; Mrs. John Nelson, vice-oracle; Mrs. John Nelson, recorder; Sarah Pennock, past oracle; Lena Allen, chancellor; Betsy Jacobson, receiver; Thora Flatness, marshal; Ragna Anderson, inner watch; Amanda Tobolt, outer watch; Margaret Cosh, Lena Allen and O. C. Jacobson, trustees. The camp has a present membership of twenty-six.

#### WENDELL CAMP.

Wendell Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized at Wendell in 1907. They meet the first and third Thursdays of each month in Woodmen hall. The officers for 1916 are as follow: C. E. Stickney, venerable consul; A. R. McManus, worthy advisor; Michael Crogan, banker; T. V. Scott, clerk; John Raines, escort; Ben Simonson, John Raines and M. L. Adams, managers.

## ASHBY CAMP NO. 7386.

Ashby Camp No. 7386, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized at Ashby about ten years ago. Chris Stene is the present venerable constul and John Stene is the clerk. The camp has forty members.

## BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMEN.

Homestead No. 418, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, was organized at Elbow Lake on March 8, 1900, with the following charter members: W. R. Hand, M. Warfield, K. E. Eidahl, Charles E. McQuillan, C. E. Johnson, J. S. Arneson, Ida M. Arneson, Oscar Svien, S. M. Arneson, J. Anderson, J. A. Peterson, Carrie Prescott, Charles D. Peterson, G. Peterson, E. H. Cornell, H. Hillmond, S. H. Oversea, J. Engebretson, A. A. Lysne, G. M. Skogmo, Otto Amundson, G. T. Kolberg, H. K. Harrison, G. Gilbertson, H. W. Nelson, E. H. Fogelson, A. H. Foss and Oscar Arneson. Within a few years the organization became dormant but was reorganized on April 25, 1906, with the following officers: George L. Woodworth, foreman; R. J. Stromme, master of ceremonies; O. Amundson, correspondent; William Landeene, master of exchequer; Rev. James Godward, chaplain; Mrs. L. C. Johnson, overseer; L. C. Johnson, watchman; A. Hendricks, sentinel; A. G. Fossen, guard.

The present officers are: R. J. Stromme, foreman; E. A. Dybdal, master of ceremonies; L. C. Johnson, correspondent; Emily Johnson, chaplain. The present membership is sixty-eight.

## HERMAN HOMESTEAD.

Herman Homestead, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, has the following officers for 1916: B. A. Ritzschke, foreman; Edward Ritzschke, master of ceremonies; Mrs. E. E. Peck, master of accounts; W. T. Ziebarth, correspondent; Mrs. Paul Goodell, overseer; Mrs. Joe Mathews, chaplain; Mrs. O. W. Jones, Lady Rowena; Mrs. E. M. Chesebrough, Lady Rebecca; Emil Keitzman, sentinel; R. P. Sugden, watchman; George R. Underwood, guard.

## BARRETT HOMESTEAD.

Barrett Homestead, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, was organized at Barrett in 1907. The officers for 1916 are: G. F. Gustafson, foreman; Andrew Linder, correspondent; Frank Nelson, master of ceremonies.

## DEGREE OF HONOR.

Purity Lodge No. 56, Degree of Honor, was organized at Elbow Lake on February 1, 1896, with the following charter members: Mrs. George Hinkley, Mrs. J. G. McQuillan, Mrs. J. C. Ackerson, Mrs. E. C. Ackerson, Mrs. H. W. Barker, Mrs. A. W. Nelson, Mrs. A. O. Ofsthun, Mrs. N. T. Ackerson, Pearl Barker, Mrs. Peter Peterson, Mrs. O. K. Laastuen, Mrs. J. N. Biever, Mrs. O. G. Sanders, Rena Bacon, Peter Peterson, O. K. Laastuen, E. C. Ackerson, J. G. McQuillan, Per Person, George Hinkley, N. T. Ackerson, O. G. Christianson, Christian Rygh, W. R. Cockran, O. G. Sanders, John H. Oss and M. Laastuen.

At one time the lodge was in a very prosperous condition and had a membership of about forty, but time has wrought many changes in the personnel of the organization and now six members are on the roll, only two of whom, Mrs. John Sauby and Mrs. Belle Hendricks, live in Elbow Lake.

Among the first officers were the following: J. C. Ackerson, past chief of honor; J. G. McQuillan, chief of honor; Mrs. J. N. Biever, lady of honor; Pearl Barker, chief of ceremonies; Mrs. O. G. Sanders, recorder; Rena Bacon, financier; Mrs. Peter Peterson, receiver; Mrs. O. K. Laastuen, usher; Mrs. E. C. Ackerson, inside watch; Mrs. George Hinkley, outside watch. The first officers were installed by Mrs. Mary Dailey, grand chief of honor.





HIGH SCHOOL, ELBOW LAKE.



RESIDENCE DISTRICT, EAST PART OF ELBOW LAKE.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### ELBOW LAKE, THE COUNTY SEAT.

The village of Elbow Lake, the seat of government of Grant county, was platted on October 28, 1886, on land belonging to Knud O. Laastuen and ex-Senator W. D. Washburn, and was the third village of the county to be invested with the dignity of municipal incorporation. Geographically, the village is located in section 17, Sanford township, in the central portion of the county, and its origin as a governmental center is to be attributed to the wise decision of the electors of the district who, as early as 1873, saw in the location a point central and easily accessible from all parts of the county. The final disposition of the judicial seat question and the erection of the court house in 1878, set at rest all doubts as to the future of Elbow Lake, and its subsequent development and general advancement in educational, social and commercial channels have been steady and permanent. Its central location with reference to convenience for the management and transaction of county affairs, its proximity to extensive agricultural areas and trade districts, its modern school system and numerous fraternal and social organizations, patroned by a progressive and public-spirited people are advantages rarely accorded to a town of its size. Although the town is destined to never be one of any great size, yet it is enjoying a gradual growth such as builds for permanence and stability.

The town is regularly laid out, with wide and well shaded streets, convenient alleys, and both the business and residence sections are well provided with sidewalks. The residence district includes homes that are modern in every sense, surrounded by picturesque and well kept lawns.

The first municipal election in the village of Elbow Lake was held on September 13, 1887, the officers being selected as follow: Henry F. Sanford, president; John Christenson, Gunder Hanson and M. Casey, trustees; A. C. Belyea, recorder; O. J. Kolseth, treasurer; A. C. Belyea, justice of the peace; A. Thompson, constable. O. M. Torrison was appointed attorney; A. Thompson, marshal; A. W. Nelson, street commissioner; Knud O. Laastuen, fire warden; V. T. Johnson, pound master; Dr. F. A. Robinson, F. R. Berglin and H. W. Barker, board of health. The first council meeting was held on September 19, 1887.

## MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.

The municipal government of the present time is in the hands of a thoroughly progressive body of men whose constant aim is to foster and encourage public and private improvement. The officers include the following: W. E. Landeene, president; Thomas Casey, recorder; M. A. Lukken, treasurer; H. J. Bollum, assessor; A. G. Ness, marshal; A. J. Anneson, J. A. Dols, Sophus Bartness, trustees; W. H. Goetzinger, justice.

In the way of municipal improvements the town is quite up to the standard. Among the first improvements that is worthy of mention was the installing of a waterworks system in 1898. Two driven wells were put down to a depth of two hundred feet and when put to a test produced one hundred and eighty gallons per minute. A wooden water tank was erected which was replaced by an iron tank in 1915. The present tank holds one hundred and fifty-six thousand gallons. In the way of fire protection the town has a volunteer fire company of thirty-three men, a chemical fire engine, two hose carts, a truck and ladder wagon, and one thousand feet of water hose. In 1900 an electric light plant was installed at a cost of about ten thousand dollars. The plant was managed by the town until 1914 at which time it was sold to the Ottertail Power Company.

When the first white settlers came into the vicinity of Elbow Lake in 1868 that there were eighteen log shacks located near the site now occupied by the creamery. These log huts were occupied by half-breeds who were engaged in hunting and curing pelts, but a short time later they were ousted by the owner of the timber land.

Although the site of Elbow Lake seemed to be a natural selection for a town, yet the early growth was slow. Even in 1881 there was but a small cluster of houses, no railroad, in fact nothing of commercial importance. However, with the question of the county seat settled for all time and with the coming of the railroad, the site of Elbow Lake acquired a much changed appearance and not many years elapsed until its commercial importance was unquestioned.

## ELBOW LAKE POSTOFFICE.

The government established a postoffice in the vicinity of Elbow Lake in 1869 or 1870. H. P. Hansen was the first postmaster and his office was on his farm on section 24. He held the office for a period of five years. At that time the office did not present many burdens as the cash receipts amounted



to only a few dollars in the course of a month. At first the mail was carried by the stage coach but as the settlement of the country increased, star routes were established and the mail became more frequent and reliable. As the country developed the postoffice was moved from the Hansen farm to West Elbow Lake where it remained a few years, and thence to the village of Elbow Lake, in about 1880. Among the men who have served the community and village as postmaster have been the following: O. H. Aaker, Halvor Hendricks, J. N. Sanford, Henry Sanford, A. W. Nelson, L. J. Hauge, C. M. Nelson, J. S. Jacobson, O. T. Stromme and the present postmaster, John Engebretson. Five rural routes serve the country communities from this office. Hans L. Johnson has charge of route No. 1; John L. Stanley, route No. 2; Francis W. Stanley, route No. 3; Hjalmar E. Johnson, route No. 4, and John Berger, route No. 5.

Although the town of Elbow Lake is considered a "city of homes" it is also a mecca for church and fraternal organizations. These various organizations exercise a potent influence on the social and religious life of the community and through their instrumentality many people have been influenced to select this place as a permanent residence.

#### ELBOW LAKE SCHOOLS.

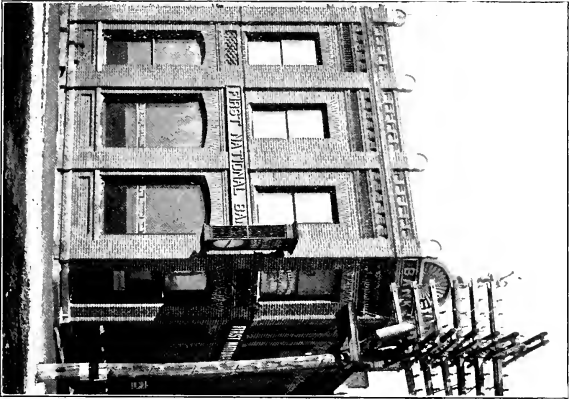
There is no surer index as to the character, intelligence and degree of progress in a community than the public schools—their management, patronage and scope of work—and in the great majority of cases, those who seek new localities in which to establish homes and rear their families take into careful consideration the feature of educational advantages before taking a decisive step. The early settlers of Elbow Lake seem to have been endowed with unusual wisdom and keen foresight in the way of education because hardly had the town limits been established until provisions had been made for a village school. In due season a handsome and substantial building was erected and equipped with all the modern appliances that the times afforded. This building was a two-room, two-story structure and stood in the block just west of the present building. In the fall of 1888, the first school was held in the village, the teachers being Mrs. John O. Sauby, who had charge of the grammar grades, and Effie Coleman, who had charge of the primary grades. The following year, Mrs. Hurley, later Mrs. McKenzie and Miss Johnson had charge of the school. The teachers had control of the work for a period of four or five years, but as the attendance continued to increase more room was necessary.

In 1893, an addition was made similar to the original building and four teachers were employed. In a few years another addition was made and an additional corps of two teachers were employed. In keeping with the progress of the times a new building was desired, a movement which led to the erection of the present structure in 1907 at a cost of thirty thousand dollars. The original building and the two additions now form beautiful residences in the block just west of the school grounds.

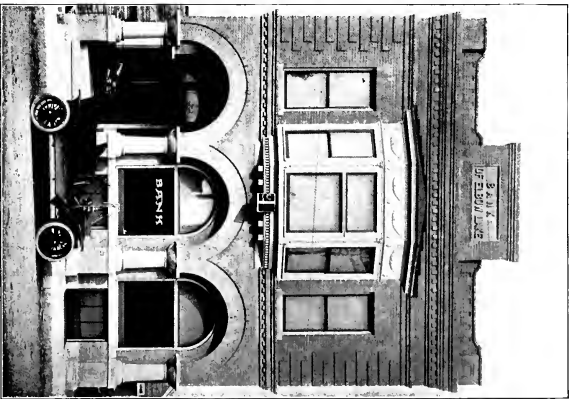
In 1902, a four-year high school course was adopted, which was the first in the county. As a result many pupils came to Elbow Lake from neighboring towns and villages to complete their high school course. This circumstance has led to congested conditions on account of the increased attendance and as the school authorities extend a cordial welcome to all pupils of the county, an addition to the present building within the next year is quite probable.

The school board has at all times been composed of careful, competent and conscientious men who have been assiduous in appointing to the immediate management and supervision of the schools such men and women who are privileged to aspire to such positions of trust and delicate responsibility by virtue of moral character, learning and ability. The men and women who were at the head of the school system at different times before the school was recognized by the state authorities are given as follow: Mrs. John O. Sauby, Mrs. Hurley, Mr. Thompson, L. G. Perry, B. W. Hosmer, H. W. Shroyer, Iver Johnsrud and J. A. Cederstrom. J. A. Cederstrom was the principal when the state high school was established in 1902. He continued as superintendent until 1905 and was succeeded by H. A. Johnson who served from 1905 until 1909. W. B. Bolcom was chosen as the next superintendent and served in that capacity for a period of two years. He resigned in the summer of 1911 and H. R. Tonning was elected and served until 1915. He was followed by the present superintendent, L. H. Brinks, who is a man of university training and broad scholastic ideals. In the main, the high rating of the school system is due to his untiring efforts but due credit must be given to his excellent corps of teachers, for it is through their hearty co-operation, coupled with the assistance of a helpful and appreciative school board, that has made success possible. The present school board is composed of the following men: E. Sauby, president; Tos. E. Dybdal, secretary; W. E. Landeene, treasurer; R. D. Hand, Paul Hanson and N. J. Eide.

The teaching corps for the school year of 1916-1917 includes the following: L. H. Brinks, superintendent; Irene Anderberg, high school prin-



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, ELBOW LAKE.



BANK OF ELBOW LAKE.



cipal; Margaret Doty, English; Ruth Wallfred, science; Adelia Olson, home economics; Emil Thorsen, agriculture; O. W. Bergan, manual training; Elizabeth Meany, normal department; Marion Engebretson, eighth grade; Marie Erdahl, seventh grade; Esther Lundquist, sixth grade; Ruth Jernberg, fifth grade; Esther Enggebretson, fourth grade; Milla Lynne, third grade; Hazel Mortinson, second grade; Mabelle Johnson, first grade. The enrollment for the month of September, 1916, was three hundred and twenty, of which number one hundred and nineteen are in the high school.

#### BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

In the summer of 1916 the business and professional interests of Elbow Lake were in the hands of the following:

Auto garage—Elbow Lake Automobile Company, Henry Smith, proprietor; Auto livery—J. O. Smith, E. C. Ackerson; Architect—A. H. Foss; Attorneys—Thomas Casey, E. J. Scofield. R. J. Stromme.

Banks—First National Bank, Bank of Elbow Lake; Barber shop—Walter Fox; Bowling alley—Walter Tobolt; Blacksmith shops—J. A. Palin, John Nelson, Henry Smith; Bottling works—Sven Olson.

Clothing store—Harry Maftalin; Cigar factory—A. A. Downs; Creamery—Peter Storvick; Confectionery—Nels Solberg, Edward Eddinger; Cement worker—T. T. Stuverud.

Druggists—Hand Drug Company, O. G. Hanson; Dray line—Joseph Pennock, Robert Cosh; Dentists—Dr. C. H. Godward, Dr. O. Sauby.

Elevators—Osborn-McMillan, Farmers Elevator and Grain Company.

Furniture dealer—John Sether; Flour mill—Nels Bergan.

Grocer—E. P. Barsness; General merchandise—Elbow Lake Co-operative Company, Paul Hanson & Company, Larson & Fide, Stromme & Lonse.

Hotels—The Park Hotel, R. E. Hauser, proprietor; The Haarstad Hotel, C. G. Haarstad, proprietor; Harness shop—Albert Germundson; Hardware dealers—Hauge Lumber & Hardware Company, Elbow Lake Hardware & Lumber Company.

Implement dealers—Erick Sletten, Elbow Lake Hardware & Lumber Company; Icedealer—R. Christianson & Company.

Jewelers—Hans J. Heram, W. R. Hand.

Lumber dealers—Elbow Lake Hardware & Lumber Company, Hauge Lumber & Hardware Company; Livery—Abraham Thorson.

Moving picture show—B. E. Anderson; Meat market—R. Christianson & Company; Merchant tailor—G. Hofstad.

Newspaper—The *Grant County Herald*, H. H. Barker, proprietor; Nursery dealer—C. S. Hinkley.

Painters—Nels Nelson, L. T. Silk; Physicians—Dr. F. L. Kling, Dr. E. T. Reeve, Dr. W. R. Hand; Photographer—M. L. Holdrem.

Restaurants—Nels Solberg, Sven Olson & Son, Edward Eddinger; Real estate dealers—Tos E. Dybdal, Brown-Ulland Land Company, Globe Land & Loan Company.

Shoe store—B. E. Dybdal; Shoemaker—S. Albretson; Stock buyers—John O. Sauby, Farmers Shipping Association.

Telephone—Elbow Lake Telephone Company.

Variety store—I. A. Tasa; Veterinary—Dr. J. B. Nelson.

Wood dealer—P. A. Haggberg; Well driller—Max Lohse.

An industry of the town that is worthy of special mention is the creamery. This creamery is one of the oldest in the county, having been organized in the early eighties. The plant has been owned by several different people and operated with various degrees of success. Peter Storvick is the present owner and is operating the concern with credit to himself and the community. The total output for June, 1916, was approximately eighteen thousand pounds of butter, for which the farmers received the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars. The average number of patrons is one hundred and eighty. Besides the butter industry, ice cream is manufactured during the summer season.

The Grant County Telephone Company, with headquarters at Elbow Lake, was organized in 1901 and reorganized in 1903 with the same officers and stockholders. The first organization, which is the same as the present one, is inclusive of the following: Henry Sampson, president; E. J. Scofield, vice-president; W. E. Landeene, secretary-treasurer. The company maintains an exchange at Herman and toll lines to Ashby, Wendell and Erdahl. The first telephone line in the county was built in 1900, between Herman and Elbow Lake, by George Ketcham, an attorney. The equipment was quite inadequate and the service unsatisfactory. In 1901 the present company took over the system, which was in a decadent condition, and after remodeling and reconstructing, have given excellent local and long distance service.

Among the improvements of 1916 is the new Soo-Pacific depot, now under construction. The new depot for Elbow Lake, the "Gateway of the Park Region," will be one of the best in a village of this size on the entire system. The structure is located to the east of the old depot. The basement contains room for coal bins, storage and the hot-water heating plant. The building is built of hydraulic pressed brick and stone, the stone forming the

trimmings and running up the sills of the windows all around. The building is modern in every sense, very commodious and conveniently arranged.

An organization of Elbow Lake of which the citizens are justly proud is the Elbow Lake Concert Band. The band is composed of thirty-five pieces and under the leadership of John Sather it has become one of the best bands in the Park Region. During the summer season, weekly concerts are given, which are enjoyed not only by local people but by those who come from a distance.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### VILLAGES OF GRANT COUNTY.

In Grant county there are six incorporated towns and villages, all railroad points, and so situated with reference to locality that they afford extraordinary accommodations and conveniences to the agriculturist and stock growers of the district.

#### HERMAN.

There are many events of more or less local historical interest associated with the settlement and subsequent growth of the village of Herman, Logan township, in the extreme southwestern part of the county, in which Herman is located, was one of the first settled localities in the district and for many years after the organization of the county, Herman continued to be the chief railroad point and principal place of business in the three counties of Grant, Stevens and Traverse. The village of Herman was laid out on land belonging to the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company. About this time S. S. Frogner and Peter Hanson opened up general merchandizing stores there and did a prosperous business with the settlers and half-breed aborigines. The village plat was filed with the register of deeds on September 30, 1875, by George L. Becker and Samuel S. Breed. The village began its corporate existence March 15, 1881—a year made memorable by the determined effort of the citizens to secure the county seat. The first officers of the village were as follow: C. A. Smith, president; Charles Pullman, A. C. Earsley, A. Wells, trustees; J. K. Van Doren, recorder; F. W. Webster, treasurer; T. C. Hodgson and C. F. Washburn, justices; David Remp, marshal.

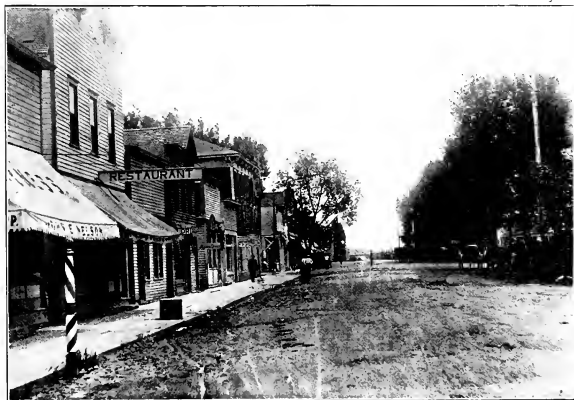
The present elective officers include the following: J. P. Wells, president; A. C. Harper, clerk; Charles Goodell, Edward R. Hanney, G. Johnsrud, trustees; W. J. Shultz, Paul Goodell, constables; Charles Phinney, J. B. Hodgson, justices.

Herman, with a population of about eight hundred, is one of the busiest and best little towns situated in the southern portion of the Red River Valley. Doubtless if any town in the county or surrounding counties can offer as many inducements to the homeseeker or business man as the town of





HIGH SCHOOL, HERMAN.



MAIN STREET, HERMAN.



Herman. The town is surrounded by one of the best prairie farming districts in the Northwest. The town is beautifully laid out, populated with a progressive class of people working for a common purpose, "A better and greater Herman." A little over two years ago the State Municipality League selected Herman as the "Model Town of the State of Minnesota."

Herman is particularly fortunate in the way of school facilities. It has a modern pressed brick school and a school system that is above the average. Prof. E. B. Anderson is the superintendent and is ably assisted by a trained corps of teachers and an appreciative school board. A full high school course is given, including the special subjects of manual training, domestic science and agriculture. The enrollment for month of September, 1916, was about one hundred and ninety, of which number the high school contributed forty.

In the way of church and fraternal organizations, the town is amply supplied to satisfy the wants and needs of the average citizen. Brief accounts of these organizations will be found in their respective chapters.

#### THE COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUB.

The Community Social Club is one of the few organizations of its kind in the state. It was formally organized on November 17, 1914, by the representative citizens and business men of the town. The general purpose is literary, social and the promotion of the welfare of Herman. The organization has beautifully equipped club rooms in the Woodmen hall. It was through the hearty co-operation and influence of the club that made possible the present existence of the Herman public library. The library rooms are also in the Woodmen hall in conjunction with those of the club. At present the library has about two thousand volumes. This library is the only one that is municipal in character in the county, a fact which goes to show that the people of Herman are among the most progressive citizens of the county. Mabel Clark is the present librarian.

The town has a band of twenty-five pieces that is entirely self-supporting. This organization has never solicited any help from the public and is one of the strongest boosters of the town.

During the summer of 1916 the business interests were invested in the following:

Auto garage—W. B. Schmidt & Son; Attorney—F. C. Anderson; Banks—First National, Grant County State; Blacksmith shop—Henry Fels; Barber shops—John Newberger, Soy Newberger; Confectionery—H. T.

Lesson; Creamery—S. S. Landt & Son; Druggist—A. D. Larson; Dentist—F. R. Haley; Elevator—Farmers Elevator Company; General dealers—A. C. Harper & Company, Herman Farmers Store, Wells Hedgeson; Hardware dealer—Gust Bros.; Harness shop—J. E. Nelson; Hotel—The Pullman; Jeweler—Orrin Larson; Livery—Otto Carlson, William Shultz; Lumber dealers—H. W. Ross Lumber Company, Standard Lumber Company; Milliner—Mrs. Hetty Warren; Meat markets—A. F. Mitchell, Frank Johnson; Mill—Herman flour mill; Newspaper—*The Grant County Review*, E. M. Chesebrough, proprietor; Physicians—Dr. T. M. Thayer, Dr. J. T. Leland; Restaurant—James F. Leavell; Real estate dealer—O. C. Eaton, Charles Cater, Haney Land Co., Ziebarth & Lindem; Shoe shop—J. S. Edelstein; Theater—The Bijou, Frank Hook proprietor; Tailor shop—John Weiss; Veterinary—Walter Smedley.

#### HOFFMAN.

On April 16, 1887, a plat of the village of Hoffman was filed by W. D. Washburn, and a small cluster of houses, which were speedily thrown together upon the advent of the Soo-Pacific road in 1886, at once took on the form of a commercial center. Hoffman is located in the town of Land, eighteen miles southeast of Elbow Lake, in a remarkably productive agricultural district. Among the numerous country towns on the Soo line between the Twin cities and Portal, the thriving town of Hoffman which, an industrial class of people, by perpetual co-operation, energy and persistence, have succeeded in building, maintaining and constantly improving and to-day it is recognized as an industrial factor of considerable local importance. To adjoining towns on the Soo line and other railroads as well, Hoffman is justly known as a live, healthy, prosperous and desirable place of business. While once flourishing, competing villages and towns, in the course of years, have entered into comatose conditions, this place has continually forged ahead enjoying growth and prosperity. Today the town has a population of about five hundred.

The first business men of the town were: H. J. Gronberg, John Kron, L. T. Breen, J. A. Willd and A. Fogelstrom. As the business grew and the population increased the citizens desired to become a corporate unit, so on April 25, 1891, a petition was filed for the purpose of holding an election to decide the question. The election was held on June 23, of the same year, and resulted in the vote of thirty-three in favor and eight against. The first

officers were inclusive of the following: J. A. Willd, president; L. T. Breen, H. J. Gronberg, M. Rollofson, trustees; H. Hendrickson, recorder; N. E. Rulien, treasurer.

The present officers are as follows: N. E. Rulien, president; S. J. Ausland, recorder; Eric Sletten, J. A. Cook, Charles Nelson, trustees; William Shaner, constable; J. A. Cook, justice.

The public school is one of the best in the county. It comprises three departments, with an enrollment at the present time of about one hundred and five. J. A. Cook is the principal.

The citizens of Hoffman are proud of their town, of their schools, churches and other organizations, but nothing gives them more pride than to speak of the ladies' band. The band was organized in the spring of 1916 and its success has been unrivalled. Summer concerts have been given and the people not only of Hoffman but surrounding towns as well have shown due appreciation. A great deal of the success belongs to the leadership of A. L. Backlund whose untiring efforts certainly have been rewarded. The young ladies who compose the band are as follows: Lillie Johnson, Amely Sjolaas, Ruth Henderson, Clara Sunder, Nina Willd, Beattie Johnson, Jessie Wallmark, Ruth Lindstrom, Sigrud Backlund, Olga Johnson, Lillian Meyer, Jensine Lander, Florence Danielson, Alma Henderstrom.

The following business interests were represented in the summer of 1916:

Auto garage—Shauer Brothers; banks, Farmers State, Hoffman State; blacksmith shop, Erich Melin; barber, J. H. Flolid; confectionery, R. E. Shauer & Company; creamery, Hoffman Co-operative Creamery Company; clothing and furnishings, Desnick & Kronick; druggist, H. J. Gronberg; dray line, I. Berg; elevators, Farmers Elevator Company, Woodworth Elevator Company, Lang Elevator Company; feed and fuel, J. P. Mattson; furniture dealer, H. L. Elglumb; general dealers, Anton Helland, Farmers Co-operative Mercantile Company, J. M. Arnquist & Son; harness shop, K. Skoglund; hardware dealers, Hoffman Hardware Co., Lindhurst & Stavig; implement dealer, Eric Sletten; jeweler, Edward Stavig; lumber dealer, C. A. Willd; meat market, S. J. Ausland & Company; newspaper, *The Hoffman Times*, W. N. Bronson, proprietor; produce dealer, North American Storage Company; physicians, Dr. F. E. Griswold, Dr. Anly Sjolaas, Dr. H. A. Hegna; restaurants, R. E. Shauer & Co., J. R. Milne; stockbuyer, Hoffman Shipping Association; tile drainage, B. H. Malmgren; variety store, Mrs. Nora Sturgis.

## WENDELL.

The village of Wendell is located in Stony Brook township, on section 32. The land was formerly owned by the Pacific Land Company and on July 11, 1889, the original plat of the townsite was filed in the office of the register of deeds by the above company, Kittel Olson and Gunild Olson. The village is situated on the Soo-Pacific line, nine miles northwest of Elbow Lake and is the only trading point of pronounced importance in the extensive agricultural area comprising the northwestern part of the county. Here, as elsewhere in the district, the staple industries are wheat raising, corn growing and dairying. Illustrative of the importance of Wendell as a shipping point and the relative standing of the section as a producer, the fact may be cited that the village is the best in the county. The dairying industry is also followed with much success as is evidenced by the splendid creamery here. The creamery is known as the Farmers Co-operative Creamery company and is managed by John Raines. In 1915 a splendid new brick building was constructed at a cost of six thousand dollars complete. In the month of August, 1916, the total quantity of butter made amounted to ten thousand four hundred and five pounds. Thus it can be seen that this industry is quite a source of wealth and one which deserves the hearty support of the entire community.

The first storekeeper in what is now the village of Wendell was Kittel Olson. When the Soo-Pacific road in its construction in 1887, located a depot at Wendell, the possibilities for a little commercial center were suggested and Messrs. Beck & Whitman, who were in business in Meeker county, bought the stock of goods belonging to Olson and put in a stock of general merchandise. In the fall of the same year, Beck built the store room now occupied by L. O. Sand and moved the store into it. In the same year K. I. Haugen built the store room now occupied by T. A. Boyd and put in a stock of goods. T. A. Boyd bought the Haugen store in 1889 and has been in business ever since.

The first postmaster in the village was D. A. Beck in 1887. The community was first served from the postoffice of Asha, a point about three miles from Wendell and on the star route between Fergus Falls and Herman. E. A. Roach succeeded J. A. Beck as postmaster, who in turn was followed by T. A. Boyd. The present postmaster is J. L. Boyd, the son of T. A. Boyd, and has served for the past three years.

A petition for the incorporation of the village was filed on January 20,

1904, signed by T. A. Boyd, P. O. Floan and C. A. Prestrud. The village was incorporated in April of the same year with the following officers: T. A. Boyd, president; E. A. Dybdal, clerk; L. C. Bergen, treasurer; C. E. Stickney, Andrew Solem, E. Mobraaten, trustees; F. W. Hungerford and Ole K. Olson, constables; C. B. Heimark, chairman of the board of health.

The present elective officers include the following: E. Mobraaten, president; L. H. Pikop, John Raines, E. Mohagen, trustees; L. C. Bergen, clerk; Hjalmar Larson, treasurer; C. E. Stickney, justice; L. H. Larson, constable; Ben Simonson, constable and marshal.

The village became an independent school district immediately after incorporation. A three-room two-story building was constructed which was destroyed by fire in 1909. In 1910, the present four-room brick building was constructed at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. The first teachers to teach in the village were, Amanda Norgard and Ida Running. At present there are four teachers, the principal being Clara Kling. A nine-months school is held and two years of high school are given. The average enrollment is about one hundred and twenty.

The village is beautifully laid out on a hillock about four squares north of the depot. The spirit of the village may be summed up in the word—progress. Neither is this name a misnomer, because seldom does one see in a village of two hundred people such a metropolitan appearance. The majority of the business blocks are substantial brick structures and additional ones are now under construction. The village has had electric lights since 1913, the power for which is furnished by the Ottertail Power Company. The homes are modern and well kept, showing that the citizens are prosperous and contented. Although the citizens are proud of these conditions they are aware that were it not for the wide-awake and progressive farmers in the vicinity, present conditions would be greatly changed.

The following is a business directory for the year of 1916:

Auto garage, Edward Mohagen; banks, Farmers State Bank, First National Bank; blacksmith, Andrew Solem; barber shop, E. H. Shoemaker; elevators, Osborne-McMillan, Farmers Elevator Company; furniture dealer, L. C. Bergen, L. O. Sand; general dealers, E. Naftalin & Son, T. A. Boyd, Dybdal, Pikop & Skinmoen Company; harness shop, C. N. Lillemoen; hardware dealers, L. C. Bergen, L. O. Sand; hotel, Andrew Lystne; implement dealers, Sletten & Thorsen, C. E. Stikney; jeweler, T. A. Dybdal; lumber dealer, Edward Mobraaten; livery, Nels Olson; meat market, Ben Simonson; moving picture show, C. E. Stickney; newspaper, *Wendell Tribune*, A. R.

McManus, proprietor; physician, Dr. T. P. Rothnem; restaurant, Johnson Cafe; telephone, Wendell Telephone Company.

#### ASHBY.

Ashby, fourth in population among the villages of Grant county, is located in Pelican Lake township, on the main line of the Great Northern, in the extreme northeastern part of the county. The village is situated upon the land which was formerly owned by K. & O. Melby, the original plat having been filed by that gentleman in 1879.

From its inception, Ashby has been of more or less importance as a commercial center, and notwithstanding several serious reverses with which the village has met, it is still one of the most important trading points in the district, being favored with an extensive patronage by residents over the lines in Otter Tail and Douglas counties, as well as from the northeastern townships of Grant county. Ashby has a thrifty population of about four hundred people, neat dwellings, attractive and commodious business houses and additional ones in the course of construction. The merchants as a whole are progressive and enterprising, who endorse and support any measure that bears the stamp of merit.

The date Ashby began its corporate existence is uncertain, as, owing to the early records being destroyed by fire, no account of the first organization is at hand. The management of the municipal affairs at the present time is vested in the following men: A. M. Randall, president; George Vangeness, clerk; Svert Aasang, treasurer; C. E. Thorsteson, J. O. Western, George Huggett, trustees; Herman Balgaard, constable and marshal; Ross Beardsley, justice.

In 1893 the village was visited by a very destructive fire which laid in waste over half the business district. Rebuilding began almost immediately and ere many years had passed new and modern buildings had taken the place of the ones destroyed.

An excellent public school system is maintained, of which G. A. Fjeldstad is the superintendent. A new school building is just completed at a cost of about twenty-four thousand dollars, which amount does not include the equipment. Although the building is not as large as some in the county, it is doubtless the most modern and up-to-date building in this section. The site of the building has been pronounced by the state authorities as one of the very best in the entire state. The structure is situated on the crest



of a gently rising knoll from which a birds-eye view can be gained of the country in every direction. The school system now includes a four-year high school course with all of the special courses including manual training, domestic science, and agriculture, with specially equipped apartments for each. The present enrollment is about one hundred and fifty of which number forty-three are in the high school. Seven teachers are employed.

The first school in the community was on the Teisberg farm and Mrs. Teisberg was the first teacher. Pupils of all sizes and ages were in attendance, most of whom were very eager to learn.

The postoffice was established in 1879 or 1880, with K. N. O. Melby as postmaster. However, the first postoffice in the community was at Pomme de Terre and N. Q. Punctes was the first postmaster. With the establishment of the village site and the coming of the railroad the postoffice was moved to the village and was situated just across the bridge in the east part of the village. Among the men who have been postmasters of the village are the following: C. Hawkins, A. S. King, Martin Holt, E. C. Schow, O. A. Norman, William Penner, A. J. Dahl is the present postmaster and has served in the capacity since June, 1910.

The first merchants in the village were, P. Hawkins, N. Q. Punctes and Johnson & Langley.

The business interests of the village during the fall of 1916 were in the hands of the following men:

Auto garage, Ashby Auto Company, Elberling Brothers; banks, Farmers State Bank, First State Bank; barber shop, L. A. Lindberg; blacksmithshop, G. W. Hugget, J. P. Hanson & Son; dray line, J. R. Bowman, Andrew Hoff; druggist, George Peterson; dentist, Dr. R. M. Bright; elevators, Farmers Elevator Company, Northwestern Elevator Company; feed mill, Robertson Bros.; feed stable, Ben Johnson; general dealers, A. R. Sunju, E. T. Risbrudt, Paulson Bros., J. M. Lynne, Dahl & Peterson; harness dealer, A. F. Stucke; hardware and furniture dealers, Stene Hardware Company, Chris Skaar; hotels, Hotel Ashby, Hotel Kittson; implement dealer, Andrew Olson, Ole Johnson; jeweler, J. A. Kjellberg; livery, H. A. Bye; lumber dealer, Ashby Lumber Company, J. O. Western, manager; meat market, O. L. Boe, Dahl & Peterson; milliner, Julia Paulson; newspaper, *The Ashby Post*, L. R. Rathbun, proprietor; physicians, Dr. A. M. Randall, Dr. O. A. Norman; photographer, A. Carlson; restaurant, O. A. Running, Trondbjin Cafe, H. O. Koefod, proprietor; telephone, Ashby Telephone Company.

## BARRETT.

On the Soo line, nine miles directly southeast of Elbow Lake, is the thriving town of Barrett, one of the most favorably located and prosperous communities in the county. It is situated on section 12, township 128, range 42. The original plat of the village was filed on May 7, 1887, by Erick Johnson and Gertrude Johnson and William D. Washburn and Lizzie D. Washburn.

The village was incorporated in 1889, and the first election was held on December 23, of that year, with the following result: Ole Moe, president; Ole J. Rued, John G. Peterson, C. Van Dyke, trustees; Ole K. Lee, recorder, M. B. Ellingson, treasurer.

The present elective officers include the following: Andrew Linder, president, E. N. Ellingson, clerk; M. Lund, Edward Erickson, Peter Jensen, trustees; R. J. Stockdill, marshal; Andrew Linder, justice.

What is now the townsite of the village was formerly the homestead of Mrs. Johnson. The first business house erected in Barrett was that of John Ellingson, in 1888, who with his sons, M. B. and B. P., were the pioneer merchants, produce dealers and stock shippers.

Barrett has a population of two hundred and seventy-eight, and its business interests are controlled by gentlemen who are thoroughly apace with the times. Within a stone's throw of the Soo depot lies the lower lake Pomme de Terre, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the lake region. As a picnicking resort it is unsurpassed, the attractive feature of beautifully shaded groves being augmented by several row boats, which are always at the service of visitors. The population is largely Scandinavian and they are very thrifty here as elsewhere in the county.

In the way of manufacturing industries the village has two. The tile factory, the owner of which is E. F. Mongen, began its existence in the spring of 1916 and since the first day of operation has been unable to satisfy the demand although about one thousand four hundred tile are made each day. The Barrett roller mill, owned by G. H. Gustafson, is one of the oldest industries of the village and has always given unqualified satisfaction. The mill has a fifty-barrel capacity and operates continuously in order to accommodate the trade. The mill is equipped with both steam and water power, and is one of the most important industries of the community.

In addition to its business equipment, Barrett maintains two lodges and four church denominations, all of which are treated in special chapters.

The interest that the people take in education is evidenced by the modern brick building situated in the eastern part of town. The village schools have been independent of the township since about the time the village was incorporated. At the present time four teachers are employed with an enrollment of about one hundred.

The exact date that the postoffice was established cannot be obtained, but it is known that Ole K. Lee was the first postmaster in the village. Before there was an office in Barrett a postoffice was located out in the country about three miles, where only stamps and envelopes were sold. The order in which the postmasters have served are given as follow: Ole K. Lee, G. Arneson, Ole Moe, M. P. Thune, J. G. Peterson, M. H. Palmer, J. G. Peterson, and A. F. Peterson, the present postmaster, who has served two years.

The business interests of Barrett in the fall of 1916 were represented by the following:

Auto garages, Clinton Peterson, Samuelson Brothers; banks, State Bank of Barrett, Citizens State Bank; blacksmiths, Samuelson Brothers; barber, J. G. Johnson; creamery, Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company; drug-gist, N. J. Stromstad; dray line, J. O. Hagen; elevators, Farmers Elevator Company, Osborn-McMillan Elevator Company, Barrett Elevator Company; furniture dealer, Barrett Hardware Company; general dealers, Andrew Linder, B. M. Desnick; harness shop, Barrett Hardware Company; hardware dealers, Barrett Hardware Company, Larson Brothers; hotel, Barrett Lake Hotel, August Miller, proprietor; hospital, Powers Hospital; implement dealers, Barrett Hardware Company, Sletten Brothers; lumber dealer, M. Lund; meat markets, F. E. Nelson, J. Sumstad; mill, G. H. Gustafson; physician, Dr. F. W. Powers; produce dealer, North American Storage Company; restaurants, Edward Anderson, Albert Anderson, Mrs. Hans Larson.

#### NORCROSS.

The village of Norcross is located in Gorton township on section 28. The original plat of the townsite was recorded on December 22, 1881, and signed by Nelson F. Griswold and Lucy A. Griswold, Judson N. Cross and Clara N. Cross.

On November 14, 1903, the people of the village filed a petition for the purpose of incorporation. At that time there were one hundred and forty citizens living within the proposed corporate limits. The signers of the petition were, Ole Selleseth, H. O. Shaner and Ole B. Iverson.

The village is located on the main line of the Great Northern and is quite important as a banking and local trading center. The business directory of 1916 shows the following business:

Behan, James, hotel; Du Frene, H. I., farm implements; Duluth Elevator Company; Farmer, W. K., meat market; Farmers Elevator Company; Felix, Edward, farm implements; Jacobson, Andrew, blacksmith; Laughlin & Johnson, general store; Lund & Sellesteth, general store; State Bank of Norcross; Wolfe, G. E., barber.

#### HEREFORD.

The village of Hereford is located on section 1, township 129, range 44. The original plat of the village was recorded on September 10, 1887, by Richard Nash and Mary Nash. On the Great Northern railroad, nine miles west of Elbow Lake, situated just at the verge of the great Red river "flats," has a population of twenty-five. In 1886, when the railroad was about to establish a station at this point, it was the intention to call the place Culbertson, in honor of the man who owned a tract of land there, but the modest man said that if they wished to compliment him in any way to call the place "Hereford," after his beautiful herd of white-faced cattle kept on his farm, "Hereford Park," near Newman, Illinois. Accordingly the place was so christened.

According to tradition George Schell was the first telegrapher at this point and his office was located in a little hand-car house, but later replaced by a small depot. He served as operator for a period of seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. McGee conducted the first hotel in the village, but as the population did not increase as expected, the project had to be abandoned.

The business interests of 1916 were in the hands of the following: Federal Elevator Company; Hull & Harris, cement workers; Larson, C. H., general store; Mobraaten, Edward, lumber dealer; Winter-Truesdell-Ames, grain elevator.

#### ERDAHL.

The village of Erdahl is located on section 10, township 129, range 41. The original plat was recorded October 7, 1887, and signed by Harold Thorson and Carrie S. Thorson. Although the village is destined to never be one of any great size, yet it is so geographically situated that it will always be of importance as a local trading center. The business directory for 1916 includes the following: Alberts & Gilbertson, grocery and confectionery;

Erdahl Farmers Grain Company; Erdahl Mutual Telephone Company; Jorgenson, Samuel, blacksmith; Markegaard, Andrew implements; Reine, O. G., hardware; Vinge, Mrs. M., general store.

#### POMME DE TERRE.

Pomme de Terre was the first village in the county and was platted on the homestead of Timothy Heald, section 24, township 130, range 42. The original plat was recorded in 1874 by the owner of the land who at that time had visions of a growing and prosperous town on account of the excellent water power and the survey of railroad close by. Several business houses sprang up and flourished for a time only to pass out of existence much more gradually than they had entered.

#### CANESTORP.

The townsite of Canestorp is commonly known as West Elbow Lake. The original plat was filed in the register of deeds office on March 12, 1887, by Adolphus H. Bode, trustee of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad Company. The land of the townsite was owned by Charles Swanson and Mettie Swanson. The townsite is located on the branch of the Great Northern railroad from Evansville to Tintah, one mile west of Elbow Lake, and makes possible better shipping facilities. The grain elevator at this point is quite convenient for the farmers in the vicinity, and thousands of bushels of grain are handled yearly.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### SIDELIGHTS ON COUNTY HISTORY.

The county seat contest of 1881-82 was one of the most exciting events in Grant county and at the time was the cause of considerable heated discussion. Herewith are presented a few newspaper extracts which show the state of feeling at that time. The first, entitled "An Eventful Day," is the premature jubilation of A. DeLacey Wood, editor of the *Grant County Herald*, then published at Herman. The contribution entitled "News from Grant County," is thought to be the work of one Matthew Hawkins, and created considerable amusement at the time it was printed. The veiled references to names will be understood by all the old settlers. The long-winded editorial on "A Crow Feast," not only gives a rough picture of the state of feeling at that time, but is a fine example of the bitter editorials characteristic of the political controversies of forty years ago, now happily fallen into disuse.

#### AN EVENTFUL DAY.

"Friday, November 25, 1881, was an eventful day in the history of Grant county. On that day the officers of the county who are required by law to keep their offices at the county seat, removed their safes, records and effects to Herman, the county seat of Grant county.

"On the 21st inst. the governor's proclamation, declaring Herman the legally established county seat of Grant county, was issued, and on the 25th, the officers having direct notice of the issuance of the proclamation, determined to move at once to their new and more agreeable quarters at Herman. The removal was conducted by each officer personally, and the whole was carefully and intelligently supervised by our estimable commissioner, John G. Peterson. Mr. Peterson was named by a majority of the board of county commissioners to take charge of the removal and see that the safes, records, etc., were safely transported and securely deposited in the new offices at Herman. That he, the officers and assistants performed their duties in this matter well and expeditiously appears from the fact that the transfer of the entire effects of the county officers, including their accumulated records and heavy iron safes, was accomplished on that day.

"The removal of the county seat to Herman heralds a new era in our county's history. Grant county will have her fine court house, on a splendid three-acre block in the center of the village, and will at no distant day be on an equal footing with the surrounding counties. This is a great gain to the county and introduces a season of progress and prosperity, for which the most selfish person cannot fail to thank the generous citizens of Herman.

"Vacant land will be taken up, uncultivated prairies will be caused to bloom with the wealth of growing crops; the prairie flower will give place to the corn stalk and wheat stem; the merits of our land and attractions of our county will be advertised abroad; emigration will add to our population, and every individual in the county, wheresoever he lives, will realize a positive, unquestionable benefit."

#### NEWS FROM GRANT COUNTY.

"Editor: Last week I was sojourning in the Land of Potatoes, and it came to pass on Friday, when the evening was nigh, that a messenger came in haste to say that a great event was at hand, even the removing of the county seat. An order from the Great Sanhedrin had been given, and the people were gathered to make a descent on the City of Fraud, the ungodly city of Herman, and remove therefrom the archives of Grant. And they besought me to be present and rejoice with the tribes of Fran, and Timothy and P. O., over the downfall of the unrighteous. But I said, I have bought a pair of oxen and must go and prove them, which being translated means, I have other fish to fry. But he whom I was serving, Ernest W., whose surname is Cooke, said, Go too, thou art careful and troubled about many things, choose now the good part and follow us, else I go not.

"And when the evening was come and the lamp of night was on high, it came to pass that I was journeying with the multitude towards the land of the Philistines. And as we journeyed the multitude increased until there were fifteen chariots and fifty-two men of war. And we pitched our camp over against the devoted city, even on the bank of the river of Mustinka. And when the morning was nigh we arose and went forth to battle. And when we came into the city of Gath the inhabitants were amazed and sore afraid, for they were asleep and the sentinels aroused them with loud knockings, and cries that the Israelites were upon them and judgment and retribution were at hand.

"But the scribe who had charge of the temple and the keys thereof,

having the fear of God in his heart, was awake and watching; he threw open the gates, and the chariots were loaded with the records, strong safes and treasures, and the Israelites departed therewith in peace with the blowing of horns and shouting and loud rejoicing. But the Philistines tore their hair and put on sackcloth and ashes, or in other words were very down in the mouth and drank beer and wagged their heads and talked fiercely to one another. But the Israelites heeded not, but departed into their own land and deposited their spoils at the Lake of Elbow where they now remain."

#### A CROW FEAST.

"It has not been the policy of the *Banner* in this political campaign to appeal to the sectional prejudices of the citizens of Grant county. We long to see the time when all animosities shall be obliterated and general good feeling shall prevail. But we fail to see how this grand result is to be honorably effected by our people voting in a body for the man who has not only never done anything to allay the bad blood that has from time to time been stirred up, but who has done more than any other man outside of the county and almost any man inside of the county to stir up jealousy and bitter feeling between the different sections of the county.

"From the first Knute Nelson has been a partisan in the local divisions of Grant county—a partizanship which culminated in his relentless prosecution of the people of Logan and Delaware in an expensive suit at Alexandria. His industrious attempt to bring many of our most prominent citizens into disgrace and shame is so fresh that we wonder with blank astonishment how some of those same citizens can so humiliate themselves and the town they hail from as to obsequiously fall on their faces before their arch enemy, and like the dog in the fable, look up and lick the hand that snites them. The subject is too painful to dwell upon further. We presume they would be willing to go to the penitentiary if they could only see his lordship elected. Peace purchased at such a price is too costly to awaken anything but contempt and ridicule.

"It is well known that Knute Nelson has been for years an aspirant for the office for which he is now a candidate. His name was prominently mentioned two years ago, and we presume W. D. Washburn is now assisting in his election as the result of Knute's forbearance at that time. But his having been an aspiring office-seeker, coupled with his conduct toward this section of Grant county, shows conclusively that he never expected the support of this section of the county. He had too much sense to expect



it. His tactics were to damage us all he could, that he might ruin and hold the united support of those who were against us. Doubtless, therefore, no one was more surprised to find he had a following here than Knute Nelson himself. We confess it is without a parallel in modern politics. For ourselves we can see no honorable excuse for such a state of things. In the language of the great Billings, 'Why are things thusly?'

"The reason is not hard to divine. C. F. Washburn, of Herman, being ambitious to go to the state Senate, saw no way to get there except by tacking on to the lapels of the great Nelson. A great light broke in upon and illuminated the shrewd brain of our would-be senator. He approaches Nelson and says: 'Most illustrious Mogul! I want to go to the senate. I am just as objectionable to the north as you are to the south of Grant county. Let's chip in, you carry me through the north and I'll tide you over the south, and thus we'll both be elected.' 'A happy thought,' said Knuty, 'and we will also thereby heal all the dissensions of that distracted county.'

"And so, fellow citizens of Grant county, it is proposed by these two political bosses that we adjust all our difficulties by each sitting down and partaking of a hearty meal of crow.

"While musing on the strange situation as indicated above, we unconsciously fell asleep (having attended Tom Mullin's dance the night before), and dreamed. We lifted up our eyes and lo, we beheld a great table sixteen hundred feet long set upon the plains of Elbow Lake. And a proclamation was sent out into every by-way of the county, which summoned every voter of the county of Grant to a great feast provided for them by the great Nelson and the ingrate Washburn. We also observed that the table extended from east to west and that all those who hailed from the 'north end' occupied that side of the table, while those who came from the 'south end' occupied the south side of the table, at the head of which were arranged the returning board of the town of Logan. There was Washburn, with countenance as innocent and placid as a babe; and Earsley, around the corners of whose mouth there played a sarcastic smile and whose other eye winked knowingly at frequent intervals; and Smith, with the facial expression of an ex-communicated deacon; and Pullman, whose face shone like a barn door on a frosty morning; while stretching away toward the setting sun were arrayed the colleagues of these gentlemen to the number of 433, exactly no more and no less.

"At the head of the column on the other side and directly opposite Washburn was to be seen the grey scattering locks, the commanding brow

and the lowering visage of Timothy Heald, while at his right stood the unterrified, the indomitable and the re-lie-able Knute Laastuen. Then stretching away toward the setting sun filed the stalwarts of the 'north end' to the number of 433, no more and no less. We observed that as soon as the count was made the visage of Timothy Heald grew ominously dark while the teeth of Knud Laastuen gritted in a manner that indicated a voracious appetite. On the other side the countenance of Washburn was if possible more child-like and innocent than ever. The sarcastic smile played on Earsley's lips more vigorously than before; Smith chuckled down his throat and Pullman's barn door flew wide open. Then Timothy Heald took from his pocket a shrill whistle and blew it three times, and Knute Nelson appeared. There was then some commotion, and many Scandinavians of the south side, feeling the nationality influence, cast wistful eyes toward the north side. However, each man kept his place. It was then decided that each man should show his credentials before the table should be spread, when it was found that some fifty or seventy-five of those wearing voting garments on the south side presented such questionable credentials that Knute the Great demanded that they should withdraw from the feast. Hereupon Pullman sprang to his feet and the following unique if not eloquent colloquy ensued:

"Pullman: 'By the jumping ——— ———, old Tim Heald, you ain't got money enough or sand enough to drive them fellers away from the table.'

"Earsley (aside): 'D—— it, Pullman, don't be making an ass of yourself.'

"Heald: 'By ———, Pullman, I'll show you that I have got sand enough to drive them fellers away from this table and to send you to Stillwater, too.'

"Washburn: 'Don't get excited, gentlemen; don't get excited. I'll assume the responsibility of this unpleasantness. I move we turn the meeting into a caucus, and suggest that the viands for the occasion be placed upon the table at once.'

"While waiting for order to be restored, Washburn got Pullman, Earsley and Smith off to one side where he succeeded in persuading them that it was best in the interest of politics to let the questionable voters go home hungry. Then the questionable voters were called out and informed of their doom, which strange enough they each accepted with calm resignation. With tearful eyes they each bade good-bye, and it was observed that each man as he shook hands at parting immediately put his hand into his breeches

pocket! Wondering at this strange procedure we took pains to inquire into its origin, when he found that it was an innocent custom which had grown up among that class of voters, when shaking hands with politicians of the Washburn stripe near election time.

"With the disappearance of the objectionable voters there seemed to be a return of good feeling. After this a short, private interview took place between the Great and the Ingrate, which caused no little perturbation among the people who were eagerly waiting for the feast (for the long waiting had created a voracious appetite which was doubtless just exactly what the benefactors wanted to produce). At length all was ready and the Ingrate lifted up his voice and spoke as follows:

"Fellow citizens. This is not the time to discuss great questions or enter into a long discourse. I perceive you are all impatient for the refreshments provided here. Mr. Nelson, who has so recently joined the army of the Lord, will now pronounce the blessing."

"This Mr. Nelson did with a degree of pathos and unction which effectually stopped the mouths of all the scoffers. Then he spoke as follows:

"My friends, I rejoice with you all to behold this joyful day of reconciliation, and I am proud to know that my own humble efforts have contributed to this glorious result. I am also proud to confess myself a foreigner, a brother to so many who are here today. I plead guilty to the charge of being a little Norwegian. If elected I shall continue as in the past to serve all sections of Grant county."

"Then Washburn made remarks of a similar nature—reminding those on the north side especially that he would serve them faithfully as he had done in the past.

"By arrangement previously made, Washburn was to supply the viands for the north side, while Nelson was to serve the south side. Now the work of serving had not proceeded far when we observed that a look of profound disgust covered the faces of the multitude on both sides. We drew near to see what it could be that had occasioned such disappointment, and beheld that there was nothing but crow, crow, crow! 3209 feet of crow! a spectacle for the gods! No wine or even harmless tea, nothing in liquid form but a glass of water fetched from the far-famed Salt River. There was a general confusion and a strong disposition all round to repudiate the whole feast. Sanford put on his hat and left the table. Heald then went among the crowd, exhorting them to eat, saying, 'there is no use talking, gentlemen, we've got to eat it.' Then they began with pathetic contortions of countenance to devour each his crow. We observed that each crow

dished out had some label or motto or other device attached to it, and being curious to know what the principal actors in this drama had received we drew near to inspect them. We observed first that Washburn had received as his portion a crow that had been long dead and was far gone in decay, but Washburn saw that it contained a sugar plum which had on it in gilt letters S. S. and he swallowed his crow with the utmost nonchalance. Earsley's crow was simply labeled 'Policy,' and the sarcastic smile prepared the way for its reception. Pullman's crow was not visible as it was covered with thick striped cloth which had the stripes on cross-ways. Smith's crow was received at the hands of Nelson himself. It was fat and plump and had pinned to its breast this beautiful inscription: 'Bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh.' It was so evidently painful an operation that we ventured to ask him how he felt about it anyhow. 'Feel,' he said, 'I feel as if I was the meanest cannibal on earth.'

"On the north side things were but a little better. Knute Nelson's crow looked as if it had died of consumption, and besides some one had stuck it all full of burrs. These villians were from Ortonville. However, it was branded precisely as Donnelly had described the Washburn family, with a M. C. Heald took his down and then swore it was not crow at all; he said it was turkey. Knud Laastuen said it was no use to lie about it, his was crow and darned tough crow at that. Canestorp's fowl was very old, tough and but half-cooked at that, but with superhuman efforts he managed to swallow it down, but he never digested it. He lingered along till the close of 1883, and the place that knew him once knew him no more forever. And we looked up and beheld the whole row on either side of the table had disappeared and we saw printed in huge letters along the middle of the table, 'Gone home to vote for Kindred and Campbell.'

"And we awoke, and behold, it was a dream!"

#### ANCIENT STONE CARVING.

An ancient stone carving, almost rivaling the Kensington "rune stone" in interest, was discovered in Grant county in 1890. This stone was found on the Christianson farm, three miles west of Elbow Lake. It was about three feet long and two feet wide, and one side of the boulder had been smoothed to bear a carving some thirteen inches in diameter, an undecipherable hieroglyphic having been chiseled in the solid rock. This stone was brought to Elbow Lake and set up in the foundation of the Elbow Lake flour mill, where it attracted much attention.

Scientists who viewed the stone expressed various opinions as to the origin and meaning of the inscription, but all agreed that it was the work of human hands wrought at a very ancient date. The stone was purchased by Doctor Hoegh, in 1906, for two hundred and fifty dollars, and removed to Minneapolis. Travelers who are acquainted with the prehistoric ruins found in the Southwest say that this stone closely resembled the Aztec carvings seen in Arizona and New Mexico.

#### THE INDIAN SCARE OF 1876.

The summer of 1876 will be recollected by all the old settlers as the time of the memorable Indian scare, a circumstance that will go down in local history as one of the saddest and at the same time, most amusing incidents. Rumors of the great Custer massacre had begun to arrive and as the reports were successively repeated they were duly exaggerated, until the whole of this immediate territory was made to think that every red-skin on the continent was on the warpath. It resulted in almost a general stampede for Alexandria, Herman, Morris and other points where it was hoped to secure protection. Homes were abandoned, movable articles quickly gathered and loaded into ox-wagons or any other conveyance at hand, stock collected and a general rush for a place of safety was made. There was not an Indian within miles and the report of their proximity was a cruel hoax.

The day succeeding the general alarm the true situation was made known, all fears were dissipated, and the settlers returned to their hastily deserted homes, where the rest of the summer was largely devoted to the recovery of their nerves and the replacing of their household effects.

As would naturally be inferred, many amusing incidents are reported to have occurred in the grand rush. One terribly startled farmer hooked onto a recently purchased threshing machine and started pell-mell across the prairie. Incidentally glancing over his shoulder from the off leader, on which he was astride, he espied three horsemen chasing him at breakneck speed. Thinking them blood-thirsty savages, he cut loose the horse he was riding, bid a hasty farewell to the dear separator, and was away with the keen prairie wind. The pursuers proved to be three neighbors who were armed to the teeth and out scouting. Another settler who had a choice collection of milch cows had heard that milk was a potent charm to calm the savage breast. Before his departure he filled every available receptacle with milk and placed them around about his cabin in plain view in hopes

that the anticipated visitors would partake of the fluid, feel kindly toward him and spare his home. The hogs and calves took advantage of the opportunity to indulge in a bounteous feast.

#### GRANT COUNTY OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION.

About fifteen years ago the old settlers of Grant county organized an old settlers association for the purpose of holding annual reunions and thus renewing old acquaintances of the pioneer days. In mid-summer of each year, a reunion is held at some point in the county. Any citizen who came into this or adjoining counties prior to 1880 is eligible to membership. H. Hillmond is the president of the association, having served in that capacity for several years.

#### A PIONEER OF PIONEERS.

Henry Brown was a pioneer among pioneers. Before the war he entered the employ of the Hudson Bay Company and in the early sixties came to this county as a trapper making his headquarters in and around Pomme de Terre. He was a familiar character and known to all old settlers and teamsters who quartered at Pomme de Terre when it was one of the stopping places on the old trail. In the old days when might made right, "Old Hen", as he was familiarly known, convinced more than one burly bruiser that he had found a big bunch of trouble in an undersized package.

#### THOMAS C. HODGSON.

Few men were better known in Grant county than Thomas C. Hodgson. Mr. Hodgson was active in well doing to the end of his days. Blessed with more than ordinary intelligence, he was a preacher, a teacher, a reformer, and an uplifter. In politics, in governmental and public affairs he was always interested and active. Every movement for civic betterment and for the uplift of his fellow man received his encouragement and support. He was for progress in all things and never advocated, never supported a cause that would give rise to a blush or a prick of conscience. Mr. Hodgson was not an ordained minister of the gospel although at one time he considered entering the ministry. He was an able ready speaker and conducted many religious services during the later years of his life. As a

layman he visited many homes carrying the message of the love of Christ and brought cheer to many a heavy heart and broken spirit.

Thomas C. Hodgson was born on the Isle of Man (off the coast of England) on January 1, 1843. He came to this country with his parents who settled in Illinois. Later the family moved to North Dakota. He enlisted in the Union army and, serving until the end of the Civil War, was discharged and returned to his home. He married soon afterward and moved to Grant county in 1877, taking a claim in Delaware township. After many years of hard labor he retired from the farm and moved to Elbow Lake, where he lived until 1908, when he removed to Fergus Falls, where he died on September 7, 1913.

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